

Modular RCD Assemblies and the 18th Edition

From January 1st 2019, in order to comply with relevant requirements of BS7671:2018 IET 18th Edition Wiring Regulations, all Modular Residual Current Assemblies and any Modular Residual Current devices fitted in distribution assemblies must meet the requirements of BS EN 60947-2 (annex M).

Historically, earth leakage sensor based assemblies (now referred to as Modular RCD assemblies), such as those installed in Network Rail “Third Rail” locations, have been made in accordance with BS4293. However, the 18th Edition of the Wiring Regulations does not recognise this standard (which was published in 1983). It only recognises RCDs made in accordance with BS EN 60947-2, BS EN 61008 and BS EN 61009. The standard applicable to sensor based RCDs assemblies, including the DC Immune assemblies used in Network Rail “Third Rail” locations, is BS EN 60947-2 (annex M).

All Blakley Modular RCD assemblies, supplied after January 1st 2019 meet the requirements of BS EN 60947-2. The external appearance of assemblies is largely unchanged. However, the ELS range of fixed sensitivity sensors has been updated to meet the requirements of BS EN 60947-2. The VELS and VRCD ranges of variable sensors have been replaced by the new MRCD series of variable sensitivity Modular RCD, which operate in combination with separate CTs.

From a spares perspective, the new ELS series of sensor can be used to replace the earlier version. The new models have the same part numbers as the old but with a suffix R i.e. S200028 becomes S200028R.

VELS and VRCD variable sensors are still available for use as replacements in existing installations. However, if new circuits are to be added to existing installations, it would be necessary to adapt the panel to accommodate the new MRCD series of variable device.

Further information on sensors and complete assemblies can be found on the following data sheets:

Description	Data Sheet / Reference
ELS series of fixed sensitivity earth leakage sensor	PDS050
MRCD series of variable earth leakage sensor	PDS053
ELE & HELE series (MRCD assemblies up to 100A)	PDS020
SRC series (steel MRCD assemblies from 100A to 800A)	PDS021
ARC series (GRP MRCD assemblies from 100A to 1600A)	PDS023
ELS series Installation Instructions	P130655
MRCD series Installation Instructions	P130658



ELE series of Modular RCD Assembly, in ratings up to 63A



ARC series of Modular RCD Assembly, in ratings up to 1600A



ELS series of fixed sensitivity Modular RCD



MRCD series of variable sensitivity Modular RCD, separate CT also required