

Guide to

Codes of practice for building services

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British Gas Corporation*	Greater London Council*
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British Plastics Federation	Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors
British Plumbing Employers' Council	Institute of Plumbing*
British Precast Concrete Federation Ltd.	Institution of Gas Engineers
Builders' Merchants' Federation	Institution of Municipal Engineers*
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	Trades Union Congress
	Water Companies Association

The organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the Technical Committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

Federation of Associations of Specialists and Sub-contractors	Institution of Civil Engineers
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Foreword

This British Standard Guide has been prepared under the direction of the Building Services Standards Committee. In reviewing CP 3 “*Code of basic data for the design of buildings*” Chapter VII:1950 “*Engineering and utility services*”, the Committee noted that a considerable number of British Standard codes of practice had been produced for different aspects of building services, and decided that a guide to the subject matter of these documents would be useful.

This guide has been restricted to codes of practice since it was felt that to cover all the British Standard specifications in the field of building services would considerably enlarge this document and would not be particularly useful because most of them are already referred to in the related codes of practice. BSI publications, both codes of practice and specifications, that concern the construction industry are listed in Sectional List 16 and are summarized in BSI Handbook 3, both of which are obtainable from BSI Sales Department, Newton House, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND.

NOTE Some of the codes of practice listed in this guide were published prior to metrication and therefore values in these codes are expressed in imperial units. These imperial units have been retained in this guide but conversions to metric units have been given where it has been felt appropriate.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 62 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This standard gives guidance on the subject matter of British Standard codes of practice which relate to building services and whose availability was announced in *BSI News* up to and including May 1980.

2 Introduction

The codes of practice are listed in numerical order in two series, codes of practice (CP) and British Standards (BS). These series arise because codes of practice issued up to 1975 form a separate set of publications with their own series of reference numbers prefixed CP. From 1975 onwards, new and revised codes of practice are published as part of the general series of BSI publications with numbers prefixed as BS.

Against each reference a brief summary is given of the scope of the code of practice and an indication as to whether it deals with matters related to water supply; waste disposal and drainage; gas supply; space heating; air conditioning and ventilation; flues and ducts; electrical services; lifts; or fire, lightning and security protection. The summaries consist as far as possible of quotations from the underlying standards. Definitions given in a standard and reproduced in a summary relate to the use of terms in that standard. Omissions from the original text are indicated by “. . . .”. Words additional to or summarizing the original text are printed in *italics*. Where such entries relate to a single clause they appear under the clause heading, but where they relate to more than one clause they are preceded and followed by the symbol ●.

It is important to remember that every word in a British Standard is significant. A British Standard cannot be summarized, even by quotation, and still retain the whole meaning of the original document. When, therefore, it is desired to use a British Standard for detailed application in the execution of a contract, the complete British Standard and not the summary in this guide should be consulted.

It is the intention to bring this guide up to date at intervals but new and revised publications and amendments to them are issued by BSI constantly. The information in this guide is based on the codes of practice as they exist at the date given in the scope to this guide. Information regarding new and revised publications and amendments to them issued subsequent to that date is given in *BSI News* which is sent free each month to all subscribing members of the Institution. Subscribing members receive many other practical benefits, including a discount on the cost of BSI Publications. Particulars of subscribing membership are obtainable from BSI Subscriptions Department, Newton House, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND.

3 Codes of practice for building services

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 3	Chapter 1(C):1950 Ventilation Scope <i>Ventilation of buildings for human habitation. The recommended rate of fresh air supply for different types of occupation are tabulated. An appendix advises on the choice between natural and mechanical ventilation to meet individual circumstances.</i> Chapter I:Part 2:1973 Artificial lighting 1.1 Scope design, installation and maintenance of artificial lighting systems in buildings. The code describes in general terms the aims of and processes concerned with artificial lighting design the characteristics of various lamps and their control gear luminaires and other means of controlling the distribution of light together with some aspects of installation the particular lighting requirements in various types of buildings and methods of meeting them economics and maintenance. Chapter II:1970 Thermal insulation in relation to the control of environment 1.1 Scope Thermal insulation of structures recommendations for the use of thermal insulating materials for fire protection or the construction of cold stores <i>are not included.</i> ● <i>Information is given on broad design requirements, legislation, and thermal behaviour of structures; and recommendations on design.</i> ●					*		*		

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 3 (continued)	Chapter III:1972 Sound insulation and noise reduction Scope <i>Planning, siting and construction of various classes of buildings for ensuring adequate sound insulation and noise reduction. The code deals with the properties and behaviour of sound both quantitatively and qualitatively, also the various modes of noise transmission are dealt with. There are sections covering mechanical services, ventilation systems and machine mountings.</i> Chapter IV:1948 Precautions against fire Scope <i>Precautions to be taken when siting, planning or constructing houses and flats having floor areas not exceeding 1 500 ft² and 1 000 ft² (140 m² and 93 m³) respectively, and any garages which may be nearby. A table sets out minimum distances of external walls from site boundaries, and the maximum number of houses or flats that should be contained in a block, having regard to the degree of fire-resistance and type of construction of the external walls.</i> Chapter IV:Part 1:1971 Flats and maisonettes (in blocks over two storeys) 1.1 Scope ... the planning of blocks of flats and maisonettes and of individual dwellings above the first floor in blocks of any height ... One and two storey dwellings entered at ground level from outside any block (that is, not through any main staircase or shared circulation space) are not included. ● <i>Recommendations are given on design, construction and equipment to protect occupants in the event of flame and smoke; and fire brigade facilities and fire alarms. Advice is given to owners and occupiers.</i> ●	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
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CP 3 <i>(continued)</i>	Chapter IV:Part 2:1968 Shops and departmental stores 1.1 Scope ... planning, construction, and protection of escape routes in new buildings including those measures which are necessary to prevent the rapid spread of fire, and to assist fire fighting in buildings with upper storeys beyond the reach of mobile fire appliances operated outside the building. The code makes specific recommendations in terms of protection, number and position of exits, travel distances, etc., and provides guidance on design principles and on the prevention and spread of fire. ● <i>Recommendations are given for engineering services alarms and alarm procedures; fire brigade facilities and advice to occupiers.</i> ● Chapter IV:Part 3:1968 Office buildings 1.1 Scope ... planning, construction and protection of escape routes, and in addition, with those measures which are necessary to prevent the rapid spread of fire, and to assist fire fighting in buildings with upper storeys beyond the reach of mobile fire appliances operating outside the building. The code makes specific recommendations in terms of protection, number and position of exits, travel distances, etc., and provides guidance on design principles and on the prevention and spread of fire. ● <i>Recommendations are given for engineering services; alarm procedure; fire brigade facilities and advice to occupiers.</i> ●	*				*	*	*	*	*
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		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 3 (concluded)	Chapter VIII:1949 Heating and thermal insulation Scope <i>Conditions affecting the temperature in dwellings. Recommendations are given on standards of warmth for rooms and for indoor places of public assembly, calculating the degree of insulation appropriate to a building in terms of costs of structure; heating; and expenditure on fuel; and maximum permissible thermal transmittances for external parts of structure.</i> Chapter X:1950 Precautions against vermin and dirt Scope <i>Points to be observed in design and construction to secure buildings against infestation by pests and vermin and to avoid accumulation of dirt.</i>	*	*		*	*				
CP 95:1970	Fire protection for electronic data processing installations 1.1 Scope ... guidance to users and installers of electronic data processing equipment on fire protection of this equipment. <i>The code</i> takes account of building regulation requirements for structural stability and fire separation; it does not cover means of escape^a. Methods of fire detection and fire fighting equipment are suggested, as well as design and construction of accommodation for the equipment. Air conditioning plant and power distribution and controls are also covered. These recommendations are not concerned with the design of electronic data processing equipment itself							*		*

^a For guidance on this aspect for certain occupancies see CP 3:Chapter IV, "Precautions against fire".

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CP 99:1972	Frost precautions for water services 101 Scope ... recommendations for minimizing the effects of frosty weather on water services for all types of premises. ● <i>Recommendations are given for methods of locating pipes and fittings to obtain maximum frost protection (both for water supply pipes and for soil and waste pipes); types and efficiency of insulating materials, with advice on their application; number and location of draining taps.</i> ●	*	*							
CP 131:1974	Chimneys and flues for domestic appliances burning solid fuel 1.1 Scope 1.1.1 ... new flues, whether in chimneys or flue pipes, the operation of which depends on natural draught. <i>The code</i> includes recommendations for chimneys built of brick, stone, concrete, hollow blocks and also on the materials, components and installation of factory-made insulated chimneys and insulated flue pipes. Warm air ducts forming an integral part of an installation are not included. <i>An appendix ... gives guidance on remedial action for defective chimneys, including the use of insulating lightweight concrete in situ flue linings, asbestos-cement pipes, clay and refractory concrete flue linings and pipes and flexible metal linings.</i>				*		*			

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 131:1974 (concluded)	The types of appliances served by chimneys and flue pipes dealt with in this code are those burning solid fuel and include: 1) open fires, with or without boilers; 2) room heaters, with or without boilers; 3) independent boilers; 4) cooking appliances; 5) warm air heating units. 1.1.2 This code is confined to chimneys and flue pipes serving appliances with a maximum heat output of 45 kW and the temperature of the flue gases leaving the appliance has been assumed not to exceed 450 °C under normal operating conditions. 									
CP 153	Windows and rooflights Part 3:1972 Sound insulation 1.1 Scope sound transmission through windows, rooflights and glazed curtain walling. <i>The code</i> is to be regarded as an extension, in these particular directions, of the more basic information on sound transmission and insulation in buildings given in CP 3:Chapter III^a. 1.2 Performance and costs Guidance is given on the external noise levels likely to be experienced in various circumstances and on the degrees of sound insulation obtainable with various forms of glazing, so that noise penetrating indoors can be controlled as may be desired. 					*				

^a CP 3:Chapter III, "Sound insulation and noise reduction".

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CP 301:1971	Building drainage 1.1 Scope ... design, layout and construction of foul-sewage, surface-water and ground-water drains (together with all ancillary works such as connections, manholes and inspection chambers) used from or under the building to the connection to a public sewer or to a treatment works, soakaway or watercourse. <i>The code</i> deals with methods of excavation, keeping the work free from water, timbering and supporting, filling and consolidation and surface reinstatement. The works described are those likely to be met with in housing, public buildings, schools, groups of industrial buildings or similar situations, and are limited to drains not generally exceeding 300 mm (12 in) nominal bore. 		*							
CP 302:1972	Small sewage treatment works 1.1 Scope ... methods, equipment and installations used to treat the sewage of a domestic character from small groups of houses and from individual establishments ... with a maximum population of about 300 persons: <i>the code</i> does not include treatment of sewage from larger communities or the treatment of trade effluent. ● <i>Recommendations are given on septic tank installations; settlement tank installations; installations operating on activated-sludge principles; further treatment of effluent before discharge to a watercourse; pumping; and maintenance.</i> ●		*							

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 302:200: 1949 (1963)	Cesspools 101 Scope ... storage of foul water by means of a cesspool, the contents of which are periodically removed for disposal or treatment. ● <i>Recommendations are given on construction; emptying; inspection; and testing.</i> ●		*							
CP 305	Sanitary appliances Part 1:1974 Selection, installation and special requirements 1.1 Scope ... selection, installation and special requirements of sanitary appliances in various types of buildings. This code does not ... deal in detail with hot or cold water supplies. <i>Recommendations are given on scale of provision of sanitary appliances in office buildings, shops, dwellings, accommodation for elderly people, residential homes, factories, schools and higher educational establishments, cinemas, concert halls, theatres and similar buildings used for public entertainment, churches, etc., hotels, restaurants, public houses and canteens, swimming pools and hospitals.</i>		*							
CP 308:1974	Drainage of roofs and paved areas 1.1 Scope ... methods used to deal with the surface water from roofs and paved areas with their associated roads and the design and installation of the gutters, rainwater pipes, gullies and other necessary ancillaries. <i>Recommendations are given on the calculation of sizes and spacings of gutters, rainwater pipes and gullies.</i>		*							

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 310:1965	Water supply 101 Scope ... water supplies to houses, schools, offices, public buildings and industrial premises from private sources such as springs, wells, boreholes, rivers, etc., or from a statutory water undertaking. The scope of the code extends from a source of supply to the point where the water is drawn off for use, including storage. It does not cover all aspects of water supplies for fire fighting. 	*								*
CP 312	Plastics pipework (thermoplastic materials) Part 1:1973 General principles and choice of material 1.1 Scope 1.1.1 ... selection of thermoplastics pipe systems for particular applications and ... the general principles applicable to all such systems. 1.1.2 Pipes are also produced from thermosetting materials and from plasticized PVC; these however are outside the scope of this code. ● <i>Information is given on materials available and their properties; and recommendations on installation above and below ground; pipes for water, for soil, waste, rainwater and trade effluents (above ground), for gases, gaseous fuels, industrial gases, food and drink other than water; and industrial applications.</i> ●	*	*	*						

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 312 (concluded)	Part 2:1973 Unplasticized PVC pipework for the conveyance of liquids under pressure 1.1 Scope the proper application and installation of PVC (unplasticized polyvinyl chloride) pipe for the conveyance of liquids under pressure. ● <i>Recommendations are given on working pressure and effects of temperature; limitations; flow properties; jointing, bending; storage, handling and transport; installation; and repairs.</i> ● Part 3:1973 Polyethylene pipes for the conveyance of liquids under pressure 1.1 Scope the proper application and installation of polyethylene pipe for the conveyance of liquids under pressure. ● <i>Recommendations are given on working pressure and effects of temperature; limitations; flow properties; jointing; bending, storage, handling and transport; installation; and repairs.</i> ●	*	*	*						
CP 324.202: 1951	Provision of domestic electric water-heating installations 101 Scope provision in domestic premises of electric water-heating installations, having a nominal storage capacity not exceeding 100 gal. <i>The code deals with systems relying solely on electric heaters, and also with those which use electric heaters in conjunction with fuel-fired boilers.</i>	*						*		

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 324.202: 1951 <i>(concluded)</i>	In addition to dealing with purely electrical matters, the code enunciates certain general principles regarding installation, layout, minimizing of metallic corrosion, etc., which should be observed to ensure satisfactory operation of an installation as a whole. 									
CP 326:1965	The protection of structures against lightning 101 Scope good installation practice and the selection of equipment considered necessary to prevent or to minimize the risk of damage or injury which may be caused by a lightning discharge. General principles are advanced for the protection of structures on or in the ground. Recommendations are made on materials, components, earthing, testing etc., applicable to all such structures. Guidance on the classes of structures which should be protected is given <i>CP 326C:1965 is a map showing the annual number of thunderstorm days in England, Scotland and Wales.</i>									*

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 327	Telecommunication facilities in buildings Part 3:1964 Sound distribution systems 101 Scope sound distribution systems consisting essentially of loudspeakers permanently installed in suitable positions in buildings not primarily designed for the reproduction of sound, but some guidance on installations in open spaces is also given. The inputs which operate such systems may be derived from a microphone, gramophone, radio receiver or other device, or from a broadcast relay service. The power available from most of these sources is so low that amplifiers (and in some cases pre-amplifiers) are necessary to operate the loudspeakers. ● <i>Recommendations are given on materials, appliances; components, design considerations; structural accommodation; wiring; inspection; testing and maintenance.</i> ●							*		
CP 331	Installation of pipes and meters for town gas Part 1:1973 Service pipes 1.1 Scope 1.1.1 . . . the service pipe conveying town gas^a, excluding liquefied petroleum gas, from the gas main to the meter control at pressures not exceeding 7 bar^b (100 lbf/in²). It includes the provision of a service valve and service governor where necessary. ● <i>Recommendations are given on the interrelation with other services; sleeves, ducts and casings protection against corrosion; excavation; and identification.</i>			*						

^a According to BS 1179, "Glossary of terms used in the gas industry", town gas is combustible gas normally, supplied to the public by a utility undertaking in accordance with statutory requirements. *The code does not apply to neat liquefied petroleum gas.*

^b 1 bar = 10⁵ N/m² = 100 kPa.

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CP 331 (concluded)	Part 2:1974 Low pressure metering 1 Scope siting and fixing of meters, cocks, valves, meter governors, filters and arrangements for meter bypasses for town gas at low pressure. Part 3:1974 Low pressure installation pipes 1 Scope materials and methods of installing low pressure installation pipes for town gas. Low pressure, in this context, refers to pressures not exceeding 75 mbar^a (930 in w.g.). This Part is applicable to all types of buildings.			*						
^a 1 mbar = 10 ² N/m ² = 0.1 kPa.				*						

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 332	Selection and installation of town gas space heating Part 1:1961 Independent domestic appliances 101 Scope selection of appliances and installation practice for space heating in domestic premises by means of independent gas appliances burning town gas. <i>The code does not deal with the design and installation of gas-fired boilers for central heating by hot water.</i> It refers to the application of domestic fan-assisted convection space heaters (air heaters) for whole or partial house heating by warmed air from a single appliance, but does not purport to deal fully with this form of heating. ● <i>Recommendations are given on the selection and installation of radiant or convector fires to provide degrees of thermal comfort according to calculated standards, by full heating, background, or supplementary heating. The methods of calculating heat requirements are explained, and a method of fitting gas fires to existing brick chimneys is discussed as well as use of precast flue blocks for hearth and panel fires and converted flue systems for tall buildings.</i> ●			*	*		*			

		Water supply	Waste disposal and drainage	Gas supply	Space heating	Air conditioning and ventilation	Flues and ducts	Electrical services	Lifts	Fire, lightning and security protection
CP 332 <i>(concluded)</i> Part 3:1970 Boilers of more than 150 000 Btu/h (44 kW) and up to 2 000 000 Btu/h (586 kW) output 1.1 Scope ... installation of boilers utilizing town gas^a for central heating and/or hot water supply. The recommendations apply to hot water boilers with outputs of more than 150 000 Btu/h (44 kW) and up to 2 000 000 Btu/h (586 kW) for use in low pressure (open) systems. Where such boilers are to be installed in large domestic premises and do not exceed 250 000 Btu/h (73 kW), reference should be made to CP 332-2^b. The code deals with the selection of the boiler and its installation, not with the design or installation of the heating system as a whole. Part 4:1966 Ducted warm air systems 101 Scope ... installation of gas fired air heaters, not exceeding 150 000 Btu/h (44 kW)^c output, utilizing town gas for the warming of domestic premises by ducted warm air, and for installations of a similar character in other premises requiring gas fired air heaters of similar output. ● <i>Recommendations are given on selection of air heaters; heater accommodation; supply of combustion and ventilation air to the heater compartment; room ventilation and mounting; return air arrangements; ducting and duct connections; positioning of warm air registers; gas supply; electrical controls and connections; controls; flues; inspection; testing; commissioning; and service.</i> ●				*	*		*	*		
				*	*	*	*	*		

^a According to the definition in BS 1179, "Glossary of terms used in the gas industry", "town gas" includes natural gas distributed by a gas undertaking, and the provisions of this code apply to boilers fired with natural gas so distributed.

^b Replaced by BS 5376, "Code of practice for selection and installation of gas space heating (1st and 2nd family gases)", Part 2, "Boilers of rated input not exceeding 60 kW".

^c In the original code this value is expressed in kcal/h.

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CP 334	Selection and installation of town gas cooking and refrigerating appliances Part 1:1962 Domestic cooking appliances 101 Scope selection and installation of domestic gas cooking equipment. ● <i>The code includes details of basic units and methods of assembly of these units as a complete cooker or arranged separately as built-in units at heights and positions suitable to the user. Also included are recommendations on siting; space requirements; ventilation; and installation of appliances on flexible connections.</i> ● Part 2:1966 Cooking installations for educational establishments 101 Scope selection and installation of gas cooking equipment for preparing and serving meals in day schools, boarding schools, teacher training colleges, and colleges for further education. ● <i>Recommendations are given on site and space allocation; ventilation; fire precautions; and types of equipment.</i> ● Part 3:1971 Refrigerators 1.1 Scope selection and installation of gas refrigerators for food storage. ● <i>Information is given on the use and placing of free-standing, wall-mounting and built-in refrigerators.</i> ●			*		*				
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				*						