Heritage and *antique* chandeliers

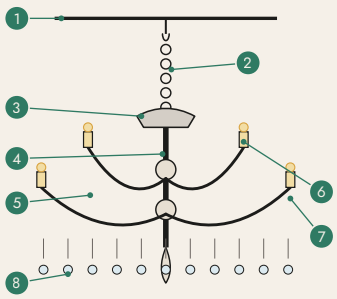
Making an antique chandelier safe and legal is three separate questions: consent, supply and installation. A checklist for the rewire and the questions to ask. No wire sizes or ratings given.

Compliance guidance. This is guidance, not legal advice. It gives no wire size, rating or test value, and it does not decide whether a fitting is covered by the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016 or needs listed building consent: confirm with the local planning authority, a competent electrician and your legal adviser. Statutes are summarised from legislation.gov.uk as read on 7 November 2026. Historic England's own guidance could not be reached.

AT A GLANCE

Case	What it is	What matters most	Ask
Genuine antique, kept as found	Original wiring or none, original fixings; often a single owner	Safety of the old wiring, the suspension and, if the room is public, the fire and electrical duties of the operator	Is it to be lit, and by whom is it inspected?
Antique, restored and rewired	New wiring, holders and perhaps earthing inside an old frame	What was changed, how reversibly, and who certified the electrical work	Is the work recorded, and is the original fabric kept?
Reproduction or heritage-style new fitting	Newly made to an old pattern; new components throughout	It is a new product: the supplier's documents apply, as for any new luminaire	What documents come with it?
Fitting in a listed interior	May be part of the protected interior, whether or not it is old	Consent before any alteration that affects the character of the building	Who has asked the local planning authority?

Four common cases. A fitting can be more than one: an antique chandelier, restored and rewired, in a listed hotel lobby, is the second and the fourth together.



1. Ceiling fixing: what carries it
2. Chain, hook and links: wear and cracks
3. Canopy: cable entry, edges, cover
4. Metal frame: is it earthed?
5. Wire route: heat, sharp edges, tubes
6. Lamp holders and sockets
7. Arms and joints: loose or repaired
8. Drops and mounts: fixings, breaks

Checklist only: a competent electrician decides.

Eight checkpoints on an old chandelier. A checklist for a competent electrician and the restorer, not a method. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

TEN QUESTIONS FOR A RESTORER

1 Antique, restored or new? 2 What is kept and what is replaced? 3 Who inspects chain, hook and fixing? 4 Who chooses the wire, holders and earthing? 5 Who tests it, and what is supplied? 6 Who certifies the installation, to which BS 7671? 7 Is it reversible and recorded? 8 Is consent needed and has it been given? 9 How is it packed and handled? 10 How will the operator inspect and lamp it?

SPECIFICATION WORDING

SCOPE AND RECORD

The antique chandelier [tag, description] is to be [restored and rewired] by [partner restorer]. Before work, its condition is to be recorded with photographs and a written description, and a list of every part to be replaced or altered submitted for approval by [designer / conservation officer]. Replaced original parts are to be labelled and kept [by owner].

WIRING AND FITTINGS

New wiring, lamp holders and any earthing are to be [as specified by the electrician and the lamp-holder maker for the lamp and fitting, ratings stated in the submittal], routed so that wire does not touch sharp edges or hot parts. The work is to be reversible where practicable [state].

INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATES

The finished fitting is to be inspected and tested by [a competent electrician] before delivery and a written record supplied. The fixed installation is to be designed, installed, inspected and certified to [BS 7671, edition the project works to] by [installer], and the certificate supplied with the handover pack. The suspension and fixing are to be checked by [structural engineer] before the fitting is hung.

CONSENT AND DOCUMENTS

Where the building is listed or in a conservation area, [the contractor] is to confirm that any consent needed for the work has been granted before it starts and give the reference [ ]. The handover pack is to include the restorer's record, test records, the installation certificate, a description of the lamps used and care instructions.

TERMS USED

Listed building consent

Authorisation under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 needed, unless otherwise authorised, for works to alter a listed building in a way that would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest (section 7, as read).

Placing on the market

The first making available of equipment on the market. Making available is any supply for distribution, consumption or use in the course of a commercial activity, paid or free (Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016, regulation 2, as read).

Earthing (metal parts)

Connecting the exposed metal of a fitting to the protective conductor of the installation so a fault current can flow and the circuit can disconnect. Whether a fitting needs it depends on its classification and wiring: ask the electrician.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 7: read 7 Nov 2026; England and Wales; Scotland and Northern Ireland differ.
- Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016, regulations 2 and 3: read 7 Nov 2026; second-hand goods not addressed in what was read.
- BS 7671 (IET Wiring Regulations): named only; edition not checked.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/heritage-and-antique-chandeliers. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.