

What is PAT ?

A **P**ortable **A**ppliance **T**est or **PAT**, is a process by which electrical appliances are routinely checked to see whether they are safe for use. The correct term for the whole process is **In-service Inspection & Testing of Electrical Equipment**.

Electrical appliances should start off perfectly safe, but with use can deteriorate to an extent where there is a risk of an electric shock or a fire. Just as regular MOT checks ensure the safety of cars on the road, Portable Appliance Testing ensures that electrical appliances continue to be safe to use.

The resulting evidence of Portable Appliance Testing is clearly visible to workers in the form of 'Passed', 'Tested For Electrical Safety' and 'DO NOT USE after' labels affixed to various parts of the electrical equipment.

What Needs Testing ?

Basically portable appliances are:

- Hand held whilst being connected to the electrical supply.

- Intended to be moved whilst connected to the electrical supply.
- Capable of being moved without undue difficulty whilst connected to the electrical supply.

As a basic rule of thumb in portable appliance testing, portable appliances are not just those that have a 3 pin plug on the end.

What is an Item ?

This is the most contentious point of testing as each disconnectable component is an individual item. For example a basic desktop computer is made up of the following five components:

- 2 x Power Leads
- 1 x Base unit
- 1 x Monitor

How often do I need to test my equipment?

The IEE Code of Practice suggests that the testing frequency is based on not only the type of equipment but the class of equipment and also the location, environment or type of business in which the equipment is used.

Certain types of equipment may require more frequent testing in addition the operating environment will have an impact on the recommended frequency.

Remember the vast majority of insurance companies assume you have complied with **all** applicable legislation and failure to comply may be used as a reason not to honour a claim.

What next ?

You need to have a safe system of work in place to cover the in-service inspection and testing of electrical equipment to comply with the legislation and Acts listed on the front of this leaflet.

When we visit we will assess the workplace and advise on what steps you need to take next.

Please call to book your no-obligation appointment:

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