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Addysg a Gwella Iechyd
Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Guidance Information Electrical Equipment and PAT Testing

PAT testing is *not* a compulsory requirement. It is not, by law, a necessary part of checking an environment's electrical appliances. It is, however, the almost universally- accepted method of checking an appliance's safety and ensures full compliance with The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989.

Regulation 4 (2) of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 states:

"As may be necessary to prevent danger. "The maintenance should be sufficient to prevent danger so far as is reasonably practicable"

The above sentence is why we choose to PAT test - it is a requirement for electrical appliances used in commercial, industrial and other environments to be regularly checked to ensure they are in safe working order. The PAT test is the most common way to do this and ensures that the regulations are adhered to.

Regulation 4 (2) is concerned with the need for maintenance to be done in order to ensure safety of the system if danger would otherwise result. The quality and frequency of maintenance should be sufficient to prevent danger so far as is reasonably practicable. Records of maintenance, including test results, should be kept throughout the working life of the electrical equipment to enable:

1. The condition of the equipment to be monitored.
2. The effectiveness of the maintenance policies to be assessed, and
3. To demonstrate that an effective system is in place.

British Standard Codes of Practice offering guidance on maintenance are referred to in Further reading. Advice on inspection and testing of some fixed installations is given in BS 7671.

Remember - PAT testing itself is NOT compulsory, but it is the BEST way to ensure compliance with these regulations (which must be followed at all times).

The Facilities and Compliance Manager is responsible for ensuring all electrical equipment is PAT tested and recorded.

All portable electrical equipment shall be tested by a competent PAT tester and will carry a label to indicate that the equipment is safe and does not pose a hazard.

This testing will be undertaken annually by an external authorised provider and an inventory of equipment tested will be produced with records kept at a central location of the findings.

Any equipment deemed to be a risk will be removed from the work area and repairs undertaken as required by a competent person.

Any repairs required to any electrical equipment must be carried out by trained and authorised persons only. Staff must never remove casings, leads, guards etc in order to carry out their own repairs.

HEIW has purchased PAT testing equipment for the Ad-hoc testing of any equipment missed from the annual inspection.

Ben Baker from Planning, Performance and Corporate Services has been trained and certified as a PAT tester for HEIW and will carry out PAT Testing on AD-hoc items as required.

Personnel shall be briefed on the dangers of faulty electrical equipment and fault reporting procedures at the induction stage.

Operatives should carry out a visual check for any external damage, including leads, plugs, etc. Plugs must not be taken apart. Leads must not be allowed to trail and cause a trip hazard.

Sub-contractors attending site must be able to produce records that their own electrical equipment complies with the Electricity at Work Regulations and are PAT tested with labels indicating the equipment is safe.