

GREEN MAN

COMPLIANCE

PAT TESTING - FACT SHEET

PAT testing, or portable appliance testing, is the generally recognised way for employers to be compliant with a number of pieces of legislation and regulations. The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 places a general duty on employers to ensure 'the provision and maintenance of plant and systems at work that are, so far as is reasonable practicable, safe and without risk to health'. This is expanded upon by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 which state that employers must 'assess the risks to all persons associated with their electrical equipment identifying the significant risks' and 'appoint a competent person to take responsibility for electrical maintenance including inspection and testing, ensuring that the person given responsibility is competent in that he or she has sufficient training and experience, knowledge and other qualities to enable him or her to properly support the organisation'.

More specific requirements relating to portable appliances are included in the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 'as may be necessary to prevent danger, all systems shall be maintained so as to prevent, so far as is reasonable practicable, such danger' and under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 a requirement exists for employers to ensure that work equipment is maintained in an efficient state, in good working order and in good repair so that equipment and systems are maintained to prevent danger and that where a risk assessment has identified a significant risk to the operator from the use of equipment, a suitable inspection should be carried out'.

PAT testing is the formal inspection and testing of a 'range' of electrical appliances that are considered portable or moveable. As a general rule, anything that has a plug and/or a flexible cable or lead is considered a portable appliance but this is not a hard and fast rule with several types of equipment requiring testing and others that do not. It is also dependent on the construction of the item, the way it is used and who uses it. It is down to a risk assessment to ascertain the degree of hazard and risk involved and to identify the frequency of testing (although the relevant code of practice provides suggested frequencies).

Testing must be undertaken by a competent person and testing should be to the latest edition of the IEE code of practice. Green Man Compliance engineers are City & Guilds 2377 qualified and will advise you on your legal obligations, industry best practice and make recommendations specific to your particular workplace that are both sensible and proportionate to the risks involved. Our competitive pricing includes minor repairs that may be required to prevent failures (plug re-wiring, new fuse etc) and we will only undertake other repairs (new plug, replacement cable etc) after consultation with your company nominated person or representative. Microwave, electrical socket and RCD testing can also be performed at the same time as portable appliance testing (at client's request).

Green Man Compliance will keep a full inventory of your electrical equipment, records of inspection and tests performed as well as recording any recommendations that may become apparent through examination of historical and ongoing data. Records are available in pdf or hard copy format.