

MARISCO Group

Health and Safety Maintaining Portable Electrical Equipment

Recommended inspection and PAT testing intervals based on HSE's "Maintaining Portable Electrical Equipment - HSG107"

Type of Equipment	User Check	Formal Visual Inspections Carried out by Supervisors	Combined inspection and PAT test
Battery operated equipment (less than 40V).	No	No	No
Extra low voltage (less than 50v ac), e.g. telephone equipment.	No	No	No
Equipment Used on Construction Sites HSG107 makes specific reference to "Electric Drills" so assume all electric hand tools used on a construction site are to be tested under this regime.	110V Equipment	Yes, Weekly	Yes, before first use on site, then 3-monthly .
	230V Equipment	Yes daily/every shift	Yes, before first use on site, then monthly .
	Fixed RCD's	Yes daily/every shift	Yes, before first use on site, then 3-monthly (portable RCDs - monthly).
	Equipment at Site Office	Yes, monthly	Yes, six monthly
Power Washers (High Risk water & electric).	Every use	Yes, weekly	Yes, before first use on site, then monthly.
Industrial equipment not on construction site.	Yes, daily	Yes, weekly	Yes, 6 months.
Office IT equipment.	No	Yes, annually	No if double insulated, otherwise annually.
Double insulated (Class II) equipment moved occasionally (not hand-held) e.g. fans, table lamps, etc.	No	Yes, annually	No
Hand-held double insulated (Class II) equipment e.g. some floor cleaners.	Yes	Yes, six monthly	No
Earthed (Class I) equipment, e.g. electric kettles, some floor cleaners.	Yes	Yes, six monthly	Yes, annually
Cables, leads and plugs connected to Class I equipment, extension leads and battery charging equipment.	Yes	Yes, six monthly	Yes, annually

What does the Law Require

The legal requirements relating to the use and maintenance of electrical equipment are contained in the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. These regulations apply to all work activities involving electrical equipment.

The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 apply to all construction work carried out, including working on council or housing association domestic properties and communal areas of private properties.

The regulations place duties on employers, the self-employed and employees (subsequently referred to as 'duty holders'). These duties are intended to control risks arising from the use of electricity.

The Regulations require that electrical systems and equipment must be maintained, so far as reasonably practicable, to prevent danger. This requirement covers all items of electrical equipment including fixed or portable equipment.

The Regulations do not specify what needs to be done, by whom or how frequently (for example, they do not make it a legal requirement to test all portable electrical appliances every year). This allows the duty holder to select precautions appropriate to the risk rather than having precautions imposed that may not be relevant to a particular work activity. Note that even if a contractor is used to carry out maintenance procedures, the duty holder still has overall responsibility for complying with the law. For more information see HSE publication HSR25 Memorandum of guidance on the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989.

The guidance given in HSG107 holds no legal standing, but may be referred to in court as a fair argument of what may have been done by Marisco to prevent injury from the use of electric in the workplace.

The portable electrical equipment we use within the business is subjected to significant physical stress by being constantly transported from site to site and often used in adverse conditions that will contribute to excessive wear and tear.

In order for the duty holders to meet their legal obligations, Marisco will adhere to the HSE recommended inspection intervals given in the table above. All staff and sub-contractors are required to co-operate with us by bringing in their portable electrical tools on the designated days for formal inspections and PAT testing at head office.