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Portable Appliance Testing

What are Electrical Passes in PAT?

Class 1

Floor standing printers, photocopiers, vending machines, industrial machinery, desktop computers, washing machines, tumble dryers, fridges, freezers, dishwashers, microwaves, toasters, kettles, irons, electrical heaters, laptop cables, extension leads.

Class 2

Desktop printers, lawnmowers, hedge trimmers, drills, food mixers, lamps, DVD players, televisions CD players, hair dryers & straighteners.

Class 3

Mobile phone leads, laptops, torches, cameras.

Class 1

This type of electrical equipment has only basic insulation and relies on an earth for protection.



Class 2

Has extra insulation and so doesn't rely on an earth for protection, which makes it safer.



Class 3

Low voltage items and are the safest class of appliance. Their charging leads may need to be PAT tested.

What Does the Law Say?

PAT testing is not, in itself, a legal obligation. However, current UK legislation states that businesses must maintain electrical equipment in a safe condition.

They also have a legal responsibility to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

Because PAT testing is one of the most effective ways to do this, particularly for high risk or large, complex environments, it has become a standard way of meeting this legal obligation.



What are the Categories in PAT Testing?

Categories of electrical appliance which require some level of testing, either a simple visual inspection, or a full PAT test:

- Fixed appliances
- Stationary appliances
- IT appliances
- Moveable appliances
- Portable appliances
- Cables and chargers
- Hand-held appliances

WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES IN PAT TESTING?				
APPLIANCE CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RISK LEVEL	VISUAL INSPECTION NEEDED?	PAT TEST NEEDED?
Fixed	Equipment which is fastened to a support, or fixed in a permanent location	LOW	Yes, infrequently	No
Stationary	Appliances such as fridges, washing machines and vending machines	LOW	Only in higher risk environments	Yes, apart from Class 2 equipment in low risk environments
IT	Business equipment such as monitors, PCs, laptops, printers and photocopiers	LOW	Only in higher risk environments	Yes, apart from Class 2 equipment in low risk environments
Moveable	Equipment under 18kg that sits in one place, but can be moved around easily	LOW -MED	Yes	Yes, apart from Class 2 equipment in low risk environments
Portable	Electrical items meant to be moved whilst connected to an energy supply	MED	Yes	Yes, apart from Class 2 equipment in low risk environments
Cables & Chargers	Extension cables, IEC leads, and cable reels	MED	Yes	Yes, apart from Class 2 equipment in low risk environments
Handheld	Equipment held in the hand, like hairdryers, hair straighteners and electric drills	HIGH	Yes, frequently	Yes, apart from Class 2 equipment in low risk environments