



Commercial | Domestic | Industrial
Electrical Engineers & Electricians

A guide to PAT requirements

The Legalities

Most companies assume PAT is a legal requirement, but it is not. What is a requirement is that your equipment is maintained in a safe working order, in line with the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 (which IS law).

These Reg's state: *As may be necessary to prevent danger, all systems shall be maintained so as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, such danger.* The most effective way to ensure this maintenance is through regular testing & inspection.



Frequency of testing

Most items require testing one a year, but depending upon the equipment this can be as infrequently as once every four years for some office equipment, up to once every three months for construction site tools.

The frequency is based on your own H&S risk assessment, but in most cases a yearly test is recommended.



Cost of testing

If the price is too low you can expect that the PAT is not being carried out thoroughly, by what's known as 'sticker bandits'. You will end up with green stickers to all your appliances but no guarantee they've actually been tested, maybe just inspected if you are lucky.

A reasonable price should be around £1.40—£2.50, depending on quantity of items. The more items, usually the lower the unit price.



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