

Electrical Safety - The Facts!

- ✗ **Electricity can kill. Each year about 1000 accidents at work involving electric shock or burns are reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Around 30 of these are fatal.**
- ✗ **Even non-fatal shocks can cause severe and permanent injury. Shocks from faulty equipment may lead to falls from ladders, scaffolds or other work platforms.**
- ✗ **Those using electricity may not be the only ones at risk: poor electrical installations and faulty electrical appliances can lead to fires which may also cause death or injury to others. Most of these accidents can be avoided by careful planning and straightforward precautions.**

PAT Testing is a route towards providing an effective solution of electrical equipment maintenance and safety.

PAT Testing is set out with the main aim of reducing work placed electrical accidents, fire, injury, death and insurance implications.

Whilst no legal statement request PAT Testing is carried out and no legal instruction relating to the frequency of testing is in place. There are a number of legal obligations requiring the safe use of electrical equipment.

The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 puts the duty of care upon both the employer and the employee to ensure the safety of all persons using the work premises. This includes the self employed.

The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 states:

"Every employer shall make suitable and sufficient assessment of:

(a) The risks to the health and safety of his employees to which they are exposed whilst at work, and

(b) The risks to ensure the health and safety of persons not in his employment arising out of or in connection with the conduct by him or his undertaking."

The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 states:

"All systems shall at all times be of such construction as to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, such danger."

"As may be necessary to prevent danger, all systems shall be maintained so as to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, such danger."

"'System' means an electrical system in which all the electrical equipment is, or may be, electrically connected to a common source of electrical energy and includes such source and such equipment"

"Electrical Equipment' includes anything used, intended to be used or installed for use, to generate, provide, transmit, transform, rectify, convert, conduct, distribute, control, store, measure or use electrical energy."

Along with the above legal implications we are also seeing a push from insurance companies regarding PAT Testing certificates and records. Should the worst happen and an electrical fire take place in a work environment, not having the relevant PAT Testing documents could be troublesome to say the least.

Insurance companies are now in some cases requesting PAT Testing is carried out to keep policy's valid and in place.

The number of accidents in the UK due to electrical faults on appliances is quite staggering. It really does happen and in most cases such accidents can be avoided by undertaking a regular PAT Testing program.

PAT testing needs to be seen as an essential part of business operations, not only does it confirm safety of equipment. It can also determine minor faults in advance of a full equipment failure. Reducing repair costs and time, often these problems can be cured at the time of testing.

A number of key benefits come hand in hand with PAT Testing and ultimately if it stops one accident, fire or injury it has to be worth any disruption or cost.

Most PAT Testing companies use battery powered equipment and fully uniformed, police checked engineers. As a result the disruption to your business will be minimal and totally professional.