



Registered Training Organisation
Registration No. 22326

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Testing & Tagging for the Hire Industry

As hire & rental companies you should all be aware of your responsibilities in relation to the regular testing & tagging of portable electrical appliances. Compliance is a costly & time consuming process & it is important that you understand & meet your obligations both as a provider of hire equipment & also the employer of staff & minimise the impact on your business operations.

We are often asked how often items need to be tested & tagged & what tests need to be carried out. Australian Standard AS/NZS 3760 outlines the testing process & the recommended test intervals for portable appliances depending on the type of appliance & the environment in which that item is located. The following page contains Table 4 as it appears in AS/NZS 3760. This table provides a list of various environments & the recommended test regularity for appliances within these environments. This guide should be read as a minimum requirement & we would advise against using test frequencies longer than those stated in AS/NZS 3760.

A hire business is likely to have a range of environments such as workshops, office space, showrooms etc. Therefore testing within the facility may vary from 6 monthly to 5 yearly.

Test & Tag as it relates to Hire Equipment

Section 6 of Table 4 outlines the requirements for hire equipment. This obligation should be treated separately to the obligations that surround your business premises & the various environments within.

Hire equipment needs to be visually inspected for safety prior to every hire & tested & tagged once every 3 months.

AS/NZS 3760 states that after hire the responsibility for re-testing falls back on the hirer, so in the case of long term rentals, the person hiring that equipment may be responsible for testing & tagging during the hire period should it be required. We recommend that you check with your State or Territory regulator as it is possible that regulations within your jurisdiction may still place the responsibility for re-testing back on the hire company in the case of long term hire.

Who can conduct the Testing & Tagging?

In order to conduct the testing & tagging an individual must be deemed "competent" against the criteria set out in AS/NZS 3760 & have undergone a level of training. Most States & Territories stipulate that this training should be conducted by a Registered Training Organisation to Nationally Recognised Standards. In most cases the training is undertaken during a 1 to 2 day course. You don't need to be an electrician to conduct testing & tagging. Equipment required to carry out the tests can be obtained for under \$1000.

The penalties for non-compliance can cripple a business & if there was an instance where an employee or customer was injured as a result of faulty electrical appliance & there was no test & tag procedures in place, the Director of that business may be held accountable & insurance companies would not cover damages.

For any questions in relation to testing & tagging please call Test & Tag Training on 1300 848 302.

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