

Electrical Inspection and Testing

For Low Risk Environments only the following indicates whether or not user checks, visual inspection or electrical testing (PAT) is required and the suggested inspection and testing intervals.

It is easy to determine whether or not a piece of electrical equipment is double insulated (see below); look on the electrical label for a symbol of a square within a square either printed or embossed on the device.

Equipment / Environment	User Check	Formal Visual Inspection	Combined Inspection and Testing
Battery operated (less than 20 volts)	NO	NO	NO
Extra low voltage (less than 50 volts AC) e.g. telephone equipment, low voltage desk lights.	NO	NO	NO
Information technology: e.g. desk top computer, VDU screens.	NO	YES (2-4 years)	NO if double insulated YES Otherwise (up to 5 years)

Photocopiers, fax machines. NOT hand held. Rarely moved.	NO	YES (2-4 years)	NO if double insulated YES Otherwise (up to 5 years)
Double insulated equipment: NOT hand held. Moved occasionally, e.g. fans, projectors, table lamps.	NO	YES (2-4 years)	NO
Double insulated equipment: hand held e.g. some floor cleaners.	YES	YES (6 months -1 year)	NO
Earthed equipment (class 1) e.g. electric kettles, some floor cleaners.	YES	YES (6 months -1 year)	YES (1 – 2 years)
Cables (leads) & plugs connected to earthed equipment.	YES	YES (6 months - 4 years)	YES (1 – 5 years)
Extension leads (mains voltage)		Depending on type of equipment connected to)	Depending on type of equipment connected to)

DOUBLE INSULATION OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

An appliance which is double insulated has the whole of the inside contained in plastic, underneath an outer casing. If anything goes wrong with the appliance, no Live conductor can touch the outer casing because of the insulating plastic.