

Frequency of testing:

The relevant requirement of the **Electricity at Work Regulations** is that equipment shall be maintained so as to prevent danger. Deciding on the frequency of maintenance is a matter of judgement for the duty holder and should be based on the assessment of risk. The inspections should be carried out at regular intervals. The period between inspections can vary considerably depending on the type of equipment, the conditions of use and on the environment.

The **Institute of Electrical Engineers** makes certain recommendations in their **Code of Practice** for in-service inspection and testing of electrical equipment, regarding **Initial Frequency of Inspection and Testing of Equipment**. The intervals between tests should be kept under review, particularly until patterns of failure/damage, if any, are determined. After the first few inspections/tests consideration can be given to either increasing the intervals or, if necessary, reducing them.



One of Epsilon's new hand-held portable computers

EPSILON TEST SERVICES

Recommendations for frequency of inspection and testing of electrical portable appliances

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

NOTE: In certain areas where equipment is in frequent use by the public or students, i.e. libraries, workshops, etc., a full test should, at the discretion of the site contact, be carried out on all leads and appliances annually.

Type of Equipment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
IT EQUIPMENT				
Class 1 IT equipment	full test	full test	full test	full test
Class 2 IT equipment (detachable lead)	full test	visual only	visual only	visual only
Class 2 IT equipment (fixed lead)	full test	visual only	full test	visual only
Class 1 Mains leads (IEC) into IT equipment	full test	full test	full test	full test
Class 2 Mains leads into IT equipment	full test	visual only	full test	visual only
Extension leads powering IT equipment	full test	full test	full test	full test
Desk supplies powering IT equipment	full test	full test	full test	full test
Phone/battery chargers AC adapters	full test	visual only	visual only	visual only

NON - IT EQUIPMENT				
Class 1 Mains leads into non -IT equipment	to be tested according to the appliance that it supplies (see below)			
Class 2 Mains leads into non -IT equipment	to be tested according to the appliance that it supplies (see below)			
Extension leads powering non -IT equipment	to be tested according to the appliance that it supplies (see below)			
Photocopiers	full test	visual only	full test	visual only
Fax machines	full test	visual only	full test	visual only
Shredders	full test	visual only	full test	visual only
TV's, VCR's, etc.	full test	visual only	full test	visual only
Fans	full test	full test	full test	full test
Heaters	full test	full test	full test	full test
Kitchen equipment	full test	full test	full test	full test
Cleaning equipment	full test	full test	full test	full test
Hand held tools	full test	full test	full test	full test

NOTE: Any appliances that, on the instruction of the site contact, cannot be switched off will be visually inspected only.