

TESTING & TAGGING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES



There appears to be some confusion amongst workers as to the time period between tests for electrical equipment on building and construction sites.

The industry standard for electrical installations on construction sites March 2002, Section 4.3 requires:

4.3 Testing of plant, portable electrical equipment and appliances and flexible electrical cords.

All plants, including portable electrical equipment and flexible electrical cords, shall be visually inspected for wear and mechanical damage, and tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3760 for earth continuity, and insulation resistance.

Inspection and testing should be undertaken by a licensed electrician or electrician supervised (ES or L) prior to its first use, and every 3 calendar months thereafter, while being used on the site.

Problems occur during the change-over period between tests because there is a perception of leeway during this time. As stated, the test period is 3 calendar months. This is the maximum period permissible. Electrical equipment is to be tested and tagged so the time between tests does not exceed 3 months.

Note: Only those suitably trained are to test and tag electrical equipment. Temp wiring (construction wiring) ticket holders are suitably trained to carry out this work.