

COLTEST LTD

ABERDEEN

RECOMMENDED TESTING FREQUENCIES

TYPE OF BUSINESS	VISUAL INSPECTION	FULL INSPECTION AND TESTING
Construction	Daily	3 Months*
Industrial	Before Use	6 Months*
Commercial	3 – 6 Months	12 Months*
Premises used by Public	3 – 6 Months	12 Months*
Equipment Hire	Before Issue	Before Issue*
* Unless the earlier inspection indicates immediate testing is necessary. These recommended testing frequencies are based on the IEE Code of Practice, HSE guidelines and our own experience.		

Visual Inspection

This is the most important element of portable appliance testing as over 80% of potential hazards are detected by physical inspection. The test engineer will be looking for hazards such as damage to the insulation of the appliance or the mains lead, incorrect wiring or fuse rating of the mains plug, unsafe cable joints, loose connections and accessible live conductors.

Electrical Testing

The type of electrical testing performed on the portable appliances depends on the safety design itself.

Class I portable appliances are the most common type, it relies on earthing of its conductive case and one layer of insulation covering its live internal parts for prevention against electrical shock.

Class II appliances have no earth connection and rely on two layers of insulation which cover the live parts as protection to the user. Usually the second layer of insulation is the case of the appliance itself.