

GREEN MAN

COMPLIANCE

FIXED INSTALLATION TESTING - FACT SHEET

A significant proportion of workplace fatalities are caused by contact with electricity or electrical discharge and a further significant number are killed by the effects of fire that has been started by faulty electrics. It is no wonder that ensuring electrical safety is a key requirement of a health and safety management regime.

Fixed Installation Testing or Periodic Inspection and Testing should form an integral part of any organisation's health & safety system. The Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 outlines the general duties of employers towards health and safety with the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 stating that all electrical systems and equipment used within the working environment should be in a safe condition. The HSE recommends that in order to comply with the regulations an electrical inspection **and testing regime** should be **implemented** at all places of work.

In addition to the legislative requirements many other organisations, such as insurance companies, place an obligation on their clients to carry out periodic electrical testing to ensure ongoing safety.

Fixed wire installation testing involves the testing of electrical services and systems that conduct electricity around a building. It covers all of the hard wiring in a building and includes items such as main panels, distribution boards, lighting, socket outlets, air conditioning and other fixed plant. Testing also involves performing a sequence of rigorous visual inspections and examinations of electrical systems in the workplace.

Testing has to be undertaken by a competent person and only suitably qualified electricians should be entrusted with the task. At the end of a testing program, a detailed electrical installation condition report is provided detailing the extent and results of the inspection and testing. It will also list any recommendations for remedial action to ensure compliance with the current standards.

The frequency at which fixed wire installation testing should be carried out is determined by the usage of a particular building. Typically the maximum period between inspections is 10 years for domestic properties and 5 years for commercial buildings. However, depending on the usage this may vary. Our engineers will provide you with up to date guidance on your responsibilities including the frequency of testing.

Testing can cause disruption to the users of a building and therefore it is something that requires careful planning. A survey by our engineer of your installation prior to the commencement of any testing will help to ensure that any workplace disruption will be kept to a minimum. In practice it is often advisable to arrange for electrical inspection and testing to take place outside of normal working hours.