

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Testing & Tagging of Electrical Equipment to Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 3760:2001

Frequently Asked Questions

- *Is compliance compulsory?*
 - Although this Australian Standard is only advisory, most Safety Authorities advise that AS/NZS 3760:2001 is the minimum requirement for every workplace to fulfill duties under OH&S Legislation.
- *How much does it cost?*
 - If you use an A-Grade electrician (the best way to comply) then anecdotal evidence suggests the cost will be between \$4.00 and \$8.00 (inc. tags) per test. If you use a 'Competent Person' as described in the Standard, the costing is much more complex. This could include a one off cost of training the person, the cost of purchasing or hiring the testing instrument, the cost of the tags and the time spent carrying out the task. If using a 'Competent Person' then the costs can be mixed and matched if the testing is arranged by The Centre for all tenants
- *What is tested?*
 - Any electrical appliance that plugs into a 240v outlet, inc. extension leads and power boards. Also all RCD's (safety switches).
- *How often?*
 - Prior to new equipment being used. According to the Standard the supplier of new equipment is deemed responsible for the initial electrical safety of the new equipment. The user should seek written confirmation, however if this is not forthcoming then test and tag as per the Standard.
 - Test every 12 months with the following exceptions:
 - RCDs – depends on type in use – check with tester
 - Every 5 years where cord is not subject to flexing in normal use eg. computer, fridge etc.



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- *What tests are carried out?*
 - The tests are specified and detailed in AS/NZS 3760:2001.
- *Can anybody do it?*
 - As long as they have done appropriate training to satisfy the definition of a 'Competent Person' in AS/NZS 3760:2001.
A 'Competent Person' is *A person, who the person in charge of the site ensures has enough training, qualifications and/or experience to provide the knowledge and skills to perform the task correctly.*
An 'A' Grade Electrician would be considered a 'Competent Person', as could any person who has successfully completed the appropriate training course.
You should check any certification issued by a training organisation as part of the process to ensure the person is competent.
- *Where can I access training?*
 - Contact your local TAFE college. Some suppliers of testing equipment are also providing training. Ensure that any training refers to AS/NZS 3760:2001. Training is around 4hrs duration with an approximate cost of \$120.
- *Where can I get a testing instrument and tags?*
 - Testing instruments are available to buy or hire. There are many types and price ranges. Check the *Yellow Pages* under *Electronic &/or Electric Testing Equipment* eg. Emona P/L and Tech-Rentals.
Tags will be supplied if the job is undertaken by an Electrician otherwise they are available from *Yellow Pages* section *Electrical Wholesalers* . Testing instruments may also be available from these companies. Some of the larger Safety Supply companies may also sell testers and tags.

Only the person undertaking the testing can attach the tags.

Tags must not be attached without the full range of tests, as specified in the Standard, being completed.

[LINK TO WORKCOVER ELECTRICAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT](#)