

# NSW FACT SHEET – ELECTRICAL TESTING

## 1. INSPECTION AND TESTING

The electrical testing and tagging interval is determined by the type of environment:

- Equipment subject to testing - prior to use, following repair/ service;
- 3 months – hire equipment;
- 6 months – factories, workshops, places of manufacture, assembly, maintenance or fabrication OR the equipment is used for commercial cleaning;
- 12 months – environment where the equipment or supply flexible cord is subject to flexing in normal use OR is open to abuse OR is in a hostile environment;
- 2 years – residential type areas of: hotels, residential institutions, motels, boarding houses, halls, hostels, accommodation houses and the like;
- 5 years – environment where the equipment or supply cord is NOT subject to flexing in normal use and is NOT open to abuse and is NOT in a hostile environment.

A hostile environment is defined as one in which the equipment or appliance is normally subject to events or operating conditions likely to result in damage to the equipment or a reduction in its expected life span. This includes, but is not limited to mechanical damage, exposure to moisture, heat, vibration, corrosive chemicals or dust.

## 2. RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES (RCD)

Fixed RCDs (safety switches on switchboards or



power points) are tagged yearly in hostile environments (or hire equipment) or otherwise every 2 years. A 6 monthly push button test is recommended. Portable RCDs are tagged 3 monthly (hire equipment), 6 monthly (commercial cleaning), yearly (hostile environments) and 2 yearly (all other environments). A push button test is recommended daily (commercial cleaning, factories and the like), 3 monthly (all other environments) and 6 monthly (residential accommodation and the like).

## 3. RECORD OF TESTING

A current electrical test tag should be displayed until items are retested or disposed. Tags are to record the name of the competent person who carried out the test; test outcome, date tested and due date of the next test.

## 4. INFORMATION SOURCES

- Part 4.7 of the WHS Reg 2017, visit [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)
- *In-service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment AS/NZS 3760:2010*
- *Managing Electrical Risks at the Workplace, Code of Practice 2019*, visit [www.safework.nsw.gov.au](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au)
- Email us: [info@propertyrisk.com.au](mailto:info@propertyrisk.com.au)