

AS/NZS 3760:2010

In –service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment.

Testing and inspection of plant and equipment is a necessary part of keeping any workplace safe. Whether it's the aircraft you are about to fly on or the car that you drive every day, there are tests and inspections that are regularly carried out to ensure your safety. Electrical equipment in the workplace is no different. Every person in charge of a workplace has an obligation to ensure that they have done all that is practicable to provide a safe work place. A problem arises when there is uncertainty as to how to achieve this.

This is why AS/NZS 3760:2010 exists. It details the correct testing intervals and procedures that are required to ensure regular and appropriate testing has been carried out in a professional and structured manner. It doesn't just dictate it "should be done" but how, when and how often it should be done. In addition, it details what labelling be applied and what records should be kept so as to provide an easy auditing process. The standard gives employers and managers certainty that they have met their obligations in relation to inspection.

The standards are licensed but can be purchased from different organisations. SAI Global is one source and you can pay and download from the internet. As a Licensed contractor in Qld, Trusted Test and Tag adheres to the standard rigorously and all equipment used complies with the specifications set down in the standard.

It's not just appliances that need testing. AS/NZS 3760:2010 also covers the testing of both portable and fixed RCDs (Safety Switches) require specialist equipment.

The standard covers visual inspections as well as electrical testing. There is much more than a simple inspection followed by attaching a sticker.

Adding to the complexity of the testing regime is the testing interval. Different appliances can require different inspection intervals and the environment or industry those appliances are used in, also has an affect on inspection intervals. Computers and office equipment that sit on desks and are rarely moved require less frequent inspection than hand tools that are used in a small factory for instance. If tools are used on a construction site, they require more regular testing and are also subject to another standard. If that wasn't enough, some organisations, after conducting an appropriate risk assessment, have created their own testing requirements. This is possible as long as the risk assessment has been properly conducted by a suitably qualified person and that it can demonstrate no loss of safety.

While the standards can appear daunting to a business owner or manager, they are second nature to Trusted Test and Tag and we can steer you through the maze with certainty. Experience and training brings the standards to life. It's not much use knowing how to perform a test reliably if you can't properly identify an appliance and know which test to apply. For instance, what do you do when you find a Class I earthed appliance with no accessible earth point to test? What sort of test should you use on a power board that has a surge protection device or a neon indicator, earth leakage or a resistance test? Why is an earth leakage test superior to an insulation test. Why are 3 phase appliances more difficult to test?

Did you know that as an employer / manager you are responsible for all electrical items at the work place. That includes any items owned by your employees. I have known many factories where an employee has bought his own sandwich maker to work. That becomes the managers responsibility should injury occur.

The standard also details what process should be followed if an appliance fails testing. I consider this one of the most important aspects. Discovering a faulty appliance is the whole purpose of testing. A dangerous situation should be taken seriously and the correct measures should be followed to ensure all danger is removed.

Finally, the standard is only one part of electrical safety in the workplace. It should not be read in isolation. There are various electrical safety acts and regulations that vary from state to state. In addition, there are several other standards that apply to electrical safety and they should be read in conjunction with AS/NZS 3760:2010 when relevant.

If you would like a no obligation assessment of your workplace requirements why not give us a call or you could visit www.trustedtestandtag.com.au for more information