**COSHH (Control Of Substances Hazardous To Heath)**

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| **Control Of Substances Hazardous To Heath (Regulations 2002) require employers to assess the risks from hazardous substances and take appropriate precautions.** |

**Personal Protective Equipment**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection. The hazards addressed by protective equipment include physical, electrical, heat, chemicals, biohazards, and airborne particulate matter. Protective equipment may be worn for job-related occupational safety and health purposes, as well as for sports and other recreational activities. "Protective clothing" is applied to traditional categories of clothing, and "protective gear" applies to items such as pads, guards, shields, or masks, and others.rt(PAT

**Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)** is the term used to describe the examination of portable or moveable electrical equipment to ensure its safe use.

As a student, tenant, contractor or member of staff, you need to be aware of what to do in relation to PAT and the electrical equipment you are responsible for.

PAT covers everyday items such as kettles, computer hardware and extension leads, as well as equipment used in laboratories, theatres and catering and hospitality establishments.

There are three different types of PAT with simple visual checks and combined PAT being the most common.

### **Simple visual checks**

These are checks made by the person using the electrical equipment to ensure there are no immediately visible signs of damage before it is connected to the mains supply or to check for any obvious faults, such as cracked casing or exposed wires. This helps to ensure that damaged or faulty equipment is recognised and can be removed from use without delay so that it can be either be repaired by a competent, authorised person or responsibly disposed of.

Simple visual checks should be made when equipment is moved, installed or as part of an annual health and safety inspection, but could be done at any time by the user of or the person responsible for the equipment.

### **Formal visual inspection**

Typically a formal visual inspection only applies if equipment becomes faulty or is being used in [higher risk areas](https://www.essex.ac.uk/-/media/documents/directories/health-and-safety/higherrisk.pdf) (.pdf), such as laboratories, workshops or theatres, where there may be specific local rules on when electrical equipment requires formal visual inspection by an authorised PAT tester. The person responsible for the area will arrange formal visual inspections, if these are required.

A formal visual inspection involves (in addition to the simple visual check) disconnecting the equipment from the electrical supply, removing the plug cover or equipment casing cover to check that the internal parts of the plug and cable are properly connected, secure and have the correct fuse with the correct rating fitted and there is no sign of internal damage, overheating or entry of liquid, dust or dirt.

### **Formal visual inspection with formal electrical testing (known as 'combined PAT')**

Some faults cannot be detected by simple visual checks or formal visual inspections, such as a broken earth wire within a flexible cable or the inside surfaces have been contaminated. Combined PAT involves removing the outer casing to check for correct fusing, correct polarity of supply cables, effective termination of cables and core wiring, and that the equipment is suitable in the environment where it is to be used. A testing unit is used to detect any faults that cannot be identified visually.

Combined PAT should be carried out in the following circumstances:

* if the equipment is considered to be faulty but simple visual checks or formal visual inspection cannot identify the problem
* after any repair or modification to electrical equipment
* at appropriate frequencies depending on:
	+ the type of equipment and whether it is hand-held or not
	+ manufacturers' recommendations
	+ the initial integrity and soundness of the equipment
	+ the age of the equipment
	+ the working environment in which the equipment is used, eg wet, dusty or flammable areas
	+ where there is a greater likelihood of mechanical damage, such as cables being wrongly used to carry the weight of the equipment
	+ the frequency of use
	+ if there is foreseeable misuse of the equipment where analysis of previous records of maintenance, such as formal visual inspection and combined PAT, highlight any trends which indicate a higher frequency of testing may be required

For more info on COSHH, PPE or PAT testing simply google them