

AUTUMN 2026 SAFETY BULLETIN

Electrical safety is everyone's responsibility. Regular inspection, testing and safe use of appliances help protect people, property and business continuity.



PAT is the process of inspecting and testing portable electrical equipment to ensure it is safe to use.

It usually includes:

- Visual inspection — the most important part
- Earth continuity testing
- Insulation resistance testing
- Polarity and functional checks where appropriate

REMEMBER: Most electrical faults are found during visual inspection, including damaged plugs, frayed cables, cracked casings, incorrect fuses and signs of overheating.



PAT itself is not named as a specific legal requirement. However, UK health and safety law requires employers and landlords to keep electrical equipment safe and properly maintained to prevent danger.

Key regulations include:

- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)

PAT testing is a common and accepted way of helping demonstrate that this duty is being met.

⚠ WHY IT MATTERS



Faulty electrical equipment is a leading cause of workplace fires and electric-shock injuries in the UK.

UK CASE STUDIES: WHEN ELECTRICAL FAULTS TURNED INTO TRAGEDY

These real-life incidents highlight the catastrophic impact of electrical faults and why we must never ignore the signs.

GRENELL TOWER FIRE

London
14 June 2017



The Grenfell Tower fire claimed 72 lives and changed building safety standards forever.



ROLE OF ELECTRICAL FAULTS

The investigation found that a fault in a fridge-freezer in Flat 16 started the fire. The appliance was older, and the fault went undetected. This small electrical fault led to an unimaginable tragedy.



LESSON LEARNED

Regular inspection of electrical appliances – especially in high-rise buildings – is critical.

LONDON FLAT FIRE

Lambeth, London
February 2019



A fire broke out in a residential flat, causing extensive damage and displacing the occupants.



CAUSE

The fire was caused by a fault in a tumble dryer due to an accumulation of lint and overheating. The appliance had not been cleaned or maintained properly.



LESSON LEARNED

Poor maintenance and lack of cleaning can turn everyday appliances into serious fire risks.

MANCHESTER STUDENT ACCOMMODATION FIRE

Manchester
November 2021



A late-night fire broke out in student accommodation, leading to a large-scale evacuation.



CAUSE

The fire was caused by an overloaded extension lead supplying multiple high-power devices, which overheated and ignited.



LESSON LEARNED

Overloading sockets and extension leads is a common but dangerous habit.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Check plugs, sockets and cables regularly for damage
- ✓ Do not overload sockets or extension leads
- ✓ Use appliances in line with the manufacturer's instructions
- ✓ Have electrical installations inspected by a qualified electrician
- ✓ Report faults immediately – don't ignore the warning signs

REMEMBER:

**A MINOR FAULT
TODAY CAN BE
A MAJOR FIRE
TOMORROW.**

DON'T TAKE THE RISK.

