



## STATUTORY TESTING & COMPLIANCE

# What Is Required for Test and Tag Compliance in 2026?

**Test and tag compliance is one of the most frequently asked-about obligations for Australian businesses managing portable electrical equipment.**

The rules are not identical across every state, territory, or workplace type, and the testing intervals depend on the risk profile of your environment. This guide explains what is required, who is responsible, and how your business can stay audit-ready at all times.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Australian WHS regulations require routine inspection and testing of portable electrical equipment in higher-risk workplaces
- AS/NZS 3760 is the national standard that defines testing methods, intervals, and recordkeeping for test and tag
- Testing frequency depends on a risk-based assessment of your workplace environment and equipment type
- A competent person, typically a licensed electrician or trained tester, must carry out all inspections
- Platinum Electricians delivers audit-ready test and tag documentation with detailed digital reporting for multi-site portfolios

## WHAT IS TEST AND TAG FOR PORTABLE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT?

Test and tag is a two-step safety process applied to portable electrical equipment in workplaces across Australia. This process confirms that the equipment is safe to use and that your business has a documented record of each inspection.

### Inspect, Test — Then Tag or Remove



#### Visual inspection

A competent person visually inspects each item for signs of damage



#### Electrical testing

Carried out with a calibrated Portable Appliance Tester (PAT)



#### Tag or remove

A durable tag records the test date, tester identity and next scheduled test. Items that fail are removed from service immediately

## IS TEST AND TAG A LEGAL REQUIREMENT IN AUSTRALIA?

No single federal law mandates test and tag by name. Instead, the obligation comes from the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations adopted by most states and territories.

#### WHS REGULATION 150

Requires a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) to ensure that electrical equipment used in a higher-risk environment is regularly inspected and tested by a competent person.

#### SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA CODE OF PRACTICE

Equipment powered through a socket outlet and exposed to damage, moisture, heat, or vibration must be tested at intervals determined by a risk assessment.

If your workplace qualifies as a higher-risk environment, testing is not optional. Failing to comply can result in enforcement action from your state or territory safety regulator and, more critically, puts workers at risk of electric shock, burns, or fire.



## HOW DOES AS/NZS 3760 DEFINE TEST AND TAG INTERVALS?

AS/NZS 3760 is the Australian and New Zealand standard that sets out the methods, procedures, and recommended intervals for in-service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment. The current edition (AS/NZS 3760:2022) introduced a more flexible, risk-based framework compared to earlier versions.

Testing intervals are not a single fixed schedule. They depend on workplace classification: construction and demolition sites, factories and warehouses, commercial kitchens, offices, healthcare facilities, and other environments each carry different risk ratings.

**3 months**

CONSTRUCTION SITES

**Up to 5 years**

LOW-RISK COMMERCIAL OFFICES

Your compliance manager or statutory testing partner should assess each location individually.

## WHICH WORKPLACES ARE CLASSIFIED AS HIGHER RISK?

The WHS Regulations and AS/NZS 3760 both reference the concept of a higher-risk workplace. These environments are more likely to cause damage to portable electrical equipment, increasing the chance of electrical faults.

### Common Higher-Risk Environments



Construction and demolition sites



Factories, workshops, and warehouses



Commercial kitchens and hospitality venues



Outdoor or wet locations



Mining and resource sites



Facilities where corrosive substances are present

If your business operates across multiple site types, each location should be assessed on its own risk profile. This is particularly relevant for multi-site organisations managing facilities in different states or territories, where local regulatory requirements may also apply.

## WHO CAN LEGALLY PERFORM TEST AND TAG IN AUSTRALIA?

A competent person must perform all inspections and tests. In most states and territories, this means:

**Licensed or registered electrician**

**Licensed electrical inspector**

**Person with accredited training in testing portable electrical equipment**

There is no single national qualification — your state or territory WHS regulator can confirm what applies. Engaging a qualified commercial electrician gives you confidence that results are accurate and legally defensible.

## WHAT RECORDS DO YOU NEED TO MAINTAIN?

Accurate records demonstrate compliance to a WHS regulator during an audit and give your maintenance team visibility over asset condition across your portfolio.

### Your Records Should Include

- ☒ The date of each inspection and test
- ☒ The name or identifier of the competent person
- ☒ The outcome (pass or fail)
- ☒ The next scheduled test date
- ☒ A register of all portable electrical equipment on each site



## FOUR STEPS TO STAYING AUDIT-READY

- 1 Identify your workplace classification**
- 2 Determine the correct testing intervals under AS/NZS 3760**
- 3 Engage a competent person**
- 4 Maintain thorough records**

## HOW PLATINUM ELECTRICIANS SUPPORTS TEST AND TAG COMPLIANCE

We deliver compliant commercial test and tag services — testing, tagging, defect identification and detailed digital reporting — using certified, calibrated equipment and AS/NZS 3760 procedures. For large portfolios, our planned preventative maintenance approach schedules testing proactively, tracks deadlines and reports results electronically.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is test and tag compulsory for all Australian businesses?

It is compulsory for businesses operating in higher-risk environments as defined by the WHS Regulations. Lower-risk workplaces like standard offices may not require routine testing, though periodic inspections are still recommended.

### What happens if equipment fails a test and tag inspection?

Failed equipment must be removed from service immediately. We identify defects during each inspection and report them digitally, so your team can arrange repair or replacement promptly.

### Can Platinum Electricians manage test and tag across multiple sites?

Yes. We support multi-site programs with dedicated account management, structured scheduling and electronic reporting across local teams in seven cities.



## TEST AND TAG SERVICES

### Statutory testing and compliance, made the easiest part of running your business.

Test and tag compliance protects your workers, satisfies your regulatory obligations and creates a clear paper trail for auditors. Platinum Electricians is ready to support you across Australia — backed by ISO Triple Certification and Master Electricians accreditation.

- Testing, tagging & defect identification
- Digital reporting & asset registers
- Local teams in seven cities, 24/7
- Multi-site programs with dedicated account management