HOW MANY RCD TESTS, AND WHY

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As a counting question: **four** tests for half-times and one-times — the two tests Guidance Note 3 recommends (Table 2.18(a) · p.96).

WHY FOUR AND NOT TWO

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Half times (½ IΔn)   → should not trip   → tested at 0° and 180°  = 2 tests
One times (IΔn)      → should trip         → tested at 0° and 180°  = 2 tes
                                                                  ----------
                                                                   4 tests

Add the optional five times test and it becomes 6.
An auto RCD test cycles the whole lot for you.
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Both directions of the sine wave.

0° and 180° are the two halves of the waveform. The device has to behave the same on both, so each test is done twice.

Dedicated RCD testers do exist — around £130 — and will do ramp tests, individual tests and phase selection. A multifunction tester does the same job alongside everything else.

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