THE LAW BEHIND IN-SERVICE INSPECTION AND TESTING

WHICH REGULATION IS YOUR DEFENCE IN COURT?

The legislation section lists around a dozen pieces of law. These are the ones that matter.

LAW	WHAT IT DOES HERE
Health and Safety at Work Act	The **umbrella** — the enabling act. Every other piece of legislation sits under it and must meet its standards
Electricity at Work Regulations	The core one. **Regulation 4**: systems shall be maintained so as to prevent danger, so far as is reasonably practicable
PUWER (Provision and Use of Work Equipment)	Employers must provide equipment that is **suitable** for the job and kept in good order
Management of Health and Safety	Where **risk assessments** come from
Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare)	Equipment must be **regularly maintained**
Housing Acts	Duties on landlords for the safety of the homes they let

§ **Electricity at Work Regulations** — you concern yourself with **regulations 1 to 16**, plus **regulation 29**, which is the defence: if you end up in court, regulation 29 is the part you'd rely on.

"Danger" doesn't only mean death.
A hand-held drill that's overheating presents a risk of a burn. That's danger, and regulation 4 covers it. Worth knowing: an **electric shock burn goes deep** and scars internally, unlike a heat burn on the surface.

PUWER IS THE EMPLOYER'S DUTY — BUT USERS HAVE DUTIES TOO

PUWER puts its duties on the **employer**: suitable equipment, in good order. General health and safety law also expects employees to take reasonable care and to use equipment the way they've been trained. Take a jet washer into an electrical workshop and hose down the machinery, and the employer's duty doesn't excuse that misuse.

HOW A COMPANY COMPLIES

The answer: **policies and procedures**. Plus inspection schedules, planned preventative maintenance, risk assessments and training.

Section 3 · legislation

EAWR · regulation 4 · maintenance to prevent danger

EAWR · regulation 29 · defence

PUWER · regulation 4 (suitable) and regulation 5 (maintained in good order)

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