THE THREE LEVELS OF CHECKING, AND WHO COUNTS AS COMPETENT

USER CHECK, VISUAL INSPECTION OR A FULL TEST?

THE THREE LEVELS OF CHECKING

These are three different activities, and the exam expects you to tell them apart.

	WHO	RECORDED?	TESTING?
User check	The user, normally before use	**Only if a fault is found**	No
Formal visual inspection	A **competent person**, often the test operative	**Always**, pass or fail	No — the user checks plus, where needed, opening connectors or connection points such as fused connection units (Section 8)
Combined inspection and test	The **test operative**	**Always**	Yes — formal visual inspection (Section 8), electrical testing (Section 10), functional checks, labelling and record-keeping (Section 12)

! A user records **nothing** when there's no fault — nobody keeps a log saying "no fault today". They record and report faults, to the **duty holder** or their employer.

Start by talking to the user.
Before touching anything, ask the person who uses it: any faults? Did you check it before and after use? It's the most-skipped step in the job and it's free information.

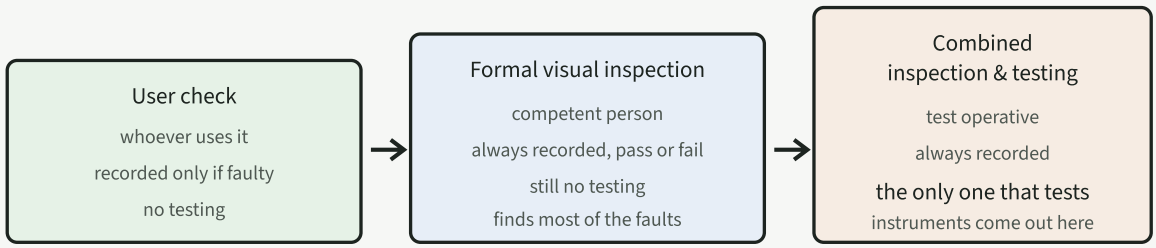
A user who finds a fault must **not** fix it. Exposed copper at the plug, a disconnected earth — that's out of service and reported, not repaired by whoever spotted it.

New equipment?
It is normally not tested, because the manufacturer has already tested it — but it is inspected and checked for damage before use. Equipment of dubious provenance, such as some bought on the internet, may need a visual check and electrical testing (13.4).

Section 4 · 4.6 · the three categories · p.40 Section 7 · user checks

Section 8 · formal visual inspection

Appendix 6 · user checks and formal visual inspection



Three different activities. Each one includes everything the level before it does.

WHO COUNTS AS COMPETENT

`adequate knowledge · adequate skills · adequate training`

The word the exam wants is **adequate**

Competence means having **adequate knowledge, skills and training** for the work in hand. Someone can be a skilled electrician and still not be the competent person for in-service inspection and testing, if they don't have the knowledge, skills and training for it.

WHO	WHAT THEY CARRY OUT
The user	User checks, normally before use
A competent person, often the test operative	Formal visual inspection
The test operative — a competent person: adequate knowledge, skills and training	Combined inspection and testing

Section 4 · 4.6 · who carries out each category · **p.40**

Free section from Sparky Study Notes. The full Level 3 notes, 1,463 practice questions and the video lessons: sparkystudynotes.co.uk