WHAT "PAT" ACTUALLY IS

PAT TESTING, OR IN-SERVICE INSPECTION?

Everyone says "PAT testing". Say it out in full and you get *portable appliance testing testing*, which tells you the phrase has drifted. The proper name is **in-service inspection and testing of electrical equipment**.

> ? The job is to determine whether equipment is **safe to use**. Not whether it works well, not whether it's efficient — whether using it will hurt someone.

The old picture of the job — someone wandering round plugging things into a box and slapping a green sticker on — undersells it considerably. Most of the work is **looking**, not testing.

> **It's its own qualification, at Level 3.**
> You don't need your 18th Edition first, and plenty of people do this before becoming an electrician. It's a sensible standalone earner.

Code of Practice · In-service Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment · 5th edition

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