



Electrical safety and portable appliance testing (PAT)

This SOP ensures the College is able to provide a safe living and working environment for students and employees. All electrical items have potential to cause fire or electrical shock. To ensure that everyone living in our community is kept safe from injury, all electrical appliances brought into the College must be compliant with the following standards.

- Under the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 there is an obligation on the College to control all electrical appliances connected to its electrical system.
- Every appliance must carry the appropriate British standard number or kitemark. The plug must also carry the relevant BS number 1363, and be correctly fused for the appliance. Flexible cables must be in good condition.
- Voltage difference – please check voltage on your equipment, noting that equipment at 115 volts would need a transformer. UK voltage is 230 volts.
- It is strictly forbidden to interfere with electrical fittings; connect appliances to a lighting circuit, or use two or three way plug adapters plugged directly into a socket outlet. Multi-way boards may be used provided they are of appropriate standard and only use one multi-way boards in a socket at any one time.
- Appliances bought into College must have a PAT certificate. The College does not test student equipment. [A list of companies that do testing.](#)
- The College ensures that all College owned equipment is inspected, tested and maintained.
- Student equipment deemed faulty, unsafe or having no PAT certificate, will be removed by the Steward. The item will be held by the Steward in safe keeping and the student will be informed and consulted before disposal or permanent removal of the item. If the item is determined to be unsafe, it will be labelled Unsafe and disabled. This decision is final.
- If in doubt about a piece of equipment please contact the Steward for information.