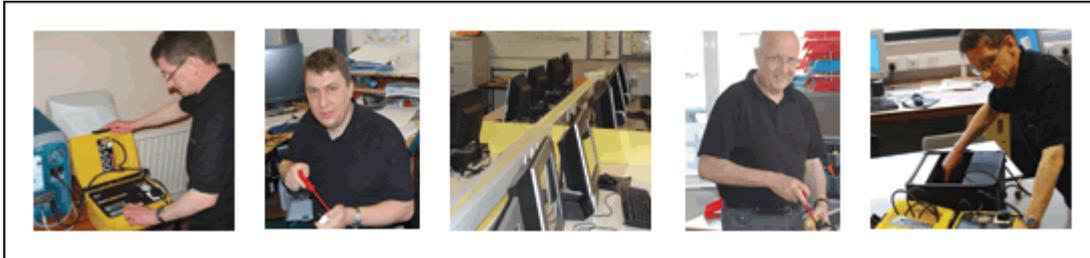


PAT Testing Training Courses

All you need to know about Training to carry out Portable Appliance Testing.

PAT Testing Training Courses run by PAT-Testing-Expert.com



What is PAT Testing?

First things first! PAT Testing is simply a process by which portable electrical appliances are checked periodically to see if they are safe. Although it is very easy to get bogged down in the detail, you should remember that a PAT test is simply a safety check on a piece of electrical equipment. More often than not, a simple visual check is all that is needed to identify a fault - assuming of course that you know what to look for!

PAT Testing is NOT about putting fancy bar codes on all of your equipment, nor is it about filling filing cabinets full of paper or preparing complicated databases of all your appliances. It is simply about checking your equipment to see if it is safe, and taking it out of use, or getting it fixed if there's something wrong.

Can Anybody Do It?

Although there are a few important things you need to understand, PAT testing is 95% common sense. So, if you have plenty of that, you can do PAT testing. Of course, you need to be competent, and for that you need to attend a course. You don't need to be a qualified electrician to do our course - we start right at the beginning. Although a bit of background knowledge will be a help, we have designed our course so that someone with a no prior knowledge can still reach the required standard during the day.



If I Attend the Course, Will I be Competent?

Simple Answer - Yes! The law states clearly that anybody undertaking electrical maintenance work (PAT Testing is a form of maintenance) needs to be competent. The issue of competency is quite difficult to define - it is up to the employer (not the training company) to decide whether or not somebody is competent. However, it is perfectly reasonable for your employer to make you the competent person in your organisation, once you have completed our course. We have trained hundreds of people from many companies, who all go on to carry out PAT testing for their company after completing our course. These include companies such as Rentokil Hygiene, Shell, Leeds University, ITV Television, Sodexo, Jessops and many others.

A large number of people who complete the course go on to work for PAT Testing companies, or set up a part-time or full-time business doing PAT Testing for other people.

You'll receive a certificate at the end of our course – it is perfectly acceptable for you to carry out PAT testing once you have this- whether you test your own equipment or offer PAT Testing as a service to your customers!

So Who Will Train Us?

All of our courses are run by Tim James. Tim has been involved in the field of PAT Testing for over 20 years, first learning to carry out PAT Testing whilst working as a school science technician in 1985. Since then PAT Testing has featured in all of his jobs, including working for 5 years for Humberside County Council where he was responsible for the PAT Testing in all of the authority's schools and colleges. He has been teaching people to carry out PAT Testing since 1993 and has worked in the public and private sectors. Until recently he was Technical Director of a large PAT testing company, overseeing the testing of approx 300,000 items per year.

Tim now runs PAT Testing Expert Ltd, a company dedicated to providing common sense advice and practical information about PAT Testing.

Electrical training courses are typically dull, boring affairs - about as exciting as watching paint dry! Whilst this is not a stand up comedy show, Tim manages to make the subject interesting, as well as getting the important message across.

What Equipment Do I Need?

You'll probably realise by now that we believe in keeping it simple! You can spend £1000+ on a PAT Tester, but you DON'T need to. Of course, you will at some stage need access to a PAT Testing Machine, but a good quality robust and accurate machine is what you need. We use industry standard machines on our training courses, and we can give you unbiased information on the best machines for you. We can show you a Battery Powered PAT tester that is available for under £200 (+VAT) which is perfect for testing in offices, shops, schools, rented properties and other similar properties. If you need to test on building sites or in specialist areas such as stage lighting, you might need something a bit more robust / versatile- even so we wouldn't recommend you spend more than £500.

You will need some decent screwdrivers and some PAT Testing Labels, but we can help you with those as well!

There is usually a healthy trade in 2nd hand PAT testers on eBay, although the on-line test equipment market is quite competitive and you will probably get a better deal buying a new machine. The trick is to buy the machine that suits your needs the best - we can help!

If you've already bought a PAT Tester, you are welcome to bring it to the course, and we'll show you how to get the best from it. Otherwise, use ours!



Do I Need to Complete a City and Guilds 2377 Course?

The C&G 2377 qualification was introduced in the late 1990's to give a qualification to those people who wanted to demonstrate that they were competent to test equipment. The problem remains that PAT testing is a PRACTICAL SKILL, and this is almost impossible to measure with a paper based examination.

During our course, we will refer to the Code of Practice for In-Service Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment, which is published by the Institute of Electrical Engineers (now part of the Institution of Engineering and Technology) This document is regarded as the most official guide to PAT Testing available, and the technical content in our course is based on the requirements on this document. However, the C&G qualification is based ENTIRELY on this document, and most of the C&G courses advertised spend all day concentrating on memorising facts and figures from the Code of Practice (CoP), with no emphasis on any practical training at all.

When Tim was head of a large PAT Testing company, he interviewed prospective PAT testing engineers almost every week. Invariably he found that the people who had studied the C&G course had little, if any, practical knowledge, and those who had attended a practical course (such as ours) had the right amount of practical skill and theoretical knowledge. As a result, we advise people not to go for the C&G course.

If you really want to get the certificate from C&G, then we would recommend you complete a practical course such as ours, and then when you have some real world experience under your belt, buy or borrow a copy of the CoP and sit the exam at your local college. The exam is done on-line, and usually has 30 multiple choice questions. However, you DON'T need the C&G certificate to do PAT Testing, and many professional PAT Test Engineers don't have it!

Of course, you will receive a certificate from **PAT Testing Expert** at the end of our course, and you will have the right combination of practical experience and knowledge to carry out PAT testing in the real world, not just out of a text book!

What Makes *PAT Testing Expert* Courses Different?

Well, obviously we're going to say that our course is the best! But without being too immodest, Tim James can call on more than 20 years experience of carrying out PAT Testing in the real world, not just teaching from a text book. He's worked at the very highest levels in the industry and trained hundreds of people already! Even now, Tim still goes out with our engineers to carry out PAT testing when he's not teaching, and his vast experience means that if he doesn't know something about PAT testing, it's not worth knowing.

His style of presentation makes the subject interesting - there's nothing worse than being lectured to when it comes to something as dry as electrical safety!

Our course places a great emphasis on common sense. PAT testing doesn't have to be complicated. You can't ignore the risks, but we'll help you understand how to achieve the right balance, as well as knowing exactly what the law actually requires.

All of our courses are held in first class venues, with excellent facilities and superb catering. Of course you're not going to book our course just because we provide a superb lunch, but we do recognise that you're making an investment to do this and we try very hard to make sure that you're looked after. You won't learn so easily if the room is too cold / too hot or if we cram so many people in that you can't move around or relax. Most of our courses are held in Marriott or Hilton Hotels - the other hotels we use offer a similar high standard of facilities. If you've travelling a distance, why not stay over the night before?

We provide a balance of practical experience and theory. Of course there is important stuff that you need to know, but we make sure that you get your hands on a range of PAT testers during the day too. We utilise a circus of experiments, all designed to teach you about specific issues, and all together teach you all you need to know.

We limit the number of people on each course to ensure sufficient tuition. Even though our courses are often oversubscribed we limit the maximum numbers to around 10 - 15 people (depending on the venue.)

OK, So How Do We Book?

The easiest way to book is to go on-line - it only takes a few minutes! You can pay on-line with your credit / debit card using our secure server.

If you prefer not to book online, you can also download the booking form from the website which you then send to us. You can either send a cheque with your booking form (in which case a prepayment discount is available) or you can choose to be invoiced after the course.

If you're reading this online you can use this link

<http://www.pat-testing-expert.com/training>

Otherwise just put *PAT Testing Expert* into any search engine to find our site!

Thanks for reading. Phone us on 0845 459 4295 if you have any queries.