



Electrical Safety and PAT Update

New equipment Class II (FE)

The IET 5th edition In-service Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment code of practice has introduced a new equipment classification: Class II (Functional Earth). This new classification is to distinguish items that are considered for electrical safety to fulfil the requirements for Class II, but for functional reasons require a connection to earth.

This means the item will be double insulated but will have a connection to earth on the mains side. In the past such items may have been referred to as Class I Hybrid.

The most common examples of these are switch mode power supplies which are used in a variety of applications especially in IT equipment such as laptop power supplies/chargers.

The symbol for Class II (FE) is shown to the right. Some older equipment with this type of supply arrangement may be marked as ITE. (Information Technology Equipment)

When testing and inspecting such equipment, for electrical safety, they should be treated as any other Class II item.

