What is Electrical Testing and Tagging?

Test and tag is the name given to the process of visually inspecting and electrically testing in service electrical equipment for personal use and/or safety. Test and Tag can be also referred to as:

• Test and Tag
• Electrical Testing
• Electrical Tagging
• Appliance Testing and Tagging
• Portable Appliance Testing

The appliance undergoes a visual inspection for defects such as damage or missing components and a process of electrical testing to measure earth continuity, insulation resistance and polarity. After testing has determined a pass, a test tag is attached to the appliance lead indicating when it was tested, when the next test is due, and a tracking code. Retesting intervals of equipment can vary depending on the environment where the equipment is located.

Testing and Tagging should be conducted by a "competent person" - "A Competent Person is a person who has the necessary practical and theoretical skills, acquired through training, qualification, experience or a combination of these, to correctly undertake the tasks prescribed by this Standard." The Standard also notes that a Competent Person is not required to be a registered or licensed electrical practitioner eg. Electrician, therefore, you are not paying for Licensed Electrician rates.

The Standard specifies procedures for the safety inspection and testing (Test & Tag) of:

• Single phase and 3 phase electrical equipment (ie. nominal 240V and 415V)
• Products connected to the electrical supply by a flexible cord and/or connecting device
• Portable RCD's (Residual Current Devices) at 6mth and 12mth intervals
• Fixed RCD's at the switch board at 6mth and 12mth intervals
• New equipment placed into service for the first time
• New equipment that is already in-service
• Equipment that has been serviced or repaired
• Equipment that is returning to service
• Equipment from a second-hand sale
• Equipment that is available for hire