



Tagging of Electromedical Equipment and Detachable Power Cords

WA Country Health Service’s electromedical equipment is tested by Biomedical Engineering (BME) every six (6) months*, to the Australian Standard AS/NZS 3551:2012 [1].

The equipment and power cord are tested as a “unit”. Some power cords are hard-wired, but most have removable IEC cords [2]. Our testing includes visual inspection of the cord and plug for damage, electrical testing of the cable and equipment, including earth leakage and other electrical safety tests as specified in AS/ANZ 3551:2012.

Standard AS/ANZ 3551, requires testing and tagging of any detachable cords (previously this was not a requirement).

BME will test and tag all detachable, medical equipment cords. The cord label will include the date of expiry. The primary medical equipment will also be labelled to coincide with next due date. Tested equipment and cords will have a 12 month due date for re-testing.

AS/ANZ 3760 [3], is commonly used as the reference for “Test & Tag” contractors. AS/ANZ 3551:2012 has more stringent requirements compared to AS/ANZ 3760, hence Test and Tag contractors should not be engaged to test the hospitals’ medical equipment or their power cords.

Hospitals are reminded not to retain power cords from written-off or disposed equipment. Cables can be replaced between service and BME will supply tested cords on request.

In summary:

- **BME will test and tag all detachable, medical equipment, power cords**
- **Tested cords will be valid for 12 months**
- **Cords should be discarded (not retained) when disposing of equipment.**

[1] AS/NZS 3551:2012, Management Programs for Medical Equipment

[2] IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission)

[3] AS/ANZ 3760, In-service Safety Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment

* Extreme remote health services are visited annually

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