

User checks

The person using the equipment should be encouraged to look at it before use and check for signs that it may not be in sound condition, for example:

- damage (apart from light scuffing) to the supply cable, including fraying or cuts
- damage to the plug or connector, e.g., the casing is cracking, or the pins are bent
- inadequate joints, including taped joints in the cable
- the outer sheath of the cable is not effectively secured where it enters the plug or the equipment. Evidence would be if the coloured insulation of the internal cable cores were showing
- the equipment has been subjected to conditions for which it is not suitable, eg it is wet or excessively contaminated
- damage to the external casing of the equipment
- loose parts or screws
- evidence of overheating (burn marks or discolouration).

These checks also apply to extension leads, plugs, and sockets. A user check should be made when the equipment is taken into use and during use. Any fault should be reported to the relevant manager and the equipment taken out of use immediately. Managers should take effective steps to ensure that the equipment is not used again until it is repaired by a person competent to carry out the task (e.g., the defective equipment could be labelled as 'faulty' and if it has a rewirable plug this could be removed).