

Airtightness Testing
Safety Method Statement
and
Risk Assessment

1. Company Details

Premi-AIR Testing & energy assessment services Ltd (The Company)

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The Company is accredited under the Independent Airtightness Testing Scheme (iATS) for the purpose of Domestic Air Tightness Testing in accordance with Approved Document L1A and Non-Domestic Buildings with a building envelope of up to 4000m³ in accordance with Approved Document L2A.

2. Summary of Work Conducted

An airtightness test measures the uncontrolled flow of air through a building envelope.

The test involves connecting a fan to a suitable aperture in the building envelope and creating a pressure differential between the internal and external atmosphere.

In most cases the building will be de-pressurised to a required number of pressure differentials, usually between -30Pa and -70Pa.

A class 1 laser measuring device is used to measure the dimensions and calculate the envelope area of the dwelling under test.

All tests are conducted in accordance with the relevant national standards

Generally one test engineer will be present to conduct the test(s)

3. Personnel – Professional and Site Safety Competence

The Company test engineer has undertaken the Health and Safety Test and holds the construction site visitor CSCS card to attend UK construction sites and an iATS photo ID card.

Training for Airtightness Testing is provided prior to attendance on site and appropriate application of the procedure and competence are audited and witnessed as part of engineer training and then once per year thereon. Engineers cannot conduct airtightness site tests until they have been approved by iATS. The test process is audited once per year as part of the iATS accreditation.

4. Co-Operation and Co-Ordination on Site

Good co-operation and co-ordination on a shared site is essential to ensure that the risks affecting everyone on site are identified in good time and suitable control measures implemented and followed.

As a Contractor on a shared site the Company recognises that the Principal Contractor / Main Contractor will take the lead in encouraging all parties to interact throughout the project. The Engineers will ensure that they attend a site specific induction briefing provided by the Principal Contractor before they start work on the site.

As a Contractor the Company will ensure that information about our surveying risks and associated precautions are shared effectively and appropriately with others on site that need to know.

Communications will take place prior to the testing, between our engineers and the Site Manager / Agent, to discuss current construction activities on the site, access arrangements and arrangements for undertaking our tests.

Before and during the tests there will be frequent dialogue between the Site Manager / Agent and our engineers and between other trade Managers / Foremen and our engineers, as required, to ensure that no party is exposed to hazards.

Engineers will be briefed by the Site Manager / Agent about activities undertaken by others before work commences or as required throughout the working day.

Section 10 of this statement identifies any activity that may affect others on site and identifies the means of co-ordinating that activity.

5. Site Pre-Requisites

- Domestic mains 240V or direct 110V power must be available within 25m of the main entrance door to the dwelling under test.
- All dwellings should be well lit.
- Corridors, staircases and stairwells should be free from trip hazards.

6. Access to Place of Work

- In order to undertake airtightness testing we shall require unrestricted access to the dwellings being tested.
- Unless agreed otherwise, other trades will be required to vacate the unit under test for the duration of preparing for and conducting the test.
- A site induction is required for all test engineers before conducting work to ensure they are familiar with the specific issues of the test

7. Material / Substances

There are no hazardous materials / substances used in air tightness testing.

Self-adhesive sealing tape is used to cover the aperture of any items of designed ventilation.

8. Plant / Equipment

The following equipment is used:

- 1 x Blower Door Fan
- 1 x Pressure Gauge
- 1 x Digital Thermometer
- 1 x Barometer
- Cables Required to connect the equipment
- Class 1 laser measuring device

9. Safety Equipment

All test engineers will wear high visibility vest, site safety helmet and protective shoes as standard on site. Any other specific PPE requirements should be notified prior to site attendance.

10. Housekeeping

All equipment and any items of rubbish are taken away from site at the end of the tests.

11. Generic Risk Assessment

This assessment is based on the generic risks associated with conducting air tightness tests and relates to the process itself. It does not include any site specific issues.

No	Risk/Hazard	Who Affected	Control Measures
1	There is a risk of injury from lifting and carrying the equipment	Air Pressure Testers	Training is provided on appropriate lifting and carrying techniques as part of training for air pressure testing.

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2	There is a risk of injury from tripping whilst carrying the equipment	Air Pressure Testers	<p>All areas should be well lit and free from obstacles.</p> <p>Care taken by engineers to be aware of their surroundings.</p>
3	There is a risk if injury from tripping over cables used to connect air pressure test equipment	Air Pressure Testers	Engineers to ensure that cables are kept and maintained in a tidy fashion to avoid trip hazards
4	Risk of eye injury to test engineer and others whilst operating laser measure	Air Pressure Testers, other site personnel	<p>Laser is a class A measuring device and is eye safe. However, precautions noted below will be observed:</p> <p>Instrument operator will be responsible for ensuring that the instrument is not pointed directly at people. Laser measure not pointed at windows. When not in use, laser pointed to floor or kept in case. Laser measure always triggered pointing directly to floor, wall or ceiling.</p>

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5	Use of electrical, mains powered devices – risk of electrocution	Air Pressure Testers	All electrical equipment to be fit for purpose and subject to regular test and inspection
6	General Site Issues	Air Pressure Testers	Attendance to site induction provided by client site representative. Engineer to operate according to requirements outlined at site induction and should report any unusual circumstances to the Site Manager.