

AS/NZS 3003 body-protected area quick reference

The numbers, the pre-inspection list and the 12-month test, on two pages. Our own words, not the standard's; the clause numbers say where to check.

The numbers

FIGURE	WHAT IT IS	WHERE IN AS/NZS 3003:2018
10 mA	The trip rating of every RCD protecting a patient-area outlet or hard-wired patient equipment. Type 1, double-pole (it switches active and neutral), tripping within 40 ms.	Clause 2.8.1
12 points	The most one RCD may protect. A point is a socket-outlet or a piece of hard-wired equipment, and a double outlet is two points.	Clause 2.8.3(a)
1 room per circuit	Each final sub-circuit, and each RCD, serves one room (with its ensuite) and nothing else.	Clauses 2.4.1.1, 2.8.3(b)
0 RCDs upstream	Nothing backs up the room's 10 mA RCD: no 30 mA RCD at the switchboard on that circuit.	Clause 2.8.2
2.0 m	Readily accessible means reachable quickly, without climbing or moving anything, and no higher than 2 m. RCDs and the outlets staff use sit below it; the sign's top edge sits at it.	Clause 1.5 (definitions); Section 2.6; Clause 2.12.2
500 mm	The least distance between the room's RCD and a light switch.	Section 2.6
1200 mm and 250 mm	An RCD is not mounted under a shelf or structure lower than 1200 mm that projects more than 250 mm from the wall.	Section 2.6
2.0 to 2.3 m	Outlets in this band are out of reach: still 10 mA protected, with a readily accessible double-pole isolating switch below 2 m.	Clauses 2.4.3.2.2, 2.7.2
Above 2.3 m	Permanently mounted non-medical equipment, an air conditioner for instance, is outside the patient-area rules.	Clause 2.4.3.2.2 (exception)
2 m from the door frame	No standard outlets outside the room within this distance, measured in a straight line: a cleaners' outlet or a 10 mA protected outlet with its own RCD only. Behind a locked door does not count.	Clause 2.4.3.2.2(b)
15 m	The furthest a cleaners' outlet can be from the area it serves.	Clause 2.7.3.1
2.0 kW	New fixed equipment at or above this rating brings the whole patient area up to the current standard.	Clause 6.2.5.2
10%	If added outlets increase a patient area's total by more than 10%, every outlet in it gets the current colour coding.	Clause 6.2.4
12 months	The longest gap between routine inspections and tests. Alterations go ahead only with a test in the previous 12 months.	Section 8; Clause 6.2.3
1.5 mm, 2.0 mm, 5.0 mm	Minimum lettering heights: 1.5 mm for switchboard and circuit-breaker identification, 2.0 mm for RCD and outlet identification, 5.0 mm for "Cleaning Purposes Only".	Section 2.12; Clause 2.7.4.3.1(d)
200 × 90 mm	The size the green sign is sold in. The standard sets the symbol and the position; the size comes from the sign makers.	Clause 2.12.2; Section 7
50 mm	Unprotected supply cables to an RCD concealed within 50 mm of the surface get an earthed metal screen or armour, as the Wiring Rules describe.	Clause 2.4.2; AS/NZS 3000 Clause 3.9.4.4

Before you certify or book the inspector

What an inspector or certifier will look at, in the order you'd walk the room.

- ✓ The practice's classification of each room, and the boundaries, in writing before you start. **Clause 2.2.1**
- ✓ Each final sub-circuit serves one room and its ensuite only; no RCD feeds points in two rooms. **Clauses 2.4.1.1, 2.8.3(b)**
- ✓ 10 mA Type 1 double-pole RCDs, no more than 12 points each, none backed up by another RCD. **Clauses 2.8.1, 2.8.2, 2.8.3(a)**
- ✓ RCDs readily accessible and visible: 2 m or lower, not under benches or in cupboards, 500 mm or more from the light switch. **Section 2.6, Table 2.1**
- ✓ RCDs labelled with their switchboard, circuit breaker and number; outlets marked RCD protected and 'From RCD X', with no switchboard label on the outlet. **Clauses 2.8.5, 2.7.4.1**
- ✓ Outlet colours right, amber indicators on every mains outlet, cleaners' outlets beige and marked for cleaning only. **Clauses 2.7.4.1, 2.7.4.3**
- ✓ No standard outlets within 2 m of the door frame, unless behind a locked door: only a cleaners' outlet, or a 10 mA protected outlet with its own RCD beside it. **Clause 2.4.3.2(b)**
- ✓ Any outlet that isn't readily accessible has a readily accessible double-pole isolator below 2 m. **Clause 2.7.2**
- ✓ USB and other ELV charging outlets RCD protected. **Clause 2.4.3.1.2**
- ✓ Hard-wired patient equipment on 10 mA protection with a white test-only outlet; fixed equipment with an unreachable plug has an isolator. **Clauses 2.4.3.3, 2.8.6; Section 2.10**
- ✓ Cleaners' circuit dedicated, on its own RCD, outlet within 15 m of the area. **Clauses 2.4.1.3, 2.7.3.1**
- ✓ Green sign fitted inside, top edge at 2 m, ready for the test label. **Clause 2.12.2; Section 7**
- ✓ Earthing to the Wiring Rules. **Clause 3.2**
- ✓ An RCD tester that can do the AS/NZS 3003:2018 tests. Energy Safe Victoria warns that some testers with 0° and 180° switches can't. **Energy Safe Victoria**
- ✓ Tested to AS/NZS 3000 before energising and to AS/NZS 3003 after, before the room goes into service, with results on the commissioning checklist and statement of conformity. **Section 2.13; Appendices B and C**
- ✓ Every outlet individually switched, with the red on-indication. **Clauses 2.7.5, 2.7.4.2**
- ✓ Lettering heights: 1.5 mm board and breaker IDs, 2.0 mm RCD and outlet IDs, 5.0 mm Cleaning Purposes Only; the word FROM on outlet labels; nothing on a removable surround alone. **Section 2.12; Clauses 2.7.4.1, 2.12.1**
- ✓ Supply cables to the RCDs screened or armoured where concealed within 50 mm of the surface. **Clause 2.4.2**
- ✓ After an alteration: outlets recoloured if the count rose by more than 10%, and the alteration label fitted under the test label. **Clauses 6.2.4, 6.4**
- ✓ Statement of Conformity completed and a copy left with the practice. **Appendix C**

What the 12-month routine test covers

- ✓ A look at every outlet, RCD, isolator and the sign: damage, the right colours, indicators working, no more than 12 points on an RCD.
- ✓ Labels still true: each outlet names its RCD, each RCD names its circuit breaker and switchboard, the cleaners' outlet is marked for cleaning only.
- ✓ Every outlet works and is individually switched; polarity correct.
- ✓ Earth continuity measured on every outlet and on fixed equipment in the area.
- ✓ Every 10 mA RCD tripped with a tester that can do the AS/NZS 3003 tests: trip current and trip time within limits, both poles opening, the test button and indicator working.
- ✓ Where an isolated supply with a line isolation monitor is fitted (rare outside hospitals), the monitor and its alarm.
- ✓ Faults and observations recorded; anything failed fixed before the room is used again.
- ✓ A new test label on the sign, dated and signed, the report to the practice, the classification record updated.

Content as at 14 October 2026; sources checked 12 October 2026. Checked by a Victorian registered electrical contractor. Information, not advice: confirm with your electrician and your regulator. The full rules, with the diagrams, are at bpea.com.au/rules.