



Date: 14/05/2020

Guidance for undertaking air  
tightness tests following good  
practice social distancing  
techniques

## Introduction

In light of the Government continuing to allow construction under the lockdown, and now that government have announced anyone in England can move house if they follow the new guidance, iATS has produced guidance that members might like to consider.

This guide is aimed at keeping both the building occupants and the Tester safe and well.

**Important Note:** Please note that the "Stay At Home" advice in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland remains unchanged.

## Guidance

### When making the booking, the tester should consider:

1. Arranging a suitable date and time for the test to be carried out.
2. Explaining how the assessment process will take place and ask that they are happy to abide by the rules before a test can proceed.
3. Asking whether on the agreed day/time the property will be likely vacant or occupied.
4. Requesting that the plots they are working in are empty of all other tradespeople.

### If the property is likely to be vacant:

5. Arrange access via either:
  - a. Tester to collect (and return) keys using safe social distancing practices
  - b. Key holder to open external doors prior to assessor entering the property and then they wait in either their car or outside whilst the test is carried out.

Proceed to step 10

### If the property is likely to be occupied:

6. If the property is normally occupied, whether or not the property will be vacant at the time of the test, confirm that all occupants are currently well with no symptoms of Coronavirus.

Proceed to step 7

**(If likely to be occupied) Prior to Arrival, the tester should:**

7. Call the building owner immediately prior to entering the property (e.g. from their car) checking that all occupants are still well and nobody has any signs of Coronavirus.
8. Explain the purpose of the visit and what it will entail, with particular focus on the additional safeguards designed to minimise infection.
9. Ask for internal doors to be left open and for external windows to be shut to minimise contact of handles whilst undertaking the test.

Proceed to step 12

**(If likely to be vacant) Prior to Arrival, the tester should:**

10. Contact the key holder to check that the property is still vacant e.g. has no work being carried out by tradespeople.
11. Ask for internal doors to be left open and for external windows to be shut to minimise contact of handles whilst undertaking the test.

Proceed to step 12

**Prior to carrying out the test, the tester should:**

12. Avoid sharing vehicles with people from other households.
13. Stay 2 metres away from other people on-site.
14. Avoid sharing enclosed spaces, e.g. ask for inductions to be given outside.
15. Wash their hands before starting work, using separate towels or paper towels which need to be washed or disposed of safely after use. Consider carrying their own antibacterial hand gel. Alternatively, testers may wish to put on clean disposable protective gloves prior to entering the building.
16. Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
17. Wear a face mask if the building is not vacant.
18. Ask anyone in the building to go into one convenient 'designated' room. If the building is open plan, then social distancing rules should apply.
  - a. If a tradesperson(s) is present – either ask to leave building or use the designated room approach.

### Upon completion, the tester should:

19. Wipe down and sanitise the kit with appropriate antiviral cleaner. Make sure manufacturers' advice is followed for cleaning equipment so it does not get damaged.

20. Remove and dispose of PPE safely. With disposable gloves place them inside out, into a bag, so you do not have to touch them again.

#### Please note:

- This guidance is not designed to be exclusive and a Tester is responsible for undertaking their own risk assessment and working safely.
- Government and NHS guidance is always to be followed and takes precedence.
- No work should be carried out by a person who has coronavirus symptoms, however mild or anyone who has been asked to self-isolate.
- This Guidance was good at the time of writing.
- Most importantly please stay safe and well.

## Contact Details

Should you require any further clarification please contact us at:



The Independent AirTightness Testing Scheme Ltd  
16 St Johns Business Park,  
Lutterworth,  
Leicestershire,  
LE17 4HB



0300 688 0016



[manager@iats-uk.org](mailto:manager@iats-uk.org)



[iats-uk.org](http://iats-uk.org)