

Manufacturers, importers and retailers

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All electrical equipment is defined in a category of either 'prescribed electrical equipment' or 'non-prescribed electrical equipment'. For whichever category the equipment falls into there are requirements to be met to ensure the electrical safety of the equipment before it can be sold.

Prescribed classes of electrical equipment can be found in Schedule 3 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*.

Prescribed electrical equipment must go through a pre-market audit process to obtain a certificate of approval before being sold or offered for sale.

Non-prescribed electrical equipment must meet the safety criteria of *AS/NZS 3820: Essential safety requirements for low voltage electrical equipment* before being sold or offered for sale.

Prescribed electrical equipment

What is prescribed electrical equipment?

What must be done before prescribed electrical equipment can be sold

List of prescribed electrical equipment

What is prescribed electrical equipment?

Prescribed electrical equipment is equipment defined in section 96 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*.

What must be done before prescribed electrical equipment can be sold

Prior to sale in Queensland prescribed electrical equipment must have a Queensland approval or be approved from another state electrical regulator and the equipment is marked as required by the regulator who approved the equipment or be marked with the regulatory compliance mark (RCM).

To obtain Queensland approval an application for approval must be made. Prescribed electrical equipment must go through a pre-market audit process to obtain a certificate of approval.

The application must include:

- the approved form;
- a suitable test report;
- detailed colour photographs of item and components;
- any other information to assist in verifying the construction, operation or safety of the equipment;
- a sample if requested; and
- the prescribed fee.

Once a Queensland approval is obtained a certificate of approval is issued. The electrical equipment must not be sold or offered for sale before the certificate of approval is issued.

List of prescribed electrical equipment

The official definition of prescribed electrical equipment is given in Appendix E of *AS/NZS 4417.2 Marking of electrical products to indicate compliance with regulations - Specific requirements for electrical safety regulatory applications*.

The equipment and appliances, listed alphabetically below, are described using commonly recognised names, not necessarily the official, gazetted defined term.

- **Appliance plugs and connectors**
- **ac/dc adapters**
- **ac adapters**
- **Battery chargers/savers, for rechargeable cells, including automotive type**
- **Bayonet lamp holder**
- **Bayonet lamp holder adaptor**
- **Blankets**
- **Circuit-breakers, miniature over-current**
- **Clothes dryers**
- **Conditioning and control devices (portable)**
- **Cooking appliances ovens (portable) including:**
 - **ovens**
 - **grillers**
 - **toasters**
 - **bread makers**
 - **warming plates**
 - **hotplate rotisseries**
 - **food dehydrators**
 - **waffle irons**
 - **sandwich toasters**
- **Cord extension sockets**
- **Hair-care appliances, including:**
 - **brushes**
 - **combs**
 - **curling irons**
 - **curling wands**
 - **hair clippers**
 - **dryers**
 - **rollers**
- **Hand lamps**
- **Hand-held portable tools, including:**
 - **cutters,**
 - **drills**
 - **grinders**
 - **hedge clippers**
 - **planers**
 - **polishers**
 - **routers**
 - **sanders**
 - **saws**
 - **trimmers**
- **Heating pads (flexible)**
- **Hedge clippers**
- **Hotplates and grillers (portable)**
- **Immersion heaters (including aquarium immersion heaters)**
- **Irons (including fabric steamers)**
- **Insect electrocutors**
- **Jugs**
- **Kettles (see**
- **Projectors, including:**
 - **movie projectors**
 - **slide projectors viewers**
 - **editors**
- **Range hoods**
- **Ranges, fixed, including:**
 - **cooking hobs**
 - **ovens**
- **Razors/hairclippers**
- **Refrigerators and freezers, including wine cellars**
- **Residual current devices (safety switches)**
- **Room heaters**
- **Saucepans, including:**
 - **bottle warmers**
 - **deep fryers**
 - **fry pans**
 - **glue pots**
 - **kettles**
 - **shaving mugs**
 - **vaporisers**
 - **woks**
 - **BBQ's (indoor and outdoor)**
- **Sewing machines**
- **Shavers (electric razors)**
- **Sockets outlets**
- **Soldering irons**
- **Switches (wall)**

- Cord-line switches
- Cords (supply flexible cords)
- Christmas lights
- Decorative lighting outfits
- Dishwashing machines
- Electric fence energisers
- Extra low voltage power supplies (see power supply units)
- Fans (portable and fixed)
- Fluorescent lamp ballasts
- Fluorescent lamp starters
- Food preparation machines, including:
 - blenders
 - cheese graters
 - coffee grinders
 - coffee makers
 - food processors
 - fruit presses
 - ice shavers
 - juice extractors
 - juice separators
 - knives
 - liquidisers
 - mincers
 - mixers
 - pasta machines
 - soy milk makers
 - shredders
 - slicers
 - yoghurt makers
- saucepans)
- Lamp holders (normal bayonet-type or Edison screw type)
- Lamp holder adaptors BC
- Lamps (portable lamp standards and brackets)
- Lawnmowers
- Massage appliances (portable)
- Microwave ovens
- Outlet devices (portable, including powerboards and double adapters)
- Plugs
- Plug sockets
- Plug socket adaptors
- Polishers (floor)
- Pool and spa equipment
- Power supply units (extra-low-voltage power supplies), including:
 - battery chargers
 - battery savers and power supply units
 - boosters (TV antennae)
- Switches (cord line)
- Television receivers
- Toasters
- Transformers, extra-low voltage (see power supply units)
- Ultra-violet/infrared therapeutic lamps
- Vacuum cleaners
- Washing machines
- Water heaters, unvented storage, instantaneous
- Water-bed heaters
- Welders, arc-welding machines including gas shielded

Marking of prescribed electrical equipment

Marking requirements

Electrical appliance approval label

RCM mark

Period of approval

Recognition of approval

Modification to approval of electrical equipment

The C-tick



Marking requirements

Prescribed equipment must be marked with the approved mark required by the electrical regulator who approved the equipment, or be marked with the regulatory compliance mark (RCM).

Typically, these markings consist of a letter to indicate the State in which approval was granted, followed by a number of symbols.

Examples from the various regulators include:

Queensland	Q91610, Q051123
Western Australia	W2015
Victoria	V99, V105, V98333, V05212
New South Wales	N11, N10422, NSW1234, or

South Australia :	QAS:TE1234, SAI:TE1234 with		or	
Australian Capital Territory :	S1, S442			
Tasmania :	A050			
	T05123			

Electrical appliance approval label

Typical equipment label with Queensland approval



RCM mark



Australian Standard AS/NZS 4417.1 Marking of electrical products to indicate compliance with regulations - General rules for use of the mark, provides general requirements for the use of the RCM.

Period of approval

An approval is issued for a period of up to five years and may include any conditions necessary to ensure the equipment meets the required safety. The approval holder will be informed of any conditions when the certificate of approval is issued. The approval can be renewed or extended (subject to meeting safety criteria) to allow the continued sale of the equipment after the initial approval period ends.

Recognition of approval

The Queensland Approval is recognised in all states of Australia and New Zealand as meeting the requirements for sale that each state and New Zealand have in place.

Queensland recognises the approval granted by other states of Australia as meeting the requirements for sale in Queensland.

Modification to approval of electrical equipment

Modifications that are made to electrical equipment during its period of approval must also be registered with the Electrical Safety Office to ensure the changes do not impact on the safety of the electrical equipment.

General modifications include but are not limited to change of trade name, re-rating of equipment, change of components within equipment, styling changes.

Additional models that are similar to the model listed in the approval can also be added to the approval. (For example drill model "xyz" is similar to drill model 'abc" except for additional reversing switch).

Applications for modification to approval must include:

- the approved form;
- a test report (if required);
- modification details;
- a sample if requested; and
- the prescribed fee.

Once Queensland approval for the modification is obtained an attachment to certificate of approval is issued. The electrical equipment must not be sold or offered for sale before the attachment to certificate of Approval is issued.

Read more about penalties for breaching the legislation.

Unless otherwise stated, the attachment to certificate of approval is valid for as long as the original certificate of approval remains current. An attachment to certificate of approval does not change the expiry date of the original certificate of approval.

The C-tick



The C-tick is not an electrical safety approval.

The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) regulates the EMC requirements of electrical product (The C-tick). This recognition process allows the use of a number that starts with an "N" eg N1244. This number should not be confused with the approval number issued by NSW.

The C-Tick number must be placed next to the C-Tick or RCM symbol.

For information on the C-Tick and EMC requirements contact the Australian Communications Authority (ACA).

Non-prescribed electrical equipment

What is non-prescribed electrical equipment?
Marking non-prescribed electrical equipment
Interstate recognition

What is non-prescribed electrical equipment?

Non-prescribed equipment is all electrical equipment not included in schedule 3 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*.

Non-prescribed equipment does not have to have electrical safety approval from a government regulator prior to sale.

However it is an offence for a person to sell non-prescribed electrical equipment unless the electrical equipment complies with the safety criteria of AS/NZS 3820 Essential safety requirements for low voltage electrical equipment.

The seller has an obligation to ensure the electrical safety of any electrical equipment sold.

Manufacturers and importers are encouraged to voluntarily submit any non-prescribed electrical equipment or appliance that they wish to sell, to the Electrical Safety Office using the same application forms and requirements for prescribed electrical equipment. The ESO will issue a certificate of approval (formerly a certificate of suitability) that can be used to show compliance to the requirements and AS/NZS 3820. This certificate will be valid for up to five years.

The seller also needs to ensure the electrical item meets criteria set out in *AS/NZS 3820 Essential safety requirements for low voltage electrical equipment*.

Marking non-prescribed electrical equipment

Equipment receiving a certificate of approval in Queensland will be marked in the form of the letter Q followed by a series of numbers eg. Q050123.

This is instead of the former certificate of suitability marking: CS/123/Q.

Equipment registered before the change in 2001 will still carry a 'CS' number.

Electrical equipment, covered by a certificate of suitability in other states, is identified with marking in the general form:

- CS/9711111/ V Victoria
- CS/108/N New South Wales

Interstate recognition

Equipment issued with a Certificate of Suitability (CS) in other Australian states, and properly marked, is recognised nationally.

The Queensland approval is recognised in all states of Australia and New Zealand as meeting the requirements for sale that each state and New Zealand have in place.

Queensland recognises the approval granted by other states of Australia as meeting the requirements for sale in Queensland.

Applications for approval certificates

Applications must include:

- the approved application form
- a suitable test report
- detailed colour photographs of the item and its components
- any other information to assist in verifying the construction, operation or safety of the equipment
- a sample if requested
- the [prescribed application fee](#).

Applications and enquiries should be made to the [Electrical Safety Office](#).

Application forms

- Application for certificate of approval of certificate for electrical equipment (includes prescribed and non-prescribed)
 - Sample application for certificate of approval or renewal of certificate
- Application for renewal of certificate for electrical equipment (includes prescribed and non-prescribed)
- Application for approval of modification/s to approved electrical equipment
 - Sample application for approval of modification/s to approved electrical equipment
- Application for transfer of registration of electrical equipment
- Application for extension of approval of electrical equipment

Fees for electrical equipment (appliances)

Section 209 of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* provides for the setting charges for services by gazette notice. These charges are in Australian dollars.

Electrical equipment fixed fees

1. **Application for approval, or renewal of approval, of a type of prescribed class electrical equipment and non prescribed equipment -**

(a) Prescribed equipment (fee classification 1)	330.40
(b) Prescribed equipment (fee classification 2)	462.50

(c)	Prescribed equipment (fee classification 3)	660.80
(d)	Application for voluntary approval certificate (formerly Certificate of Suitability)	360.40
2.	Application for an extension under section 103A, of an approval of a type of electrical equipment of a prescribed class of electrical equipment -	
(a)	Prescribed equipment (fee classification 1)	85.60
(b)	Prescribed equipment (fee classification 2)	85.60
(c)	Prescribed equipment (fee classification 3)	85.60
3.	Application to change the approval of a type of electrical equipment to include a new model type of electrical equipment	132.10
4.	Review of test report of an electrical equipment if testing of the new model type of electrical equipment has been carried out	330.40
5.	Application for transfer of approval of an approved type of electrical equipment	66.00
6.	Inspection of the register of approved electrical equipments	11.90
7.	Copy of one entry in the register of approved electrical equipments	24.00
Energy efficiency labelling fees		
1.	Application for registration of an efficiency label	162.40
2.	Application for change to a registered efficiency label	162.40
3.	Application for transfer of registration of an efficiency label	54.15
4.	Inspection of the efficiency label register	10.75
5.	Copy of one entry in efficiency label register	21.60

(As of 1 July 2009)

Please note: Fees for prescribed electrical equipment with the exception of other fees are GST free; therefore, no tax invoice will be issued.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, Visa, Bankcard, MasterCard or American Express (in Australian Dollars).

Division 3

Fee Classification of electrical equipment

Descriptions are as per AS/NZS 4417.2 *Marking of electrical products to indicate compliance with regulations - Specific requirements for electrical safety regulatory applications.*

Classification 1

- Appliance connector
- Bayonet lamp holder
- Bayonet lamp holder adaptor
- Bread toaster
- Cord extension socket
- Cord-line switch
- Decorative lighting outfit
- Edison screw lamp holder
- Fluorescent lamp ballast
- Fluorescent lamp starter
- Immersion heater
- Inspection hand lamp
- Iron
- Luminaire (portable)
- Outlet device (portable)
- Plug
- Socket outlet
- Socket outlet adaptor
- Therapeutic lamp
- Wall switch

Classification 2

- Battery charger/saver
- Extra low voltage power supply unit
- Floor polisher/scrubber
- Hair care appliance
- Hedge clipper
- Liquid heating appliance
- Kitchen machine
- Lawn care appliance
- Conditioning or control device
- Tool (portable)
- Cooking appliance – (portable)
- Massage appliance
- Razor / Hair clipper
- Room heater
- Sewing machine
- Soldering iron
- Vacuum cleaner
- Waterbed heater

Classification 3

- Arc welding
- Flexible heating
- Refrigerating

- | machine | pad | appliance |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Battery charger (automotive type) | • Insect electrocutor | • Residual current device |
| • Blanket | • Microwave oven | • Supply flexible cord |
| • Clothes dryer | • Miniature overcurrent circuit-breaker | • Swimming pool/spa equipment |
| • Dishwashing machine | • Projector | • Television receiver |
| • Fan | • Range | • Washing machine |
| • Fence energiser | • Range hood | • Water heater |

Hire of electrical equipment

Regulations and requirements

Equipment requirements when purchased for use as hire equipment

Ongoing requirements

Regulations and requirements

The hire of electrical equipment is regulated by the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* and the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* through:

- the electrical safety obligations on the hire company; and
- by having requirements the equipment must be shown to meet before it can be sold to the hire company or used as hire equipment.

Equipment requirements when purchased for use as hire equipment

The requirements for electrical safety on electrical equipment purchased for use as hire equipment are the same as for equipment being offered for sale.

If the equipment is prescribed electrical equipment then it should have a current certificate of approval when being purchased for use as hire equipment.

However, for hire equipment, the expiry of the certificate of approval does not prevent the equipment from being continued to be hired.

If the equipment is non-prescribed electrical equipment, then it must meet the requirements for non-prescribed electrical equipment in force at the time the equipment was sold for use as hire equipment. The purchaser should confirm the equipment meets the requirements for non-prescribed electrical equipment before purchasing.

Unsafe electrical equipment can be prohibited for use as hire equipment by notices issued by the Electrical Safety Office.

Ongoing requirements

Electrical equipment offered for hire must be both inspected and tested by a competent person before each hiring unless a safety switch that cannot be disconnected, deactivated or removed is fitted to the equipment. This inspection and testing does not require disassembly of the article.

All electrical equipment for hire must be further inspected, tested and tagged every six months by a competent person.

Hire equipment passing inspection and testing must be identified with a durable tag that also shows the next scheduled test date.

Any hire equipment failing inspection and testing must be immediately withdrawn from hire and labelled as unsafe to use with a durable tag.

Penalties are set down in the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* for non-compliance to the regulatory requirements for the hire of electrical equipment and the testing and inspection of electrical equipment for hire.

Cathodic protection systems

What are cathodic protection systems?

Installation and design

Testing

What are cathodic protection systems?

Cathodic protection systems are complex and it is recommended that you seek the assistance of a consultant or fully trained person in the installation, operation and testing of these systems. For further information, contact the [Australasian Corrosion Association](#) (non-Queensland Government link).

Cathodic protection systems are widely used, particularly with engineering structures such as building reinforcement and buried metallic pipeline and cables.

Cathodic protection devices protect structures and metalwork from corrosion, making the metal surface to be protected by a cathode element in a path of electric current, encouraging corrosion to form elsewhere in the circuit in a less critical or cheaper (anode) material.

These systems are regulated by Part 11 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*.

Some cathodic protection systems are exempted from the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*. These include:

- fishing equipment;
- systems installed on a floating mobile structure; and
- some offshore structures or internal surface of an item covered by Australian Standard *AS2832.4 Cathodic protection of metals - Internal surfaces*.

Part 11, Division 2 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* also details particular provisions that cover:

- the installation and design of cathodic protection systems;
- the operating requirements of cathodic protection systems;
- the testing requirements of cathodic protection systems;
- the registration of these systems.

Under the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* all cathodic protection systems capable of delivering a current greater of 0.25A must be registered.

These systems must be periodically tested and test results kept.

They must be operated within specified electrical limits.

Installation and design

Section 173 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* states that at least 60 days notice must be given before a system is installed.

The applicable standard for cathodic protection, [AS 2832 series \(Cathodic protection of metals\)](#) (non-Queensland Government link), must be adhered to in the system's design and installation.

Operating requirements stipulated in Section 175 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* are:

- appropriate testing of system;
- issues of interference mitigation satisfied;
- operated within AS 2832 series; and
- registered as required.

Section 182 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* specifies electrical limits concerning the voltage applied, the maximum current that can be used and changes in potential to ground.

Testing

Testing prior to commencing operation

All cathodic protection systems must be tested – even those that are not required to be registered. This testing should be performed within 90 days of commencing operation.

Systems required to be registered must be tested within 90 days of lodging the application. The Electrical Safety Office may allow a longer period upon request.

All tests must include:

- interference tests on all foreign structures for the system; and
- maximum voltage checks on water based or marine environment systems.

Testing should be based on maximum operating current values as stated on the application.

It is the responsibility of the owner of the system to:

- arrange testing;

- provide all the facilities; and
- bear all costs associated with testing.

Section 176 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002* provides more information on the testing of cathodic protection systems prior to commencing operation.

Find out how to register a cathodic protection system.

[<http://www.dir.qld.gov.au/electricalsafety/training/registrations/cathodic/>]

Further testing during the operation of the system

Interference tests need to be repeated when:

- requested by the Electrical Safety Office;
- the system or method of operation is changed; or
- an anode forming part of the system is replaced.

Testing as part of regular maintenance

Cathodic protection systems are also required to be regularly tested as a part of their operation. This is in accordance with the cathodic protection standard AS/NZS 2832 series as amended.

These tests include:

- system operation checks;
- cathodic protection potential surveys;
- equipment maintenance checks; and
- structure inspections.

The owner must provide access to the system and provide facilities to further test the system if reasonably required by the Electrical Safety Office.

All costs (including indirect/overhead costs) incurred by the Electrical Safety Office in carrying out such testing must be paid for by the system owner if it is found to be non-compliant.

More information is provided in Section 181 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*.

Recordkeeping requirements

Test records must be kept for ten years if:

- the system is an impressed current cathodic system; or

- the system is a sacrificial system that has a total anode mass of more than 25kg.

These records must be able to be produced within 14 days if requested by Electrical Safety Office.

Energy efficiency

[About energy efficiency](#)

[Manufacturers and importers' responsibilities](#)

[Application procedures](#)

About energy efficiency

Energy labelling of domestic white goods and air-conditioners, and registration of applicable equipment for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), is mandatory throughout Australia.

The Energy Efficiency Program applies to:

- refrigerators (excluding wine cellars)
- freezers
- clothes washers
- clothes dryers
- dishwashers
- all single phase domestic air-conditioners
- fluorescent ballasts
- power transformers
- fluorescent lamps
- commercial refrigerators.

All new domestic appliances that are required to have energy labelling must have the energy label registered and on display before they are offered for sale.

Information on energy efficient appliances and lists of current equipment registered for energy labelling and MEPS are available at Energy Rating Australia website.

Manufacturers and importers' responsibilities

It is an offence to display for sale or offer for sale or sell new electrical equipment that is required to have an energy label and does not have that label displayed. These requirements are regulated in the Queensland Electricity Regulation 1994 Chapter 6.

The product must be registered with a Government regulator. To do this the application procedures must be followed.

If the product is suitable the product will be registered. A letter of registration will be sent and the product will be listed on the Energy Rating Australia so that all consumers can view the details.

Once approval has been granted, the manufacturer or importer arranges for the Energy Rating Label to be attached to the model. Replacement labels are supplied to retailers by the manufacturer or importer where needed.

Energy Rating Australia has more information for manufacturers and importers on energy labelling and the MEPS schemes, including details of the Australian standards applicable for testing and calculations used in labelling and MEPS requirements.

Application procedures

Application forms

There is an application form for each type of domestic appliance and MEPS equipment. These are available for downloading through the [Energy Rating Australia](#) website.

Applications can be submitted online. This is preferred however special access must be arranged through the Energy Australia access point.

When applications are submitted online, test reports and labels will need to be forwarded to the Electrical Safety Office for verification.

Applications can be lodged manually direct to the Electrical Safety Office.

To have a product registered for Energy labelling or MEPS you must:

- For an online application
 - Register with Energy Rating Australia if not already registered
 - Log on to [Energy Rating Australia](#)
 - Complete the application (note: for regulator choose QLD)
 - Submit the application electronically (attach test report and sample label if appropriate)
 - If you send a test report and label via post ensure the record ID for your application has been listed on the document sent
 - Send payment
- For an offline application
 - Complete the application form (available online or in the appropriate standard)
 - Send application form, test report, label (if applicable) and payment to Electrical Safety Office.

Test reports

The test report submitted with the application may be from a recognised laboratory and must have been carried out within three years of the application date.

If a non NATA test report are utilised it is the responsibility of the registrant to be satisfied as to the validity of the report. A check testing regime is in place to randomly test equipment to ensure the validity of results supplied.

Penalties for incorrect submission

If non valid data is found to have been part of the submission (from check-testing or the like) the submitter can be liable for prosecution by regulators in each state that the product is sold and also sanction by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

Energy rating labels

For those products requiring an energy rating label, a production Energy Rating Label or suitable facsimile must be submitted with each application.

Fees

The schedule fee for a label is AUD\$150 (GST does not apply). This is required for each registration.

Cheques should be made payable to the Department of Industrial Relations. Payment can be made by credit card by contacting the Electrical Safety Office.

Recognised test laboratories

Laboratories In Australia

NATA is the Australian peak body for accreditation of laboratories for testing to electrical safety standards or to energy efficiency standards.

You should determine what type of testing you need (electrical safety or energy efficiency) and what type of product you have and then contact NATA who can inform you of all laboratories they have accredited to conduct that work.

For Queensland the NATA accredited laboratory is:

Energex - Equipment and Training Services

46 Blinzinger Road
Banyo Qld 4014

Telephone:

Within Australia: 07 3407 5460
International: +61 7 3407 5460

Fax:

Within Australia : 07 3407 5454
International: 61-7-3407 5454

Details of other laboratories in Australia and New Zealand can be obtained by contacting the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

Laboratories outside Australia

The Electrical Safety Office may accept test reports from Laboratories that operate outside Australia. These test laboratories should have appropriate accreditation.

To ensure minimal delays in the processing of your application the accreditation should be from an accreditation body that has a mutual recognition with NATA, and the test report supplied should indicate the laboratory's accreditation.

Details of NATA's Mutual Recognition Arrangements with overseas national laboratory accreditation bodies can be obtained by contacting the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) (non-Queensland Government link).

The Electrical Safety Office may also accept test reports from laboratories with accreditation under the International Electrotechnical Commission IECCE scheme for Recognition of Results of Testing to Standards for Safety of Electrical

Equipment "CB Scheme", these reports should be accompanied by a corresponding "CB" Certificate.

Contact NATA on:

- Telephone 613 3 9329 1633; or
- Facsimile 61 3 9326 5148.

Product notices

Notice regarding insulated live pins for all plugs

From 3 April 2005, live pins of low voltage flat pin plugs, up to and including 15A rating, must be partially insulated. Non-insulated pins will not be compliant with the Australian and New Zealand Standard (*AS/NZS 3112 Approval and test specification - Plugs and socket-outlets*).

Due to concerns about overstocking of unsold product, **non-insulated pins already in stock may be sold in Queensland for 12 months, until 3 April 2006.**

However from 3 April 2005, all electrical equipment manufactured in Australia or imported into Australia must have insulated pins.

New products without insulated pins cannot be sold after 3 April 2006.

What manufacturers and importers must do

If you have Queensland Approval of your product and you have, or think you have, product with non-insulated pins at retail level after 3 April 2005, you must contact the Electrical Safety Office with details of the product/s involved.

The Electrical Safety Office will provide a conditional approval certificate to cover those products on the Queensland approval.

If you have non-prescribed electrical equipment without a Queensland certificate of approval you should check the supply plug and from the approval number marked, determine the state regulator who approved the plug. If it is Queensland (has a Q number) then you should contact the supplier of the plug and ensure they have obtained Queensland conditional approval.

If you have electrical equipment (or a plug on non prescribed electrical equipment) that has approval from a state regulator other than Queensland you must contact the state regulator who issued that approval and ensure you comply with their requirements for insulated pins.

What sellers must do

You must continue to ensure the products with non-insulated pins are under current approval.

Recognition of approval

The Queensland approval is recognised in all states of Australia and NZ as meeting the requirements for sale that each state and NZ have in place.

Queensland recognises the approval granted by other states of Australia as meeting the requirements for sale in Queensland.

Second-hand electrical equipment

Selling second-hand electrical equipment

List of appliances

Selling second-hand electrical equipment

Sellers of electrical equipment must make sure that any electrical equipment sold has information included on how to use the appliance in an electrically safe way.

The manufacturer's instructions often contain this information. However retailers of second-hand electrical equipment do not always have these manufacturer's instructions. Safe use instructions have been developed by the Electrical Safety Office for retailers of second-hand electrical equipment.

Sellers of second-hand electrical equipment **must** give the buyer information about whether the item has been tested and found to be electrically safe. Failure to meet your obligations as an individual seller or a business dealing in second-hand electrical equipment can result in penalties. The Electrical Safety Office Inspectorate enforces these requirements.

These limitations are not required in selling to a business that deals in second hand electrical equipment.

Second-hand electrical equipment of a prescribed type may only be sold by a business if that equipment has had approval as required by electrical safety regulation.

List of appliances

If your appliance is not listed here, general safety advice is provided for you to use as a guide.

- Appliances for heating liquids
- Appliances for skin exposure to ultraviolet and infrared radiation
- Battery chargers
- Blankets, pads and similar appliances
- Clothes dryers (cabinet type) and towel rails
- Clothes dryers (tumble)
- Cooking ranges, hobs, ovens and similar stationary appliances
- Deep fat fryers, frying pans and similar appliances
- Dishwashers
- Floor treatment machines and wet scrubbers
- Food waste disposers

- Grills, toasters and similar portable cooking appliances
- Heat pumps, air-conditioners and dehumidifiers
- Instantaneous water heaters
- Irons
- Kitchen machines
- Massage appliances
- Microwave ovens
- Portable heating tools and similar appliances
- Pumps
- Range hoods
- Refrigerating appliances and ice cream appliances
- Room heaters
- Sewing machines
- Shavers, hair clippers and similar appliances
- Skin and hair care
- Spin extractors
- Vacuum cleaners and water suction appliances
- Warming plates and similar appliances
- Washing machines

Safe use advice for electrical appliances

General safe use advice for electrical appliances intended for household and similar use with rated voltage of not more than 250V for single phase appliances and 480V for other appliances.

This advice is not intended to replace specific manufacturers' information but can be used as a general guide.

This advice **does not cater** for young children or people who are physically weak.

You are urged to:

- Use the appliance only for its intended purpose.
- If the appliance is for indoor use only, do not use outdoors.
- Do not immerse the appliance in water unless it is designed for this purpose.
- Keep hands, fingers, feet, toes and hair away from dangerous moving parts, cutting blades and the like.
- Do not use electrical appliances in the rain.
- Make sure you have dry hands when operating an electrical appliance.
- Do not use a damaged appliance.
- An appliance may not be intended for use by children or people with an illness or disability without supervision.
- Young children should not be allowed to play with the appliance.
- Some appliances require special precautions for installation or user maintenance or both.
- The plug must be removed from the socket-outlet before any cleaning or maintenance is done.
- Do not place cord extension sockets or portable power outlet boards where they may be splashed or where moisture may get in.
- Ensure ventilation holes or outlets are not blocked or partially obstructed.
- If a fixed appliance does not have a supply cord and plug or other means for disconnection from the supply, a means for disconnection must be incorporated into the fixed wiring according to the wiring rules.
- If the supply cord or plug is damaged:
 - The manufacturer or its service agent or a similarly qualified person must replace the cord to prevent an accident.
 - Appliances with specially prepared cords must be replaced by a special cord or assembly available from the manufacturer or its service agent.
 - Other appliances that have a supply cord that cannot be replaced should be scrapped.

- The appliance should be maintained in order to ensure a long, useful life and to protect the operator against electric shock or mechanical mishaps.
- A safety switch can enhance electrical safety when using electrical appliances

Retailer's role in electrical safety

Code of Conduct for the retail sale of electrical installation products to the public

A Code of Conduct has been developed for the sale of electrical installation products to the public.

In this code of conduct 'electrical equipment' relates to both electrical accessories such as plugs, cord extension sockets, light switches and junction boxes and fixed wired electrical appliances such as ceiling fans, light fittings, split system air conditioners or stoves and ovens.

The code uses conditions set out in the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* that can be voluntarily adopted as 'best industry practice' to improve electrical safety for workers and for customers.

Your obligations as a supplier

As a supplier of electrical equipment, you have a legal obligation under the Act to ensure electrical safety.

You must ensure electrical equipment you sell is accompanied by information about its safe electrical use including (the installation of the equipment).

Informing your customers

To comply with legislation, you can:

- provide customers with accurate advice;
- display informative point of sale material; and
- develop informative advertising.

provide customers with accurate advice

Don't let comments like this go unremarked:

- It's too expensive to employ an electrician; I'll do it myself.
- It's easy. I can do it.
- It's not dangerous.

You need to remind customers that electricity is dangerous and that's why there are laws restricting who works with it. **It is illegal to do electrical work in Queensland without an electrical licence.**

Advise your customer that they will need a suitably licensed electrical contractor to connect or install their electrical equipment.

Ensure your staff is adequately trained and aware of the legal requirements so that they can provide accurate, responsible and electrically safe advice.

Display informative point of sale material

Use the posters, brochures and warnings that often come with electrical goods to remind your customers that they are dealing with a potential health hazard – electricity.

Display posters and brochures near displays of electrical accessories such as wall switches, electrical cables and socket outlets.

Most Australian manufacturers include warnings on individual packaged items about the need to use a licensed person to install the product. Make sure that warning is present. If it's not, request suitable electrical safety information from the supplier.

Use technology at point-of-sale to inform customers about electrical safety. Some technology provides retail staff with electronic prompts to pass information on to customers buying specific products. Other technology provides the ability to print notices reinforcing safety messages on sales dockets.

Develop informative advertising

When electrical equipment is advertised for sale to the public, either in print or electronic media, a prominent statement should be included, advising that electrical equipment requires installation by a licensed electrical contractor.

Customers also have a role to play in promoting electrical safety.