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# Changes to the Electrical Appliance Safety Regime

## Introduction

All electrical appliances sold in New Zealand must be safe, in accordance with Electricity Regulations. The appliance industry has a responsibility to provide safe products and the New Zealand public has a right to expect the appliances they buy to be safe.

The Energy Safety Service, on behalf of the Government, has recently consulted on and reviewed the regulatory process around electrical appliance safety and supply in New Zealand.

The result of this review and consultation process is an updated Electrical Appliance Safety Regime, which is being implemented and enforced by the Energy Safety Service. Changes to the regime have been designed to deliver safe appliances to the public by:

- ⊙ Providing a regulatory requirement for appliances to be safe, backed up by legal penalties for non-compliance.
- ⊙ Providing recognised methods by which suppliers can determine the safety of appliances they import (including recognised Standards and recognised testing facilities).

- ⊙ Providing recognition of certification and testing regimes operated by New Zealand's trading partners, particularly Australia, Singapore and the European Union, and allowing recognition of other systems such as those operated by Taiwan, Hong Kong and APEC economies.

- ⊙ Requiring appliances that have been assessed as having a higher potential for safety deficiencies to be covered by either a supplier declaration or approval requirement prior to sale.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** As of 1 April 2005, all new electrical appliances sold in Australia or New Zealand must be fitted with insulated pin plugs. The requirement for insulated pins will be covered by Regulation and AS/NZS 3820.

Produced by the Energy Safety Service

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# Why change the Electrical Appliance Safety Regime?

Regulatory regimes can be used as a barrier to trade and differences in regulatory regimes create a risk of non-compliant products entering the market place.

Mutual recognition arrangements address these two issues and also provide a mechanism to promote good regulatory practice and a more harmonised approach to conformity assessment.

These arrangements are considered critical to help reduce compliance costs, improve the international regulatory environment and facilitate trade, investment and innovation.

New Zealand's reliance on the importation of electrical products to satisfy its market makes mutual recognition agreements critical.

The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA), is the most comprehensive mutual recognition arrangement in place internationally. Within this framework, both Australia and New Zealand are revising their respective electrical appliance safety regimes to accord a greater degree of harmonisation and good regulatory practice.

The revised Electrical Appliance Safety Regime was developed to facilitate the implementation of the TTMRA with Australia. The TTMRA provides for market equivalence between New Zealand and Australia, allowing for new electrical appliances that can be legally sold in one country to be sold in the other with evidence of appropriate approval or certification.

Beyond Australia, New Zealand has a number of other arrangements in place that relate to electrical and electronic equipment, and is negotiating others.

# What changes does the revised regime introduce?

The most significant changes you need to be aware of are:

⊙ The revised regime retains the requirement for all electrical and electronic equipment to comply with essential safety requirements as contained in AS/NZS 3820. Standards recognised to meet these essential safety requirements are detailed in AS/NZS 4417. The Standards can be purchased from Standards New Zealand.

⊙ In addition to these fundamental safety requirements, a specified list of new electrical appliances now requires the supplier to complete a supplier declaration before that product can be sold in New Zealand. This is a new process that was not previously required in New Zealand. Please note, this does not apply to second-hand electrical appliances. For further information about supplier declarations including the supplier declaration form and a generic flow chart of the supplier declaration process, please visit [www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/](http://www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/) or e-mail [info@ess.govt.nz](mailto:info@ess.govt.nz) or phone (04) 472 0030.

⊙ A separate list of new electrical appliances defined as declared articles, require Energy Safety Service approval or an *alternative recognised certification* before they can be sold in New Zealand. This process used to exist, but now affects a reduced number of appliances. Please note, products with a valid Australian approval are considered to have "*alternative recognised certification*". For further information about declared articles, including the approval application form and a generic flow chart of the approval process please visit [www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/](http://www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/) or e-mail [info@ess.govt.nz](mailto:info@ess.govt.nz) or phone (04) 472 0030.

© Under the revised regime, the combined list of products requiring either a supplier declaration or an approval in New Zealand is harmonised with the list of products requiring approval in Australia. The combined list can be found at the end of this document. *The combined list reflects a review of both the Australian and New Zealand Electrical Appliance Safety regimes. The review implements a rationalised list of items requiring approval in Australia and items requiring either approval or a supplier declaration in New Zealand. This reduces the Australian list of electrical equipment requiring approval, and transfers the majority of New Zealand electrical equipment, which previously required approval, to the supplier declaration list.*

© Gazette Notices have been formally issued establishing the declared article lists and the supplier declaration lists. For copies of these Gazette Notices please visit [www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/](http://www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/) or e-mail [info@ess.govt.nz](mailto:info@ess.govt.nz) or phone (04) 472 0030.

© The revised regime specifies a list of recognised testing facilities that can provide test reports for appliances requiring approval. This list can be found in AS/NZS 4417.

© A list of Standards for use of the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) [voluntary marking] is also found in AS/NZS 4417. You can also visit [www.standards.com.au/rcm/](http://www.standards.com.au/rcm/) for further RCM information.

## When do the changes take effect?

Changes to the Electrical Appliance Safety Regime are being implemented in two stages, the first having taken effect from **1 March 2002** when five appliances required a supplier declaration and two appliances required approval. Stage two will take effect from **1 September 2002**.

This will harmonise the New Zealand and Australian regimes by introducing a further five declared

articles requiring approval and requiring the remainder of the harmonised list of 52 appliances to be covered by a supplier declaration. It is also important to note:

© Gas appliances with an electrical component are covered by the requirements of the Gas Appliance Safety Regime and are required to meet the essential safety requirements of AS/NZS 3820.

© Electrical appliances are required to meet regulatory requirements relating to Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC). Many of these appliances will be required by the EMC Regulations to be covered by a supplier declaration. From November 2001, Mutual Recognition with Australia applies to electrical and electronic products (but not radio products) labelled for EMC compliance. From this date, a "C-tick" or "RCM" labelled product meeting Australian EMC requirements, automatically meets the EMC requirements for supply, distribution and sale in New Zealand. An information booklet "Electromagnetic Compatibility - Information for suppliers of electrical and electronic products in Australia and New Zealand" is now available on the web from

[www.aca.gov.au/standards/emcbook/index.html](http://www.aca.gov.au/standards/emcbook/index.html)  
For further information about EMC compliance, please visit [www.med.govt.nz/rsm/](http://www.med.govt.nz/rsm/) and search EMC Electrical Standards or e-mail [lesley.brewer@med.govt.nz](mailto:lesley.brewer@med.govt.nz)

© Special criteria apply to table lamps. The regime allows for small production runs of portable lamps (less than 50) to be exempt from the approval requirements but does require them to be covered by a supplier declaration.

The Energy Safety Service recognises that it will take time to make the regime's requirements part of everyday business.

We are committed to working with the electrical appliance industry to help make the transition to the changes as smooth as possible.

Please visit [www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/](http://www.ess.govt.nz/product/electrical/) or e-mail [info@ess.govt.nz](mailto:info@ess.govt.nz) or phone (04) 472 0030 for further information about the revised electrical appliance regulatory regime.

# Appliances Requiring Supplier Declarations and Approvals

Stage 1 electrical appliances defined as Declared Articles (requiring approval pre-sale) effective 1 March 2002.

- ⊙ Luminaire – portable type (large production runs 50+)
- ⊙ Room Heater

Stage 2 electrical appliances defined as Declared Articles (requiring approval pre-sale) effective from 1 September 2002.

- ⊙ Outlet device
- ⊙ Residual current device
- ⊙ Luminaire – child appealing type
- ⊙ Plug
- ⊙ Supply Flexible cord

Stage 1 electrical appliances requiring Supplier Declarations effective from 1 March 2002:

- ⊙ Bayonet lampholder
- ⊙ Cord extension socket
- ⊙ Cord-line switch
- ⊙ Swimming pool/spa equipment
- ⊙ Luminaire – portable type (small production runs of 50 or less)

Stage 2 electrical appliances requiring Supplier Declarations effective from 1 September 2002:

- ⊙ Appliance connector
- ⊙ Arc welding machine
- ⊙ Battery charger – automotive type
- ⊙ Battery charger – general type
- ⊙ Bayonet lampholder adaptor
- ⊙ Blanket (Electric)
- ⊙ Bread toaster/Bread maker
- ⊙ Clothes dryer
- ⊙ Control or conditioning device
- ⊙ Cooking appliance – portable type

- ⊙ Decorative lighting outfit
- ⊙ Dishwashing machine
- ⊙ Edison screw lampholder
- ⊙ Extra low-voltage power supply unit
- ⊙ Fan
- ⊙ Flexible heating pad
- ⊙ Fluorescent lamp ballast
- ⊙ Fluorescent lamp starter
- ⊙ Hair care appliance
- ⊙ Immersion heater
- ⊙ Insect electrocutor
- ⊙ Inspection hand lamp
- ⊙ Iron
- ⊙ Kitchen machine
- ⊙ Lawn care appliance
- ⊙ Liquid heating appliance
- ⊙ Massage appliance
- ⊙ Microwave oven
- ⊙ Miniature over-current circuit breaker
- ⊙ Range
- ⊙ Range hood
- ⊙ Razor/hairclipper
- ⊙ Refrigerating appliance
- ⊙ Socket – outlet
- ⊙ Soldering iron
- ⊙ Television receiver
- ⊙ Tool – portable type
- ⊙ Vacuum cleaner
- ⊙ Wall switch
- ⊙ Washing machine
- ⊙ Water bed heater
- ⊙ Water heater (including both storage and instantaneous types)

