

Electrical Domestic Plugs and Adaptor Issues

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Insulated Pin Plugs

Three (and two) pin plugs are currently declared articles in both New Zealand and Australia

This requires them to be approved prior to sale.

As part of the Trans-Tasman alignment New Zealand accepts Australian Approvals for products sold in New Zealand.



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Insulated Pin Plugs

At this time nearly all 3 pins plugs sold in New Zealand have Australian approvals

As part of a joint Standards, and Regulatory co-operative initiative, both countries have agreed to alter their national (joint) Standards to introduce protective insulation onto the pins of plugs and plug in equipment (IPDs).



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Insulated Pin Plugs

The decision to insulate the pins comes from a number of accidents that occurred in Australia where metallic objects fell between the plug face and the socket outlet face.

It also follows the European trend to insulate the pins of their plugs.



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Insulated Pin Plugs

The introduction Strategy calls for the insulated pins to become mandatory on 5 April 2005 at the point of sale. (Not hire, or second-hand sale)

To support the Strategy, the Standard for the plugs has been amended to include requirements for insulation, and the essential safety Standard AS/NZS 3820 has been amended to require the pins of IDPs to also be insulated. Both Standards contain the implementation date.



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Insulated Pin Plugs

The introduction will be achieved through two actions:

- The withdrawal of all Australian approvals for plugs and declared IDPs as at 5 April 2005
- Mandating of insulation of pins on IPDs through Regulation or citation of AS/NZS 3820.



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Insulated Pin Plugs

Consequently, irrespective of the New Zealand Regulations, the introduction of insulated pins in New Zealand will be driven by the Australian implementation process.

None-the-less NZ proposes to implement the requirements through the citation of the amended AS/NZS 3820.



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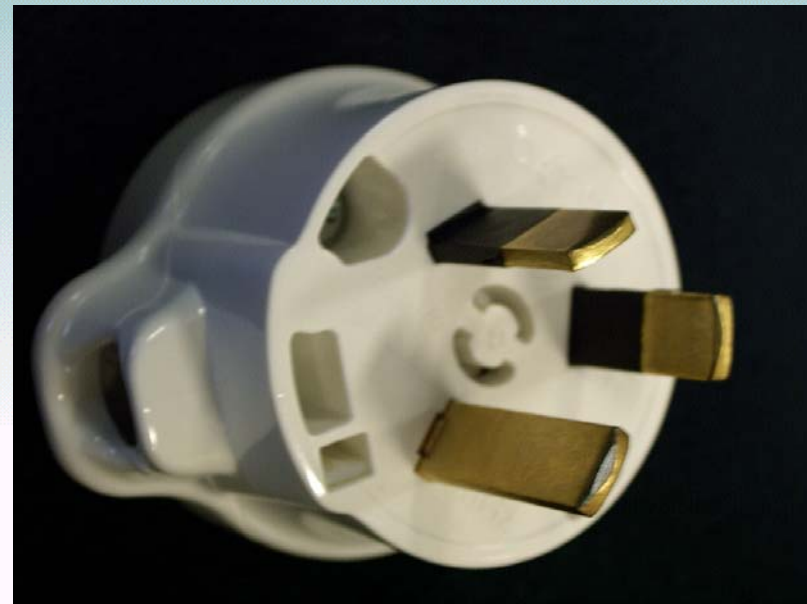
Un-insulated Flat Pin Plug



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Insulated Flat Pin Plug

The insulated flat pin AS/NZS 3112 plug that is to become mandatory in April 2005.



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Insulated Flat Pin Plug

Please note :-

- The orientation of the plug with relation to the plug marking and cord exit point (i.e. downwards)
- The marking of the Regulators Approval number Z03/005



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Foreign Plugs

An increasing number of appliances are being sold in New Zealand with inappropriate plugs, including US and European two and three pin types.

The sale of appliances with these plugs is considered to create a safety hazard in most cases.

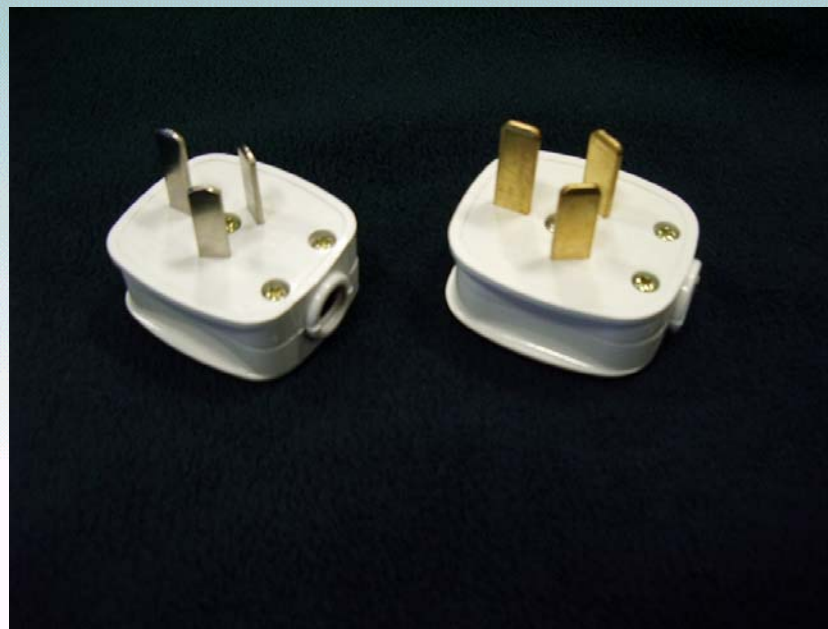


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Domestic Chinese Plug

This 10 A plug shown has a pin configuration similar to that of the New Zealand/Australian, however the pin dimensions are slightly longer and can be dangerous if inserted into a New Zealand/Australian socket-outlet.

Also the orientation of this plug is intended to be with the earth pin uppermost when inserted into a socket-outlet



Foreign Plugs

Things to lookout for:-

- The marking on this plug is read with the Earth pin uppermost
- The cord entry is away from Earth pin end
- No AS/NZS type Approval Number present
- **No insulation on pins**



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Foreign Adaptors

The ESS opinion regarding the use of Travel Adaptors, is that they are suitable only for temporary visitors to NZ, to use with small personal appliances that they have with them while travelling.

They are not intended for semi-permanent use by NZ residents to connect foreign appliances to a NZ supply



Foreign Adaptors

Adaptors are also declared articles and therefore must be covered by a valid New Zealand or Australian approval.



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Foreign Adaptor

This adaptor is intended for connection to a foreign supply, again with the Earth Pin uppermost.

The holes in the these pins can damage New Zealand socket-outlet contacts



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Thank You



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