

Electrical appliances and equipment

Selling, hiring or advertising

The community expects the electrical appliances they use to be safe. This fact sheet summarises electrical safety laws for selling, hiring out or advertising electrical appliances and equipment in Western Australia. It does not cover other appliance requirements such as electromagnetic interference limits and energy efficiency ratings.

The risks of electricity are greatest at the point where it does its job – at electrical appliances and the cords connecting them to the electricity supply. For this reason, the *Electricity Act 1945* (the Act) prohibits the sale of household electrical appliances unless approved by an Australian regulatory authority. Part X of the Electricity Regulations 1947 deals with the safety of electrical appliances.

The Director of Energy Safety (the Director) administers the Act and associated regulations, including those relating to the safety of electrical appliances.

The maximum penalty for selling, hiring or advertising appliances without appropriate compliance marks and an Australian Certificate of Approval is \$2,500 for individuals or \$10,000 for corporations.

Prescribed electrical appliances – typically household electrical appliances

The Electricity Act 1945 provides for the Director to prescribe the appliance classes and types that must be approved by the Director, an interstate regulatory authority or a designated agency before they can be sold, hired or advertised for sale in Western Australia. These appliances must be certified to ensure a safe design before they can enter the Australian market.

Western Australia is a signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the national Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS). The EESS is the principal agency for registering and certifying the safety of electrical appliances and equipment sold in Australia (see below and on the [EESS website](#)).

The Director recognises and approves appliance registrations and certifications under the EESS. In addition, the scope of WA's electrical appliance control regime is closely aligned with the EESS. One of the principal methods to enable the lawful sale or hire in WA of an electrical appliance that falls within the State's electrical appliance control regime (hereafter a 'controlled electrical appliance'), is for that controlled electrical appliance to have corresponding approval from another EESS jurisdiction.

Product suppliers are responsible for obtaining EESS registration and certification for each product they supply. Sellers or hirers of appliances and equipment must check the EESS website to ensure the items they offer for sale or hire have been certified. The approval certificate is for a particular model of appliance and cannot be transferred to another model.

Compliance Marks

Approvals for electrical appliances and equipment are granted by a State or Territory electrical safety regulator when satisfied that a product complies with the EESS and the jurisdiction's electrical safety regulations.

All approved electrical goods shall have an electrical safety approval mark before being sold, hired, or exposed or advertised for sale or hire. This mark will often include a capital letter followed by a certificate number. Some small electrical goods may use other approval marks such as the trade name.

Once an approval is granted and before the appliance or equipment is sold, hired, or exposed or advertised

for sale or hire, the appliance or equipment must be marked with its brand or trade name, its model number and the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) as set out in AS/NZS 4417. The RCM must conform to the design below:



Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS)

Certification and registration for an appliance or equipment item can be checked on the [EESS website](#). Under the EESS laws, all low-voltage electrical equipment (50-1000 Volts) must meet certain criteria. All such electrical equipment designed or marketed as suitable for household, personal or similar use are "in-scope electrical equipment" classified as Level 1, 2 or 3, reflecting increasing levels of risk.

Level 3 equipment requires evidence of compliance with all relevant standards and a Certificate of Conformity. This may mean the product must be tested by an accredited laboratory.

All Level 1, 2 or 3 electrical equipment is required to be marked with its brand or trade name, its model number and the RCM.

Prescribed articles list – Level 3 equipment

The appliances prescribed by the Director are those listed as "Level 3" in Appendix B Table B.4 of AS/NZS 4417.2:2020 "Regulatory compliance mark for electrical and electronic equipment Part 2: Specific requirements for particular regulatory applications".

Level 3 is high risk equipment, and must:

- Be linked to a registered Responsible Supplier;
- Be registered on the National Database;
- Have a valid Certificate of Conformity (Certificate) from a recognised certifier; and
- Be marked with the RCM.

The list below is an extract from Table B.4 of AS/NZS 4417.2:2020. It shows some of the appliances which are classed as Level 3 and prescribed by the Director:

- Air conditioner incorporating flammable refrigerant
- Connector
- Arc welding machine
- Bayonet lamp holder
- Lamp holder adaptor
- Beauty care lamp
- Electric blanket
- Bread toaster
- Building wiring cable

- Clothes dryer
- Control or conditioning device
- Cooking appliance – portable type
- Cord extension socket
- Cord-line switch
- DC Isolator
- Decorative lighting outfit
- Dishwashing machine
- Double capped light emitting semiconductor lamp
- Edison screw lamp holder
- Electric hot water bottle
- Evaporative cooler
- Fan
- Fence energizer
- Fluorescent lamp ballast
- Fluorescent lamp starter
- Glue gun
- Hair care appliance
- Hedge clipper
- Immersion heater
- Insect electrocutor
- Inspection headlamp
- Iron
- Kitchen machine
- Lawn care appliance
- Light emitting semiconductor lamp (self-ballasted)
- Liquid heating appliance
- Luminaire – portable type
- Massage appliance
- Microwave oven
- Miniature overcurrent and circuit breaker
- Nightlight – mains socket-outlet mounted
- Outlet device
- Over blanket / Duvet / Wrap
- Plug
- Power supply or charger
- Range
- Range hood
- Razor / hair clipper
- Refrigerating appliance
- Residual current device
- Room heater
- Socket-outlet
- Socket outlet with supply flexible cord
- Soldering
- Submersible pump
- Supply flexible cord
- Swimming pool or spa equipment
- Tool – portable type
- Vacuum cleaner
- Wall switch
- Washing machine
- Water heater

Further information

More information is available on our [website](#).

Contact details of other Australian State or Territory and New Zealand electrical safety regulators are available on our website in the links section or on the [Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council \(ERAC\) website](#) in the Related Links section.

Disclaimer – The information contained in this fact sheet is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

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