

Safe electrical goods

A guide for retailers and importers

If you sell, import or hire electrical goods, you must ensure they are safe and will not cause harm during normal use.

What does the NSW law say?

The law includes most household electrical goods in a list of items that must be tested and approved before sale. These goods are called 'declared articles'. The approval of 'declared articles' must be done by NSW Fair Trading, its equivalent in another Australian State or by an independent certifier.

All other electrical goods are called 'non-declared articles' and must be safe but do not need approval before sale. Refer to the 'What about non-declared articles?' heading for more details.

How do I check if an item is approved?

Approved electrical goods will have an 'electrical safety approval mark'. 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. Examples of NSW electrical safety approval marks are shown in the next column.

Important: Overseas Certificates of Approval and approval marks, such as the CE mark, are not acceptable in Australia.

The maximum penalty for selling, importing, hiring or exchanging 'declared articles' without 'electrical safety approval marks' and an Australian Certificate of Approval is \$82,500 and/or 2 years jail for individuals or \$825,000 for corporations.

Tip: Before you accept delivery of, or sell any, 'declared articles', ask your supplier for an Australian Certificate of Approval.

What do approval marks look like?

Here are examples of legally acceptable 'electrical safety approval marks'.

Approval Scheme	Approval number or mark
NSW Fair Trading	NSW xxxxxx
Other State Government agencies	Q xxxxx, ESO xxxxx, V xxxxx, ESV xxxxx, S xxxxx, T xxxxx
Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM)	
SAI Global Certification Services Pty Ltd	SAI TE EA xxxxxx or SAI SMK EA xxxxxx Or SAI-xxxxxx-EA
The Australian Gas Association (AGA)	AGA xxxxxx EA or AGA xxxxxx G EA
International Testing and Certification Services Pty Ltd	A/xxxxxx/EA
SGS Systems and Services Certification Pty Ltd	SGSEA xxxxxx or SGS-xxxxxx-EA
SAA Approvals Pty Ltd	SAA xxxxxx EA
Testing and Certification Australia	TCA xxxxxx EA
UL International New Zealand Limited	U xxxxxx EA
TUV Rheinland Australia Pty Ltd	TUV xxxxxx EA
BSI Group (Australia and New Zealand) Pty Ltd	BSI-xxxxxx-EA
Global Mark Pty Ltd	GMA-xxxxxx-EA
Market Access (AUS) Pty Ltd trading as Certification Body Australia	CBA xxxxxx or CBA-xxxxxx-EA
Australian Safety Approval	ASA-xxxxxx-EA
Conformity Certification Services Pty Ltd	CCS-xxxxxx-EA

'xxxxx' can stand for any series of numbers

What are 'declared articles'?

Below is a list of electrical goods that the law refers to as 'declared articles'.

Accessories

Appliance connectors	Outlet devices
Building Wiring Cable	Plugs
Control & conditioning devices	Residual current devices (safety switches)
Cord line switches	Socket outlets and adaptors
Fluorescent lamp ballasts & starters	Supply flexible cords
Lampholders – bayonet, edison & adaptors	Wall switches
Miniature overcurrent circuit breakers	

Body appliances

Electric blankets	Massagers
Flexible heating pads	Razors and hair clippers
Hair dryers	Waterbed heaters
Immersion heaters	

Household appliances

Air Conditioner (Flammable refrigerant type)	Liquid heating appliances (includes rice cookers)
Bread toasters	Microwave ovens
Clothes dryers	Portable cooking appliances (includes blenders & fry pans)
Dishwashers	Projectors
Fans	Ranges and range hoods
Floor polishers/scrubbers	Refrigerators/freezers
Glue Gun	Sewing machines
Heaters	Television receivers
Irons	Vacuum cleaners
Jugs	Washing machines
Kitchen machines	

Outdoor appliances

Fence energisers	Lawn care appliances
Hedge trimmers	Swimming pool & spa equipment
Insect electrocutors	

Lighting

Decorative lighting	Portable lamps
Double Capped LED Lamps	Self Ballasted LED Lamps
Inspection headlamps	Therapeutic lamps
Nightlights - Socket Mounted	Christmas & festival lights

Power supplies

Battery chargers	Extra low voltage supply
------------------	--------------------------

Miscellaneous

Arc welding machines	Pressure storage water heaters
Power tools	Soldering irons

What about 'non-declared articles'?

If you sell, import, hire or exchange electrical goods that are not 'declared articles', you must still ensure they are safe and meet minimum safety requirements to relevant Australian Safety Standards. Always check with your supplier to ensure that the items comply.

Need more information?

You can download the *Explanatory notes for the approval and sale of electrical articles in New South Wales* from the NSW Fair Trading website. You can also call the Fair Trading Electrical and Gas Unit directly on 02 9895 0722 or email energyapprovals@finance.nsw.gov.au

For language assistance, call 13 14 50 and ask for an interpreter in your language