

# 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 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 no. or mark*
NSW Fair Trading	NSW xxxxx
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

\* `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'. For more details, download the Explanatory notes for the approval and sale of electrical articles in New South Wales from the Fair Trading website.

### Accessories

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

### Body appliances

Electric blankets  
Flexible heating pads  
Hair dryers  
Immersion heaters  
Massagers  
Razors and hairclippers

### Waterbed heaters

### Household appliances

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

### Outdoor appliances

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

### Lighting

Decorative lighting  
Inspection headlamps  
Portable lamps  
Therapeutic lamps  
Christmas and festival lights

### Power supplies

Battery chargers  
Extra low voltage supply

### Miscellaneous

Arc welding machines  
Power tools  
Pressure storage water heaters  
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 comply with any relevant Australian Electrical 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 Fair Trading website (search for 'approval of electrical articles'). You can also call the Fair Trading Energy and Utilities Unit directly on 02 9895 0722 or email [energyapprovals@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:energyapprovals@finance.nsw.gov.au)

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