

WARNING ON UNSAFE POWER SUPPLIES

The Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI) is concerned that some importers of extra-low-voltage electrical devices may be supplying them together with *unapproved and potentially dangerous* (plug-packs) power supplies or chargers.

Extra low voltage power supply units and *battery chargers* of the type typically supplied with **electronic games, motor operated toys, cordless tools, rechargeable torches and the like** are required by legislation to be tested and approved for supply in Australia.

Approved devices must exhibit the approval marking allocated by the approving authority. The approval marking may be;

- alphanumeric format comprising the first letter of the State of the issuing authority followed by between one and six digits, eg. V7, Q99810, N10999; or
- The regulatory compliance mark (RCM). A graphic symbol that may optionally be used, subject to specific conditions, to indicate a supplier's claim that a product meets applicable regulatory requirements.



Non-compliant power supplies pose serious risks, including electric shock, fire and damage to connected equipment.

Some indications that a power supply or charger may not be compliant or is unapproved are;

- Lack of obvious brand and rating markings (in English);
- Absence of an Australian approval marking; and
- Non-standard plug-pin configuration, sometimes requiring a separate plug-adaptor to facilitate use. In many cases the separate adaptor is itself hazardous due to poor design and construction.

The OCEI recommends that purchasers or owners of suspect power supplies or chargers discontinue their use immediately and seek assurance of approval from the supplier, or consult the OCEI for guidance.