



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Level 3, Building 2, 4 Riverside Quay, Southbank
PO Box 262, Collins Street West, Melbourne, Vic, 8007
ABN 33 592 662 340

INCORRECT USE OF EXTENSION LEADS

The Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI) is issuing this warning following a recent serious incident in which a 19 year old person received an electric shock while connecting an extension lead to a socket outlet.

The extension lead as shown in photograph 1 had 2 male plugs fitted, and was purposely made to connect together the socket outlets on 2 separate display counters located within a large shopping complex.

As the person was handling the extension lead after connection had been made at one end, the person made contact with the live male plug at the other end receiving an electric shock that could have been fatal.

The OCEI strongly recommends that under no circumstances is it safe to use an extension lead with 2 male plugs fitted.

Where electrical work is required to undertaken advice should be obtained from a registered electrical contractor or licensed electrician.

In this case the display cabinets should have been connected via a correctly wired male / female connection as shown in photograph 2.



*Photograph 1 extension lead
with 2 male plugs*



*Photograph 2 extension lead
with male / female plug*

Ken Gardner
CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR