



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

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CIRCULAR LETTER TO MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS OF PLUGS
INSULATED-PIN PLUGS

The latest publication of **AS/NZS 3112:2000** *Approval and test specification – Plugs and socket outlets* introduced requirements and tests for the insulation of the live pins (active and neutral pins) of plugs.

Insulated plug pins will enhance the safety improvements already afforded by recessed cord extension sockets and the optional recessing of fixed socket outlets. They were introduced in Australia in response to a number of incidents including fatalities involving plugs or plug-in devices partially removed from a socket outlet or cord extension socket. Objects such as a metal blind slat or the edge of a sheet of roofing iron or jewellery have been known to touch the exposed live plug pin and caused electrocution of or shock to the person in contact with the object.

It will be mandatory for all plugs to incorporate insulated live pins from 3 April 2005.

As a manufacturer or supplier of plugs, you are required to ensure that your product(s) is modified and re-approved with insulated pins as soon as possible and no later than 3 April 2005.

You are advised that current approvals and those granted in the future for plugs without insulated pins will be withdrawn or expire, as appropriate, on 3 April 2005.

New approvals for plugs without insulated pins will only be granted for the period until 3 April 2005.

Application for the approval of an insulated pin plug is required to be submitted as a **new** application. Insulated pin plugs will not be approved as a modification to a non-insulated pin plug. Where a non-insulated pin plug has been modified by simply fitting insulated pins, evidence of compliance with the requirements of AS/NZS 3112 : 2000 that are in addition to the 1993 version will be required.

In the interests of enhanced safety, to ensure rapid dispersion in the marketplace, **Electrical Regulatory authorities will require all electrical equipment to be supplied with insulated pin plugs, at all points of sale, by no later than 3 April 2005.**

You are urged to alert your customers of these requirements, to ensure that your customers are supplied with and using insulated-pin plugs in sufficient time to meet the 3 April 2005 deadline.

Please contact Mr Andrew Dodson by telephone: (03) 9203 9771, facsimile: (03) 9686 2197, or email: ADodson@ocei.vic.gov.au should further advice be required.

Yours faithfully

Ken Gardner
CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR