

## **Extension Date for Surplus Electrical Product Retailed after 3 April 2005**

The standard AS/NZS 3112: 2000 Approval and Test specification -Plugs and socket outlets requires that all new plugs or equipment with integral pins must have insulated live pins from 3 April 2005.

The requirement for insulated pins was introduced in Australia in 2000 as a national regulatory response to a fatality and numerous incidents involving uninsulated plug pins and products with integral pins. The accidents occurred when uninsulated plug pins became partially withdrawn from socket outlets and contacted metal objects such as blind slats, blind chains, personal jewellery and skirting duct covers.

Subsequent to industry enquiries concerning unsold surplus stock for retail sale, the Authority advises that the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) will permit plugs with uninsulated pins and uninsulated pins integral to devices and equipment supplied to retailers before 3 April 2005 to continue to be sold until 3 October 2005.

Please note that from 3 April 2005, all new appliances; devices and equipment manufactured in Australia or imported into Australia must be sold with insulated pins having a current rating up to 15 amps.

Regulatory action may be taken against any individual or corporation offering for sale, or responsible for supply of, appliances, devices and equipment with uninsulated plug pins or product with uninsulated integral pins after 3 October 2005.

These amendments (to AS/NZS 3112) will not apply to second-hand prescribed or non-prescribed articles. This exemption does not exempt industry from its general safety obligations for electrical articles offered for sale or hire under the ACT Electricity Safety Act 1971. New articles added to stock for hire after 3 April 2005 must have insulated pins. Hired or second-hand articles repaired or serviced must be re-hired or sold with new insulated plug pins where required from 3 October 2005.

For more information please contact the Equipment Safety Officer on

phone: 02 6207 7161  
facsimile: 02 6207 6324 or  
email: [dennis.harvey@act.gov.au](mailto:dennis.harvey@act.gov.au)

ACT Construction Occupations  
(Licensing and Compliance)  
Section (COLCS)

North building Dame Pattie Menzies House  
16 Challis Street Dickson ACT 2602

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