

October 2020 #20-015

This Information Bulletin was originally uploaded to the Electrical Regulatory Authority Councils website in April 2018. This notice applies from April 2018.

General

This information notice is to provide guidance on the electrical safety requirements associated with travel adaptors. Travel adaptors are classified as level 3 (prescribed/declared electrical equipment) and require certification.

The relevant standard is AS/NZS 3122:2015 Approval and test specification – socket outlet adaptors, including appendix A which indicates ‘sets out requirements for travel adaptors that supplement all other requirements of this standard’.

Requirement

In relation to how many outlets can be on a travel adaptor, AS/NZS 3122:2015 indicates:

An aperture set is defined as:

4.1 Aperture set - Active, neutral and earth (where applicable) pin apertures on a socket outlet.

A socket portion is defined as:

4.6 Socket portion - The outlet portion of the socket-outlet adaptor which carries the contacts intended for making a detachable connection with the pins of a plug.

An outlet is defined as:

4.7 Outlet - A socket outlet, flexible cord or facilities for the connection of a flexible cord.

Clause 5(a) of AS/NZS 3122:2015 prohibits more than two outlets on a socket-outlet adaptor:

A3.1 indicates ‘Two aperture sets only can be overlapped, on each socket portion’.

Therefore, for a travel adaptor:

1. Only two socket portions are allowed {no more than two outlets as per clause 5.1 (a)}.
2. Only two aperture sets on any one socket portion {as per A3.1} are allowed. The individual apertures may or may not be touching each other (be part of the same opening in the socket portion).
3. If any individual apertures of the two aperture sets on the one socket portion share the same opening/touch each other, then the socket aperture dimensional requirement of the relevant country standard for that socket does not apply to that “overlapped” aperture.
4. The aperture sets may accept more than one plug type.

Information contained in this bulletin is supplied to give guidance on application of requirements in the following jurisdictions:

Australian Capital Territory, New Zealand, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

Information contained in this bulletin may not reflect provisions of legislation in the following jurisdictions (please contact the jurisdiction for further information): *New South Wales.*