

INFORMATION BULLETIN

July 2014
#0003

**Note: This Information Bulletin was
superseded in September 2020**

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SAFETY SYSTEM

This information bulletin is for anyone who intends to sell, import or manufacture in-scope Electrical equipment in Electrical Equipment Safety System participating jurisdictions.

On 1 March 2013, new electrical equipment safety laws were implemented. This change introduced the requirement for importers and on-shore manufacturers to register as Responsible Suppliers with the new Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS). This affected Australian and New Zealand persons or companies who import or manufacturer in-scope electrical equipment with the intent to sell within participating states and territories, and also affected the way they mark their products for sale.

Responsible Supplier

Under the EESS, a Responsible Supplier is a person/company who manufactures in-scope electrical equipment in, or imports in-scope electrical equipment into, Australia or New Zealand (i.e. the first supplier in the supply chain).

Responsible Suppliers must:

- be a legal entity from Australia or New Zealand (possess an ABN or an IRDN);
- register their business as a Responsible Supplier with the EESS; and
- register all in-scope electrical equipment they supply to the Australian Market.

Responsible Suppliers must still fulfil the safety obligations for the equipment they manufacturer or import in accordance to their state or territory based electrical safety legislation to ensure their equipment meets relevant Australian/New Zealand standards and is electrically safe, as well as ensure the electrical equipment is appropriately certified when required before registering with the EESS.

In-Scope Electrical Equipment

Under the EESS, in-scope electrical equipment is defined as equipment which is low voltage and is rated between 50Vac to 1000Vac and/or 120Vdc to 1500Vdc, and is designed or marketed as suitable for household, personal or similar use (domestic).

In-scope electrical equipment does **not** include exclusively commercial or industrial products. These types of electrical equipment fall outside the scope and are not required to be registered or marked in accordance with the EESS.

Risk Levels of Equipment

Under the EESS, the old 2 risk levels for electrical equipment (i.e. Prescribed/Declared and Non-Prescribed/Non-Declared) was replaced with a 3 tier risk level system.

The risk levels are outlined as follows:

- Level 3 - formally prescribed or declared electrical equipment
- Level 2 – a new level introduced by EESS, which has not yet been implemented
- Level 1 - formally non-prescribed or non-declared electrical equipment

Level 3

Level 3 equipment require a valid Certificate of Conformity issued by a declared private certifier or Government Electrical Regulator.

Test reports by an accredited testing entity, as well as any other associated information showing the equipment meets relevant safety standards and other requirements are needed to obtain a Certificate of Conformity from any these certifying bodies.

Level 2

Level 2 equipment, once implemented, will require a Compliance Folder. The folder must contain information (in English) that proves the electrical safety of that item of equipment. This information would include test reports completed by an approved testing entity or a suitably qualified person, which confirms that the equipment meets relevant standards. A Compliance Folder may be electronic and can be stored on the registration database.

Level 1

Any in-scope electrical equipment that is neither Level 3 nor Level 2, will by default fall to a Level 1. Level 1 equipment does not require registration, however the Responsible Supplier must list the Level 1 equipment with the EESS and also have evidence that the equipment is electrically safe and meets any relevant electrical safety standards.

Equipment Safety Rules (Scheme Rules)

Under the EESS, Equipment Safety Rules have been written to explain the processes of the EESS and how to meet pre-market requirements, in particular in-scope electrical equipment, requirements for certification and Compliance Folders, suitably qualified persons and other matters relating to the operation of the EESS.

The Equipment safety Rules (Scheme Rules) are available for download at www.erac.gov.au

Electrical Equipment Registration

Under the EESS the registration length for Level 2 and Level 3 equipment is 1, 2 or 5 years. The registration term for Level 3 cannot exceed that of the expiry of the valid Certificate of Conformity.

Marking of In-Scope Electrical Equipment

Along with the introduction of the EESS, the marking requirements in participating states and territories also changed. All in-scope electrical equipment is required to be marked with its brand or trade name, its model number and the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) as detailed in AS/NZS 4417.1:2012. The RCM symbol is shown below:-



The above symbol replaces the requirement to mark the unique Certificate of Conformity number on your equipment labels previously required by state or territory based electrical safety legislation.

Transition Periods

Under the EESS there are transition periods to allow for compliance to be achieved.

From 1 March 2013, the following transitional arrangements applied:

- a) up to a 6 month transition period for Responsible Suppliers to register themselves (i.e. Responsible Suppliers are to be registered by 1 September 2013);
- b) up to a 12 month period for Responsible Suppliers to register level 3 in-scope electrical equipment (i.e. Responsible Supplier have until 1 March 2014 to register their Level 3

equipment they are currently selling or is currently on the market);

c) up to 3 years for in-scope electrical equipment manufactured in Australia or imported, to have the RCM placed on the labels by the Responsible Supplier (i.e. Responsible Suppliers have until 1 March 2016 to mark existing stock with the RCM); and

d) up to 5 years for in-scope electrical equipment to be sold at retail Level before the RCM must be placed on the in-scope electrical equipment (i.e. Responsible Suppliers have until 1 March 2018 to apply the RCM to all stock at any stage in the supply chain).

Who to contact with questions or concerns

For more information, or if you need to register yourself as a Responsible Supplier visit the ERAC website: <http://www.erac.gov.au>.

Notes:

1/ **ERAC** is the Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council, the peak body of electrical safety regulators in Australia and New Zealand with membership from all States and Territories and New Zealand. ERAC acts to ensure electrical safety regulatory systems are contemporary and harmonised wherever possible.

2/ For sale of equipment in NSW, the current requirements of NSW will continue to apply separate to the requirements of the EESS in all other jurisdictions.

3/ New Zealand intend to align with the EESS and introduce complimentary laws.