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General

This guidance material intends to advise certification holders and their consultants in relation to applications for extension of certificates that do not have evidence of compliance with the current or latest editions of the safety standards.

Question

Can I apply for an extension of a certificate without complying with the current or latest editions of the relevant safety standards in the EESS?

Answer

No, certificates are not 'extended' in the EESS.

If you require certification for the particular equipment to be maintained you will need to apply for a renewal of the certificate and that will require compliance with the current edition of the relevant safety standard(s) for the equipment, and compliance with any published information bulletin or guidance document from EESS regulators.

Background

Prior to the changes introduced by the EESS legislation, prescribed electrical equipment (high risk) was required to have a current certificate of approval/compliance throughout the complete supply chain. This meant the end retailer could not sell prescribed electrical equipment if the certificate of approval/compliance had expired.

In circumstances where the delay in the renewal of the certificate had occurred due to unforeseeable circumstances, certificate holders could make a request to the Regulators to have the existing certificate extended for 12 months so they or their retailers/distributors could continue to sell the equipment while the certificate holder sourced the required test reports for the renewal of the certificate.

With the EESS legislation, level 2 and level 3 in-scope electrical equipment is required to be registered to the Responsible supplier at the time the responsible supplier sells/supplies the equipment. For level 3 equipment registration to be valid this requires the responsible supplier to have a current certificate of conformity for the equipment. However, in the EESS, once the retailer has purchased the registered equipment from the responsible supplier for sale to the end consumer, the retailer can continue to sell the equipment at the retailer point of sale to the end consumer even if the certification expires, so long as the equipment is electrically safe.

With these changes in the EESS legislation, Responsible Suppliers of level 3 in-scope electrical equipment are required to ensure that their registered equipment is linked to a current certificate of compliance at the time they sell/supply of the equipment and not the retailers who sell to the end customer. The responsible supplier can manage their stock to ensure they have current certification and registration of the equipment or sell out the equipment to a retailer for sale to the end consumer before the certification/registration expires or renew the certification/registration of the equipment to the current relevant safety standard(s). Therefore, an extension of a certificate is not required.