

May 2022 #21-041

General

This guidance material intends to clarify certification requirements for glue guns, specifically clarification related to glue guns decorated to appeal to children and marketed as suitable for use with children (with or without adult supervision).

This applies to glue guns within the definition of:

Glue gun

An electrical appliance that—

a) is a household type;

b) is hand held;

c) is for melting and applying sticks of solid adhesive;

Class specification:

AS/NZS 60335.2.45.

Question

Can a certificate be issued for a glue gun decorated or designed and marketed as suitable for use with children (with or without supervision)?

Answer

No, a glue gun that is decorated to appeal to children and/or is marketed for use by children should not be issued with a certificate. It is considered there are hazards with such devices that do not warrant such devices being designed or marketed for children, even if other safety features are incorporated and instructions are provided to indicate adult supervision is required when using the glue gun.

It is noted a glue gun is level 3 equipment and requires a certificate of conformity and registration to a responsible supplier prior to sale

Background

Some manufacturers/suppliers may be applying for, or may apply for, certification of glue guns that are designed and marketed as suitable for use with children (with instructions indicating that supervision is required when using the glue gun).

The fact that such glue guns may be operating at lower temperatures than other glue guns, or have other features specific for children, does not exclude the common hazards presented by their use; and if they are decorated to appeal to children it will increase the potential for the children to treat them as toys.

Whether they are in-scope equipment (within definition of defining standard As/NZS 4417.2) or out of scope (for example extra low voltage rated), it is understood that AS/NZS 60335.1 scope and clause 22.44 prohibits appliances to be shaped or decorated like a toy.

It is also understood that the scope of AS/NZS 60335.2.45 does not cover common hazards arising from children playing with the appliance nor does it cover common hazards associated with the use of the appliance by persons (including children) who lack experience and knowledge to safely use the appliance without supervision or instruction.