

August 2022 #22-050

General

Electrical Portable Outlet Devices (EPODS) more commonly known as 'powerboards' come in all shapes and sizes. The term in the definition 'portable' can be misleading as the definition includes EPODS that can *also* be fixed in place or be manifestly complete and useable without being fixed. This guidance is aimed to provide examples of such products that may be captured as level 3 outlet devices.

Question

Are EPODs or powerboards, that are manifestly complete and useable without being fixed in place and so can be used portably or can also be fixed in place, captured by the definition of an EPOD, and are therefore considered level 3 equipment?

Answer

Yes. If the equipment is manifestly complete and can be used whether or not fixed in place, then the equipment is an EPOD and captured by the definition as an outlet device. As such, it is a level 3 risk category that requires mandatory certification to AS/NZS3105.

Note even if the device does not fit the definition of an outlet device, or is captured by the above requirement, AS/NZS 3105 should still be applied as far as practicable, along with any other relevant standard identified, to ensure adequate safety compliance to AS/NZS 3820.

Background

The definition for EPODs is:

Outlet device

An electrical device that—

- (a) is a household type;
- (b) as its primary function, extends supply from a socket-outlet;
- (c) is portable;
- (d) incorporates facilities for the insertion of a plug or plugs; and
- (e) has a rating not exceeding 20 A;

but does not include—

- (f) a cord extension set.

Class specification:

Integral pin type (including travel adaptor)—AS/NZS 3122

Other—AS/NZS 3105

AS/NZS 3105 defines an EPOD as:

4.4 Electrical portable outlet device (EPOD)

A device, other than a cord extension set or a socket-outlet adaptor without any control or conditioning functions, having a single means of connection to a low voltage supply, and

one or more outlet facilities. It may incorporate a reeling or coiling arrangement and/or a control or conditioning function.

In the below first example, although the item can be mounted in a 19 inch rack, it is manifestly complete and can be used as a portable appliance. Importantly, AS/NZS3105 is the appropriate standard that covers the risks the equipment presents.



Other examples may include:

EPODs may have two mounting holes in the back so they can be affixed to a surface, such as a wall, as demonstrated below.

