

CBA Product Certification Guidelines

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1 Regulation of Electrical Appliances and Equipment in Australia

Most consumer electrical appliances and equipment require Electrical Safety Approval by a State or Territory approval authority or an approved third party scheme before they can be sold in Australia or New Zealand.

Certification Body Australia (CBA) is an independent, third party product safety approval scheme accredited and recognised by:

- Joint Accreditation System of Australia & New Zealand (JAZANZ), as Conformity Assessment Body for providing Product Certification Services;
- the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), as Certification Body for telecom products;
- as a Recognised External Approval Scheme (REAS) by the NSW Fair Trading
- ERAC Equipment Safety Rules and RECS Conditions as issued under the Australian/New Zealand Electrical Equipment Safety Scheme developed by the Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council (ERAC)

Any Electrical Product approval certification issued by CBA is accepted by all other Australian states and territories.

Certification issued by CBA is only with respect to the product's compliance with published electrical safety standards and is not an endorsement of the functionality or performance characteristics for that article.

Electrical appliances or equipment are broadly defined as prescribed or non-prescribed, depending on their risk to consumer safety. These definitions are listed in the Appendices of the safety standard AS/NZS 4417.2 and also listed on electrical state authority websites. (Note – The terms prescribed/declared or Risk Level 3, and Non-prescribed/Non-declared or Risk Level 1, are used by various states and have the same meaning for the purpose of compliance of the electrical equipment in legislation).

It is an offence to supply or offer to supply prescribed electrical equipment unless it is approved or certified, and subsequently labelled with the RCM and the approval mark issued by CBA or other relevant authority or scheme.

Further, where an article is not prescribed to be approved before sale, the supplier remains responsible to ensure that the product complies with the essential minimum safety requirements described in AS/NZS 3820. Refer to the relevant legislation of each jurisdiction for further detail, specifically the Queensland Electrical Safety Act 2002, Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 and Clause 23 of the NSW Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation.

- Declared Articles: mandatory approval applies
- Non- Declared Articles: voluntary approval may be sought

2 Types of Certificates issued by CBA

Certificate of Approval

A Mandatory certificate issued by Certification Body Australia (CBA) for Declared Articles under NSW Fair Trading rules and conditions (REAS).

Certificate of Conformity

A Mandatory certificate issued by Certification Body Australia (CBA) for Level 3 Equipment under EESS Scheme Rules (RECS).

Certificate of Suitability

A Voluntary Certificate issued by Certification Body Australia (CBA) for Level 2 Equipment under EESS Scheme Rules (RECS).

Certificate of Suitability

A Voluntary Certificate issued by Certification Body Australia (CBA) for Non-Declared Articles under JASANZ EPSC rules.

Certificate of Compliance

A Voluntary certificate issued by Certification Body Australia (CBA) for out of scope products ie. commercial equipment under JASANZ.

3 Test Reports

Most Australian standards for safety of electrical articles are based on international standards (IEC). Australian (AS/NZS) and European (EN) standards are derived from the IEC standards.

The product must comply with the prescribed revision and amendments of the AS/NZS standard. The equivalent IEC or EN standard may be applied where Australian deviations and amendments to the IEC standard have been addressed.

Verification is by means of test reports supplied by test laboratories which are:

- a) Accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) or
- b) Accredited under the IEC CB scheme and accompanied by a CB Certificate or
- c) Accredited by Organisations with a reciprocal arrangement or mutual recognition with NATA;

Important note:

- a. test reports must bear the endorsement of the relevant accreditation body (eg: Accreditation body LOGO, CNAS stamp)
- b. A CB test report is only accepted when accompanied by the relevant CB certificate. CTF Stage 3 & 4 reports are not accepted.

The Scope of Laboratory Accreditation or Certification must include testing in accordance with

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the prescribed standard, or its equivalent, including Australian deviations.

Test reports must show compliance with all clauses applicable to a product as covered by the application. Where expressly allowed by relevant regulatory legislation, test reports may show compliance with limited clauses of a standard. In that case, certificates could be issued listing the clauses tested and the specific regulatory legislation.

4 Modifications to Equipment

Where the approved equipment is modified, after the original testing and approval, the supplier must apply to **Certification Body Australia (CBA)** to have the modifications approved.

The modifications which require approval are:

- (i) change of components, materials, software or equipment design,
- (ii) an extension to the listed models or options,
- (iii) change of model number, or
- (iv) change of manufacturer.

- Minor modifications, as detailed by an exemption issued under the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017, are exempt.
- Where there is any doubt regarding approval modifications, **CBA** should be contacted.
- Legislation requires that, for declared articles, the COMPLETE modified article must comply with the applicable safety standard, including the amendments to that standard.

Approval of a modification will be recorded as an addendum to the Approval Certificate and will be valid for the remaining approval period.

If the modification constitutes a new type of equipment, the applicant should apply for a new approval certificate.

5 Renewal of Certificates

Refer to CBA Standard Terms and Conditions for certification services.

6 Transfer of Certificates to a new Certificate Holder

Refer to CBA Standard Terms and Conditions for certification services.

7 Withdrawal and Suspension of Certificates

Refer to CBA Standard Terms and Conditions for certification services.

8 Electrical Article non-conformance

Refer to CBA Standard Terms and Conditions for certification services.

9 Fee Schedule

Refer to Fee Schedule on the CBA Application Form.

10 Disclaimer

The information provided above should be read in conjunction with the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017/Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2018 and the Queensland Electrical Safety Act 2002/ Electrical Safety Regulation 2013.

11 Prescribed Minimum Safety Standards

(Source: NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT GAZETTE No. 65.)

<http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au>

12 Compliance with Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) requirements

Electrical products sold in Australia must also comply with the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) or wireless/RF requirements as defined by the **Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)** regulations and display the RCM mark.

13 Compliance with Energy Efficiency requirements & GEMS Registration

State government legislation and regulations stipulate compliance with relevant Australian Standards as they relate to **Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)** and energy efficiency for electrical products such as external power supplies, refrigerators, air conditioners, washing machines and TVs.