



OFFICE OF **FAIR TRADING**

NSW Consumer Protection Agency

Department of Commerce

**AMENDED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INSULATION OF LIVE PINS OF PLUGS
AND EQUIPMENT WITH INTEGRAL PINS**

Modifications to *AS/NZS 3112:2000 Approval and test specification - Plugs and socket outlets* require that, **from 3 April 2005**, the live pins of new plugs and equipment with integral pins must be insulated.

This requirement was introduced around Australia in 2000 in response to a number of fatalities and other accidents involving plugs and plug-in devices with integral pins. The incidents involved a metal object (such as a metal blind slat or sheet of galvanised iron) coming into contact with exposed live pins that were not correctly plugged into socket outlets or that became partially dislodged from the socket outlet, resulting in an electric shock and in some cases, death.

As a result of concerns raised by industry regarding existing articles with uninsulated pins, the Office of Fair Trading is participating in a nationally agreed strategy to allow retail stocks to be further depleted.

To this end, new uninsulated plugs and integral pins may be sold in New South Wales, subject to continued safety, provided that the following conditions are met:

UNINSULATED PLUGS/PINS CATEGORY:	MAY BE SOLD:
Plugs	
1. with expired approval (and subject to the attached Order) <u>to end users only</u>	to 2 April 2006
2. with valid approvals	to 2 April 2006 or until the approval expires, whichever is later.
Declared articles with integral pins	
May be sold as normal	until the approval expires
Non-declared articles with integral pins	
May be sold as normal.	to 2 April 2007*

* NB new regulations commencing shortly will require that the plug portions of integral pins on non-declared articles must comply with clause 4.5 of AS/NZS 3820:1998, ie must be insulated.

The supply of electrical articles in contravention of the new requirements may result in enforcement action, including prosecution, against any individual or corporation responsible for that supply.

For more information, please contact the Energy Safety Section, Office of Fair Trading, by telephone on (61 2) 8467 4479, facsimile on (61 2) 9467 8467 4446 or by e-mail to rod.hawks@oft.commerce.nsw.gov.au.