



Marking of declared electrical articles in NSW

Background:

For the purposes of the *Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2018* a declared electrical article is to be marked with one of the following:

- a) the model approval mark issued by NSW Fair Trading;
- b) or a mark issued by an Australian regulator who has approved or registered that model;
- c) or a mark in accordance with the requirements of a Recognised External Approval Scheme (REAS).

The NSW Act and Regulation does not identify any other independent external certifiers, including certifiers in Europe, China, North America and others, including under the Recognised External Certification Scheme (RECS.)

The model approval mark is a unique identifying number for the article in the form NSWxxxx for NSW Fair Trading or ABC-xxxxx-EA for a REAS. An approval mark containing a unique number allows customers or regulators to easily identify the article has been approved and who the certifying body is. The RCM does not have a unique identifying number and does not allow consumers or regulators to easily trace the approval certificate or the certifying body.

What electrical safety approval mark(s) are required for new declared electrical articles which are approved by independent certifiers?

On 13 November 2020, conditions for the REAS were modified to reflect changes in the way the RCM is managed – due to the rules of the RCM the REAS can no longer issue an approval or certificate that authorises the RCM. As the REAS are the only independent certifiers identified in the NSW Regulations this prevents acceptance of the RCM in NSW.

(Nothing prevents the RCM also being used on an electrical article for other purposes including EMC/ EMI or other jurisdictions electrical safety requirements)

What does this mean for suppliers of declared electrical articles?

Existing declared electrical articles that are certified and marked with the RCM and meet all the rules for the RCM, continue to be accepted by the NSW Regulation.

New models (including modifications) approved or certified by the independent certifiers **must** be marked in accordance with the authorised REAS mark (in the form of ABC-xxxxx-EA.)

If in doubt check the certificate – if the certificate specifies ‘ABC-xxxxx-EA’ or ‘the RCM and ABC-xxxxx-EA’ then in order to mark in accordance with the REAS requirements, ‘ABC-xxxxx-EA’ **must** be included on the article. (It is recommended to mark both for maximum recognition in Australia.)

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