

Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM)

Australian & New Zealand RCM compliance requirements

The following information is provided to help suppliers understand the Australian and New Zealand compliance requirements specific to EMC, telecommunications and electrical safety.

Previously there were 3 individual compliance marks that could be used for compliance, depending on applicable requirements. The 3 compliance marks are identified as follows:



C-Tick (EMC and EME requirements)



A-Tick (telecommunications requirements)



RCM (electrical safety, EMC, EME & telecommunications requirements)

SCN

The above three compliance marks have been consolidated into one single new RCM compliance mark, which indicates compliance with electrical safety, EMC, EME & telecommunications requirements, as applicable to each product.

Note: The supplier is not required to include supplier identification on devices labeled with the RCM.



In order to use the RCM logo, suppliers must register online using the Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) national registration database which is administered by ERAC. This national database is jointly used by the Australian Communication & Media Authority (ACMA), the Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council (ERAC) and Radio Spectrum Management (New Zealand). ERAC national database:

<https://equipment.erac.gov.au/Registration/>



EMC Requirements: (ACMA)



A supplier of a device labeled under an ACMA Labelling Notice (previous C-Tick or A-Tick compliance) must register as a “responsible supplier”. If registering only for ACMA purposes (i.e. no electrical safety requirements are applicable) then only the ACMA acknowledgement is checked and no equipment details are entered. (Note: There is no fee associated with ACMA-only registration).

- Suppliers will need to have their device tested and obtain a compliance test report, complete a declaration [Declaration of Conformity](#) and create a compliance folder to store the compliance documentation (test report, declaration, product brochures etc)
- Suppliers must register on the national database – [national database](#).
- Suppliers must label with the RCM to indicate compliance with applicable ACMA regulatory arrangements [RCM logo](#)

RCM Labelling requirements

An RCM compliance label indicates a device has been certified by the supplier as meeting any applicable standards that apply to that device. There are requirements for the RCM compliance label including durability, legibility, positioning, font and size

Note: The label requirements may vary if you are also claiming electrical safety compliance

Scale and Visibility - The compliance label shall be legible and visible to the unaided eye and the compliance mark shall be no smaller than three millimetres (3 mm) in height. The label may be reproduced in any colour, provided that visibility is assured through either contrast with the background colour or marking in relief (for example, moulding or engraving).

Placement - Suppliers have the choice of either applying a compliance label to the surface of the device or electronically if the device has a built-in electronic display. In addition, the label may be placed on promotional material associated with the device.

Surface labelling - the compliance label should be a permanent feature placed on the device. It must be applied to a surface of the device that is readily accessible to the user. The label should be durable and applied by any suitable means including printing, painting, moulding, etching or engraving.

If it is not practical to apply a label to the external surface of the device or it is not displayed using the built-in electronic display, it must be applied to the following items associated with the device:

- the external surface of the packaging used for the device
- the documentation (operating instructions, warranty or guarantee certificates) that accompanies the device when it is supplied to the consumer.

If a label has to be applied to the external surface of the packaging used for a device, it must:

- Be clearly visible
- Occupy an area that is greater than one per cent of that external surface.

Suppliers that do not apply a label to the surface of the device are required to maintain records detailing the reasons why and where the label was subsequently applied. This requirement does not apply to suppliers that label electronically.

Electronic labelling - The supplier of a device that has a built in display has the option of displaying the compliance label electronically on the built-in display rather than on the surface of the device. Electronic labelling is only an option if the device has a built-in display. Displays that connect to the device, but are external to the device, are not built-in. Suppliers that choose to use electronic labelling are required to explain in the documentation that accompanies the device how the electronic label can be viewed.

Full details of these requirements are addressed in the respective labelling notices for the applicable regulatory arrangements available on the ACMA website.

Further information on EMC requirements for RCM compliance:

[EMC Information Booklet \(ACMA\):](#)

[EMC Standards List:](#)

[EMC Compliance Forms and Fact Sheets:](#)

[Suppliers Declaration of Conformity:](#)

Electrical Safety Requirements: (EESS)



An Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) has been introduced by some State and Territory electrical equipment safety regulators. The EESS is administered through ERAC. The RCM will be the only compliance mark for devices within the scope of the EESS. The ACMA has no regulatory responsibility for the EESS arrangements. Information about the EESS is available from www.erac.gov.au/.

Certain electrical devices (known as “level 3 equipment”, “prescribed equipment” or “declared articles”) must also be compliant with electrical safety standard requirements. A list of devices (level 3 / prescribed) requiring certification is detailed in the latest edition of AS/NZS 4417.2.

Responsible supplier

A responsible supplier is a person, company or business that manufactures or imports “in-scope” electrical equipment and supplies it to the Australia or New Zealand market. A responsible supplier must be a legally identifiable Australian or New Zealand entity (i.e. hold an ABN)

The legislation requires all responsible suppliers to be registered on a national database (updated annually), with an annual registration fee payable. Responsible suppliers are to ensure that the electrical equipment they supply meets relevant standards and that their details on the database are current, as penalties apply if they do not.

A responsible supplier must make a Responsible Suppliers Declaration when they register on the national database. This is a generic declaration all responsible suppliers make that all electrical equipment they supply is electrically safe and will continue to meet relevant standards and comply with the EESS. This Declaration will apply to all electrical equipment they sell, but responsible suppliers must also make specific equipment declarations for level 2 and level 3 electrical equipment.

National database

The national database is a key feature of the electrical equipment safety system (EESS). It records the registration details of responsible suppliers of electrical equipment in Australia and New Zealand. This will allow electrical equipment to be easily traced to the supplier and its legal supply in Australia and New Zealand to be verified.

There are three levels of “in-scope” electrical equipment, with level 3 representing what are presently called “prescribed articles”. Suppliers of in-scope electrical equipment who are the second or subsequent supplier of electrical equipment in the participating jurisdictions in the Australian and New Zealand supply chain must source their electrical equipment from a responsible supplier by law.

In-scope electrical equipment

In-scope electrical equipment is low voltage electrical equipment that is rated at:

- Greater than 50 V AC RMS or 120V ripple-free DC (Extra-low voltage) and
- Less than 1000 VAC RMS or 1500 VDC (high voltage),

In-scope electrical equipment must be designed, or marketed as suitable for household, personal or similar use.

The EESS provides for “in-scope” electrical equipment to be classified into three levels (level 3, level 2 and level 1). There are proportionate requirements for each level, depending upon the potential risk currently identified for the item.



Level 3 electrical equipment is classified as a potential high risk level. Level 3 equipment must meet the following requirements:

- There must be a registered Responsible Supplier whose name and details are linked to the equipment;
- The equipment must be registered on the National Database;
- The equipment must have a valid Certificate of Conformity (Certificate) from a recognised certifier; and,
- The equipment must be marked with the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM)

The list as referenced in legislation is contained in the latest edition of AS/NZS 4417.2.

As a guide, the list of Level 3 equipment is available [here](#):

Level 2 electrical equipment is classified as a potential medium risk and must meet the following requirements:

- The item must be registered on the National Database and linked to a registered Responsible Supplier;
- The Responsible Supplier must keep or have access to a Compliance Folder proving that the equipment meets the relevant standard as in force at the time the equipment is registered and produce that folder to a Regulator within 10 days upon request.
- The equipment must be marked with the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM)

The complete official list of Level 2 equipment is contained in the latest edition of AS/NZS 4417.2.

Level 1 electrical equipment is classified as any in-scope electrical equipment not classified as Level 3 or Level 2 equipment. Before level 1 equipment can be sold, the following requirements must be met:

- The equipment must be electrically safe and meet the relevant standard
- The equipment must be marked with the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM)
- The equipment must be supplied by a registered Responsible Supplier at the first point of sale in the supply chain.
- Equipment brand and type must be linked to a registered responsible supplier.

A Responsible Supplier Declaration must also be made as part of the Responsible Supplier process. This declaration states that equipment supplied is electrically safe and meets relevant standards.

Level 2 and Level 3 equipment requires registration on the National Database, as well as certain evidence of conformance for each of those types of equipment. There is no specified evidence of conformance required to be held by Responsible Suppliers for Level 1 electrical equipment. However, Responsible Suppliers of Level 1 electrical equipment must hold evidence that the equipment meets the relevant

standard as in force at the time the equipment was manufactured or imported by the Responsible Supplier.

The evidence must be retained by the Responsible Supplier for five years from the date the equipment was last imported or manufactured by the Responsible Supplier.

Electrical equipment registration

The term for registration of levels 2 and 3 equipment is 1, 2 or 5 years and the registration term for level 3 cannot exceed the expiry of the Certificate of Conformity.

http://www.erac.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121&Itemid=569

<https://equipment.erac.gov.au/Registration/>

Registration Fees for electrical equipment

http://www.erac.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=140&Itemid=589

Labelling of electrical equipment

All in-scope electrical equipment is required to be marked with its brand or trade name, its model number and the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) as detailed in AS/NZS 4417.1:2012.

