

HEALTH SAFETY & WELLBEING ALERT

Electrical Safety

WHAT IS THE RISK?

Electrical risks are present whenever a person may come into contact with electricity.

This may include being exposed to live parts, equipment or electrical lead faults, using equipment that is not appropriate for the environment it is operated in (e.g., hostile environment such as excessive heat or cold [refer [HSW Alert Jan25](#)], using power boards, double adaptors etc) or slips/trips/falls caused by equipment or leads.

Contact with electricity can result in serious and fatal incidents such as electric shock or electrocution, internal and external burns, nerve and musculoskeletal damage, eye and lung injuries, fire or explosion.



Figure 1 Regulatory Compliance Mark



Figure 2 Electrical test & tag label

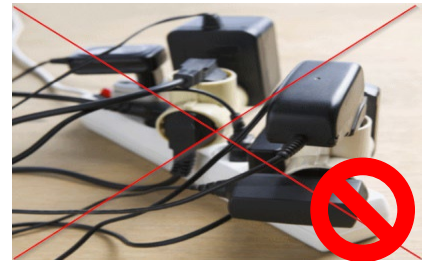


Figure 3 Example overloading of power boards (unsafe practice)

WHAT MUST WE DO TO STAY SAFE?

- Visually check all power cords for any obvious damage before plugging in
- Ensure all international adaptors have a Regulatory Compliance Mark displayed to demonstrate it is safe to be used in Australia ([Figure 1](#)).
- Tag out and remove from use any equipment showing signs of damage (including compromised power cord or electrical plug). Equipment must not be put back in use unless checked and signed off as safe by a licensed electrician or competent electrical tester.
- Inspect all electrical equipment as part of routine workplace inspections.
- Ensure all electrical equipment is tested and tagged by a suitably qualified expert and remain within date. You can identify tested equipment by a sticker attached to the lead which will have a retest date noted ([Figure 2](#)). Refer to the [Electrical Safety procedure](#) for further information.
- Avoid use of power boards - If a power board is required, it must have overload protection (identified by a reset switch/button).
- Do not use double adaptors as they significantly increase the risk of electrical overload and fire ([Figure 3](#)).
- Use battery powered equipment instead of mains operated, where possible
- Use cable protection ramps or covers to protect cables and cords, where applicable
- Report any issues related to electrical safety:
 1. To your manager and/or Safety Officer
 2. To the relevant HSW Consultant or Advisor; or BPD helpdesk on 9902 0222.
 3. Report a hazard or incident into the [SARAH system](#), as soon as possible.
- In an Emergency, contact 000 and immediately call Monash Security on 333.

More Information: Monash Health Safety & Wellbeing Team hsw@monash.edu

Useful links: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/electrical-safety>