

SAFETY ALERT



WHS-ALERT-012-2018

Date: 22 August 2018

Area of Concern: Insulated Electrical Pins & Testing and Tagging

Electrical Testing & Tagging and Insulated Pins at JCU

Australian Standards AS/NZS3112:2000 and AS/NZS3112:2004 for Australian Mains Plugs define the requirements for insulating the active and neutral pins of the plug. These requirements were introduced in response to a number of incidents, involving both mains-plugs and plug-in-devices where a metal object (such as a knife blade, a metal blind slat or a sheet of metal) came into contact with a plug pin that was partially removed from a socket and resulted in an electrical shock.

Since 3 April 2005, insulated live pins have been mandatory for all plugs (and appliances with integral pins). Approval Certificates for items having non-insulated pins were cancelled on that date. In the interests of enhanced electrical safety and to ensure rapid dispersion into the marketplace, each Australian State, Territory, and New Zealand Electrical Regulator required electrical equipment to be supplied with insulated pin plugs, at all points of sale, by 3 April 2005.

As part of the University's approach towards compliance, through continual improvement, from 1 January 2019 any items found to have no insulation to plugs will be removed from service. If you require time to have the plug replaced an electrician can be requested via a MEX, this will require a charge code. The WHS unit will be required to lodge an action in RiskWare to ensure the item is followed-up accordingly. Any fridges or freezers in-situ will not be switched off, but will require a charge code to have the plug replaced.

Images are included below on what to look for when inspecting your equipment;



Image 1: Insulated pins



Image 2: Non-insulated pins (not acceptable)

Furthermore, the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 (Qld), states that an employer must regularly inspect and test specified electrical equipment and/or safety switches in the workplace. This is categorised under workplaces for example; manufacturing, service, office, amusement and rural industries. From 2019, not all buildings will require testing and tagging on campus as they have been identified as low risk and protected with a tested and inspected RCD (safety switch).

If you have concerns regarding Electrical Safety, please contact the Estate Directorate or JCU WHS Unit (safety@jcu.edu.au).