

dti

PRODUCT STANDARDS

Electrical Equipment -
Requirements for Plugs &
Sockets etc

Guidance notes on the UK Plugs &
Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations
1994 (S.I. 1994/1768)

February 2007

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Contents

	Page
Background	3
Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994/1768)	4
Effect on other Regulations	4
Products Affected by the Regulations	4
Supplying in the course of business	5
The Structure of the Regulations	6
Citation, Commencement, Revocation and Definitions	7
The Safety Requirements	7
Standards	9
CE Marking	10
Notified Bodies	10
Electrical Equipment Intended for Use in The Work Place	10
Second Hand and Hired Electrical Equipment etc.	11
Enforcement	11
Useful Information and Contacts	13
Further Information	14
Advice to Manufacturers And Suppliers	15
Advice to Exporters	15
Annex A: Schedule 1 of the Regulations - Excluded Electrical Devices	17
Annex B: Schedule 2 of the Regulations - Specified British Standards	18
Annex C: Schedule 3 of the Regulations - Excluded Appliances	19
Annex D: Other Legislation that may affect Electrical Equipment	20
Annex E: Frequently Asked Questions	21

This document provides information about the Regulations and is intended to help suppliers of electrical equipment and enforcement authorities to understand, in general terms, the main features of the Regulations. It is intended as Guidance only and not as an exhaustive explanation of the Regulations. This Guidance has no legal force and is not an authoritative interpretation of the Regulations, which is a matter for the courts. The Department of Trade & Industry accepts no liability for loss, howsoever arising, occasioned by reliance on this Guidance. This Guidance is not a substitute for the Regulations and you should refer to the text of the Regulations for a full statement of legal requirements and obligations. Where appropriate, you should seek your own independent legal advice.

The Regulations (SI 1994/1768) can be downloaded from the following website address http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/Uksi_19941768_en_1.htm

Please note that Crown Copyright applies, so copies may only be made in accordance with the restrictions laid down by HMSO.

Alternatively you may purchase copies of the Regulations from The Stationery Office (TSO).

To place an order or to make an enquiry please contact TSO on:

Telephone 0870 600 5522
Fax 0870 600 5533
E-Mail <mailto:customer.services@tso.co.uk>

Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994

BACKGROUND

The Plugs and Sockets, etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (the “Regulations”) were introduced to provide a regulatory regime to address issues regarding consumer safety. There were concerns that consumer safety was compromised by the substantial quantity of counterfeit and unsafe electrical plugs and sockets being placed on the UK market and also by the provision of electrical equipment without an appropriate means to connect it to the mains supply in the consumer’s home.

The Regulations are complementary to the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No. 3260), which constitute the UK implementation of Council Directive 2006/95/EC, commonly referred to as the Low Voltage Directive (LVD). The Regulations cover the exclusion in Annex II to the LVD relating to plugs and socket outlets for domestic use.

The Regulations are Safety Regulations as described under Section 11 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

As the Regulations are national in origin, regulating a specific product area within the scope of the General Product Safety Directive, they do not introduce a requirement to CE mark products.

Most other Member States, however, have national legislation which ensure that any electrical appliance placed on their respective markets is fitted with an appropriate plug.

The Regulations are currently being considered for amendment and a review consultation has been carried out to seek views as to how the Regulations have been perceived to be working. A report on the consultation will be made available in March 2007. A consultation on draft Regulations is expected later this year.

Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994/1768)

Entry into force: In 3 stages, on 3rd August 1994, 1st February 1995 and 1st February 1996.

Primary legislation: These Regulations constitute “safety regulations” under section 11(1) of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

Supply of Electrical Devices: Specified plugs, adaptors and fuse links or cartridge fuse links for specified plugs, sockets and adaptors must comply with the specified standard, see Regulation 4 and Definitions in Regulation 3. However regulation 3(3) does recognize that where compliance to a British Standard is required a standard or specification recognized in another Member State may be used provided it gives an equivalent level of safety. A notified body must approve plugs to BS1363 (standard plugs) and conversion plugs. Where the use of a notified body is required, the notified body may approve products which provide an equivalent level of safety to the specified standard.

Supply of Electrical Equipment: Specified domestic electrical equipment intended to be connected to the mains power supply via plug and socket outlet is required to be supplied fitted with a standard plug or conversion plug, see Regulation 12.

EFFECT ON OTHER REGULATIONS

A number of national regulations were revoked by these Regulations (see regulation 2), including The Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1987 and the various UK Colour Code Regulations.¹

PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THE REGULATIONS

The Regulations are applicable only to certain products contained in the exclusion “Plugs and sockets outlets for domestic use” from Schedule 2 of the “Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994” (SI 1994 No. 3260). Therefore products containing components (other than a fuse link, switch or indicator light) are not considered as plugs and sockets but considered to be electrical equipment and covered by the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No. 3260)

Any product designed with non-domestic (e.g. commercial or industrial) applications in mind would not fit the exclusion from Schedule 2 of the “Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994” (SI 1994 No. 3260) and as such would be regulated by those regulations.

¹ The Regulations revoked were SI 1969/310, SR 1970/31, SI 1970/811, SR 1970/180, SI 1977/931, SI 1977/301 and SI 1987/603.

Part I of the Regulations apply to plugs, sockets and adaptors, and also to fuse links and cartridge fuse links for these plugs and adaptors.

Part II of the Regulations apply to all electrical equipment generally intended for domestic use placed on the market in the UK, subject to the exemptions, shown at Annex C of this Guidance, that are designed to operate at a voltage not less than 200 volts. Part II of the Regulations covers new and second-hand appliances.

Travel adaptors for use in the UK (ie for connecting to a BS1363 socket outlet) are considered to be within the scope of the Regulations. However those for use outside the UK (ie an adaptor to allow a plug designed for use in the UK to be connected to a socket used outside the UK) are specifically excluded from the Regulations (item 6 of Schedule 1).

SUPPLYING IN THE COURSE OF BUSINESS

The Regulations affect all persons who supply electrical equipment intended for consumers during the course of a business, whether or not the business is one of supplying electrical equipment. Such persons include:

- manufacturers;
- authorised representatives;
- importers into the UK;
- wholesalers;
- distributors;
- retailers (including mail order traders);
- persons who hire out electrical equipment in the course of business;
- persons (including auctioneers) who supply second hand electrical equipment in the course of business; *and*
- persons who, in the course of business, let accommodation which contains electrical equipment.

All suppliers have a legal obligation to ensure that they only supply electrical equipment which satisfies the requirements of the Regulations.

Manufacturers: The manufacturer is the person, whether established in the UK or not, who is primarily responsible for designing and manufacturing equipment so that it complies with the safety requirements of the Regulations. A manufacturer **who is based within the UK** is the first point in the supply chain that may be held responsible for compliance with the Regulations.

Where the manufacturer is **not established within the UK** the first supplier of the electrical equipment in the UK becomes the first point in the supply chain and is responsible for compliance with the Regulations.

Importers: An importer is any person who places electrical equipment from a third country on the UK market for the first time. The importer will have the initial responsibility for ensuring supplied electrical appliances comply with the Regulations.

All other suppliers: Any other person who supplies electrical equipment (ie wholesalers, distributors, retailers etc.) in the course of a business has a legal obligation to ensure that the equipment that they supply meets the requirements of the Regulations.

Suppliers Outside the UK: For distance selling, where goods are supplied from outside the UK, a legal obligation is placed on the supplier outside of the UK to comply with the Regulations. For enforcement with regard to distance selling where the supplier is situated outside of the UK, the local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) or the Office of Fair Trading can provide assistance in certain cases. Please see the DTI website, "Confident Consumers" Fact Sheet on Distance Selling (URN 05/1712) for further information, available at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/consumers/index.html>

Second Hand Electrical Equipment: For information on how the Regulations affect suppliers of second hand electrical equipment and equipment that is supplied for hire/leasing etc. see page 11.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE REGULATIONS

The Regulations commence with citation, dates of commencement, a list of Regulation revoked and a list of definitions. This is followed by the main body of the Regulations which are split into Parts I, II and III.

- Part I relates to safety requirements for electrical devices such as plugs, socket outlets, adaptors, fuse links and cartridge fuse links for plugs and adaptors.
- Part II relates to requirements for electrical appliances intended for domestic use to be fitted with an approved plug or conversion plug.
- Part III details the information requirements for products covered by Part I and Part II.

There are three Schedules to the Regulations;

- Schedule 1 specifying the electrical devices excluded from Part I;
- Schedule 2 specifying the appropriate standards for electrical devices in Part I; and
- Schedule 3 specifying electrical appliances excluded from Part II.

Citation, Commencement, Revocation and definitions

These are set out in regulations 1, 2 and 3 of the Regulations.

The definitions in regulation 3 contain specific date references for the standards referenced throughout the Regulations.

Regulation 3(2) makes clear that the reference to any standards in the Regulations is a reference to those standards in place when the Regulations were made, ie 5th July 1994. The standards referenced in the Regulations cross refer to other standards, for the purposes of the Regulations these cross referenced standards shall be those that were current at the time the Regulations came into force, ie 5th July 1994. Regulation 3(3) makes clear that a standard recognized for use in other member States may also be used, provided that it provides an equivalent level of safety.

Throughout this Guidance use of the word “supply” and other cognate expressions should be read as a shortened version of the wording in the Regulations “supply, agree to supply, expose for supply or possess for supply”. The word “supply” is defined in section 46 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Part I relates to any plug, socket or adaptor ordinarily intended for domestic use at a voltage of not less than 200 volts, to any fuse link suitable for a standard plug¹ and to any cartridge fuse link suitable for use in any plug or adaptor (regulation 4(1)). Regulations 4(1)-(2) and Schedule 1 refer to excluded items. Schedule 1 of the Regulations is reproduced in Annex A of this guidance. Regulation 4(3) deals with plugs and sockets inside or forming an integral part of electrical equipment.

The terms plug, socket, adaptor, fuse link, cartridge fuse link, and standard plug are defined in regulation 3. A standard plug is one intended to connect with a socket outlet with dimensions as specified in BS1363.

Regulation 5 prohibits the supply of electrical devices specified in regulation 4 unless they comply with the requirements of regulation 6.

Regulation 6 requires a standard plug to contain a fuse complying with BS1362 and to have been approved by a notified body under regulation 8. Regulation 6 requires other devices covered by Part I to comply with regulation 10.

¹ Standard plug is defined as a plug intended to connect to a socket outlet compliant with BS1363 (regulation 3)

Regulation 8, for standard plugs, requires the approval of the design and manufacturing process to ensure that the product will comply with BS1363 or an equivalent level of safety in respect to death or personal injury. Any approval granted by a notified body may include conditions or may be unconditional. However, regulation 8(5) requires a condition that any change to the plug must be reported to the notified body. A notified body may vary the conditions, either by addition or withdrawal, at any time. An approval by a notified body may be in force for up to 7 years.

Where a notified body intends to take a decision unfavourable to the applicant in the circumstances set out in regulation 9, it is required to provide advance written notice containing details of the notified body's reasoning and allowing for representations to it to be made within 28 days of such notice being given (regulation 9).

Regulation 10 specifies the compliance requirements for other devices specified in Part I. It refers to Schedule 2 of the Regulations, reproduced in Annex B of this guidance, where devices specified there are required to comply with the associated standards. There are no controls on other devices. Regulation 10 also requires any fuse contained in, or supplied with, a round pin plug conforming to BS546 to comply with BS646.

Part II applies to electrical appliances ordinarily intended for domestic use, designed to operate at a voltage no less than 200 volts with a maximum rated input of no more than 13 amperes, and intended to be connected to a socket outlet made to the dimensions of BS1363, but excluding the appliances described in Schedule 3 (regulation 11). Schedule 3 of the Regulations is reproduced in Annex C of this guidance.

Regulation 12 contains a prohibition on the supply of appliances referred to in regulation 11 unless they are fitted with a standard plug (see definitions and compliance requirement in Part I) which is fitted with a fuse link conforming to BS1362 and which is suitably rated. Where suitably rated shall be as specified by the appliance manufacturer or in accordance with table 2 of BS1363.

Alternatively regulation 12 recognizes the use of a conversion plug where the appliance is fitted with a plug not intended for use in the UK. For this option the plug must comply with its own standard, as specified in IEC 884-1 and the conversion plug must comply with the requirements laid down in regulation 12(3). Regulation 12(3) requires that the conversion plug be approved by a notified body and that it is intended for a non-UK plug, and that the combination provides a level of safety equivalent to that of a standard plug complying with the requirements of regulation 8.

A conversion plug is not an adaptor; see definitions as set out in regulation 3. Regulation 12(2)(b) requires the conversion plug to be fitted to the electrical equipment, so as to enclose the non-UK plug and to be designed so that it may only be removed by use of a tool.

Conversion plugs require the approval by a Notified Body of the design and manufacturing process (regulations 12(3)(b) to 12(6)). This is to ensure that the conversion plug will comply with regulation 12(3)(a), ie an equivalent level of safety as a standard plug complying with regulation 8. Any approval granted by a Notified Body may include conditions or be unconditional. Regulation 12(5) contains a condition that any change to the conversion plug must be reported to the notified body. A notified body may vary the conditions, either by addition or withdrawal, at any time. An approval may be in force for up to 7 years (regulation 12(8)).

Where a notified body intends to take a decision, unfavourable to the applicant in the circumstances set out in regulation 12, it is required to provide advance written notice containing details of the notified body's reasoning and allowing for representations to it to be made within 28 days of such notice being given.

It is Important to note that the Regulations do not prevent a person in the supply chain from possessing electrical appliances which do not comply with the Regulations. However such appliances must be brought into compliance with the requirements of the Regulations prior to supply.(regulation 12(9))

Part III is covered by regulation 13 and applies to standard plugs and conversion plugs as referred to in Parts I and II. All standard plugs and conversion plugs must comply with Part III when supplied (regulation 13(1)).

All conversion plugs and standard plugs must either be legibly marked with or must bear a label legibly marked to indicate approval by a notified body and the identity of that body (regulation 13(2)).

If there is any information that a user of either a standard plug or conversion plug needs to be aware of for its safe use then that information must be provided on the device, but if not practicable then on an accompanying notice (regulation 13(3)). Giving such information in language other than English is not sufficient (regulation 13(4)).

It is an offence to place a misleading mark on an electrical device or accompanying information which might reasonably be taken as an approval by a notified body when the device is not so approved or such approval has been cancelled, or as conformity with BS1363 when the device does not conform to that standard (regulation 13(5)).

STANDARDS

BSI is responsible for publishing the standards specified in the Regulations. Copies of the standards can be purchased from BSI.

Suppliers seeking any information about any of the relevant standards and their application to a particular product should contact BSI (Standards) for further details.

For addresses see page 13.

Other Standards: The Regulations recognise the use of standards in use in other member States, which provide at least an equivalent level of safety. This is considered to include British Standards superseding those specified in the Regulations.

CE MARKING

As the devices regulated by Part I are outside of the scope of Community Directives and the Regulations are national in origin in support of the General Product Safety Directive, the CE Marking is not to be used. Its use may constitute an offence under section 1 of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

Appliances covered by Part II will be CE Marked only if the Regulations governing these products require the use of the CE Mark. Most of these products will be regulated under the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 which does require that electrical equipment meeting those Regulations is to be CE Marked.

A list of some legislation which may be relevant to Electrical Equipment may be found at Annex D. It is the responsibility of manufacturers to determine which other legislation, if any, is applicable to their products.

NOTIFIED BODIES

These are defined in regulation 3 as being “those bodies properly notified under the LVD prior to its amendment” or as appointed under regulation 7. Regulation 7 makes provision for the Secretary of State to appoint a person and to impose conditions on that appointment. Those Notified Bodies included under the LVD would be those appointed prior to 30th August 1993, when Council Directive 73/23/EEC(OJ No.L77 26.03.73 p29) was amended by Council Directive 93/68/EEC (OJ No. L220, 38.8.93, p1).

Currently the Secretary of State has approved two Notified Bodies under Regulation 7, these being ASTA-BEAB and NEMKO (UK). Other active Notified Bodies are those which meet the definition in regulation 3.

Notified bodies are required to approve standard plugs and conversion plugs as described in the Regulations.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR USE IN THE WORK PLACE

Electrical equipment that is intended for use in the workplace is not controlled by the Regulations. Most of such equipment must however satisfy the safety requirements of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 and must provide a safe connection to the mains electrical supply.

SECOND HAND AND HIRED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ETC

Second hand electrical equipment: Second hand equipment that is supplied in the course of business (including auctions) to a consumer falls within the scope of the Regulations.

Hired / leased electrical equipment: Electrical equipment that is supplied by way of hiring it out in the course of business is only covered by the Regulations if it is supplied to a consumer.

A consumer does not include commercial and industrial consumers.

Furnished Accommodation: As the Regulations apply to any person who supplies electrical equipment in the course of a business, any electrical equipment that is supplied as part of furnished accommodation that is hired or let in the course of a business is covered by the Regulations. Estate agents, letting agents and anyone else who hires or lets furnished accommodation are strongly advised to seek their own independent legal advice as to whether they do so in the course of a business and as to other aspects of their obligations under the Regulations or other relevant legislation.

ENFORCEMENT

The Regulations are enforced by the local authority trading standards authorities.

Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that electrical equipment may not meet the requirements of the Regulations, an enforcement authority should take appropriate enforcement action to remove the equipment from the market. Any enforcement action taken will be based on the facts of the case and will not be jeopardised by the origin of the equipment.

Compliance Notice: Where for reasons **other than safety**, an enforcement authority has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the device or electrical appliance does not, for whatever reason, comply fully with the requirements of the Regulations the authority may issue a compliance notice requiring the equipment to be brought into conformity. Compliance notices are intended to give the person an opportunity to take action to correct the non-compliance. Enforcement action can only be taken in respect of the alleged non-compliance if such a notice has been issued and not acted upon within the time limit specified in the notice. Where the non-compliance is safety related, enforcement authorities can take immediate enforcement action to safeguard consumers.

Penalties: It is an offence to supply devices or electrical equipment which do not comply with the requirements of the Regulations. The Consumer Protection Act 1987, lays down penalties for an offence against a Safety Regulation as made under Section 11 as imprisonment for up to six months or a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale (currently £5,000) or both.

Notifications to Secretary of State: As these Regulations are not derived from a European Directive there is no legal requirement for enforcement authorities to advise the DTI that action under the Regulations has taken place. However where the enforcement authority is of the view that there is an immediate and serious risk to consumers, it should consider whether the RAPEX process under the General Product Safety Regulations should be used to advise enforcement authorities in other member States. It should be appreciated that the UK style of plug and socket system is in use in the member States of Cyprus, Ireland and Malta.

Useful Information and Contacts

Availability of texts of national standards: these may be obtained from BSI:

BSI Sales
Maylands Avenue
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 4SQ

Telephone 01442 278 607
Fax 01442 278 630
E-Mail <mailto:cservices@bsi-global.com>
Website <http://www.bsonline.bsi-global.com>

Availability of text of other national standards: BSI offers advice in areas including European and foreign regulations, standards, certification, and approval bodies. Contact their:

Technical Information Group
British Standards Institution
389 Chiswick High Road
London W4 4AL

Telephone 020 8996 7111
Fax 020 8996 7048
E-Mail <mailto:the@bsi-global.com>

Specific enquiries about electrical equipment safety standards: These should also be made to BSI for which they have a dedicated phone line:

Telephone 020 8996 7024

Availability of text of the Regulations: The Plugs & Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No. 1768) can be obtained from the following HMSO address. Please note that Crown Copyright applies, so copies may only be made in accordance with the restrictions laid down by HMSO:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/Uksi_19941768_en_1.htm

Alternatively you may purchase copies of the Regulations from The Stationery Office (TSO). To place an order or to make an enquiry please contact them on:

Telephone 0870 600 5522
Fax 0870 600 5533
E-Mail <mailto:customer.services@tso.co.uk>

Please note that the DTI does not supply copies of the Regulations, Standards or Directives.

Further Information

Further copies of this booklet can be obtained from the DTI's Publications Orderline, electronically through the following address: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/publications>

Alternatively contact the Orderline direct and quote the URN reference given at the beginning of this booklet:

DTI Publications Orderline
ADMAIL 528
London SW1W 8YT
Telephone 0870 1502 500
Fax 0870 1502 333

This booklet is also available to download from the Department's website:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/strd/strdpubs/page10946.html>

Local Authority Trading Standards Departments

Suppliers of domestic equipment wishing to ensure that their products meet the requirements of the Regulations should make enquiries to their home authority trading standards department which is listed in the telephone directory under 'Local Authority' or 'Trading Standards Department'. In Northern Ireland enquiries should be made to the environmental health department of the local district council.

Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)

LACORS promotes the 'Home Authority Principle' which is designed to encourage efficiency, promote uniformity, reduce duplication and assist enterprises to comply with the law. The Principle seeks to ensure that:

- Local authorities place special emphasis on the surveillance of goods and services originating in their areas:
- Enterprises are able to depend on a specific home authority for preventative guidance and advice;
- Enforcing authorities will liaise with the relevant home authority on issues which affect the policies of an enterprise;
- Machinery exists to monitor and resolve disputes in appropriate cases.

The home authority principle applies to all food hygiene and Trading Standards issues and has the support of local and central government, trade and professional enforcement bodies.

A booklet describing the home authority principle is currently being updated; but information can be downloaded from the following LACORS website at:

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/upload/10596.pdf>

ADVICE TO MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS

Suppliers' may wish to discuss at an early stage with their own local authority, in the case of domestic equipment, any problems they may have in applying the Regulations to their products. A list of frequently asked questions may be found at Annex E.

ADVICE TO EXPORTERS

These Regulations clearly only apply in the UK though most other countries do have similar legislation to ensure the safety of consumers. It is an exporter's responsibility to meet the requirements of such other national legislation.

Exporters seeking advice on overseas regulations and standards should contact: British Standard Institution's Technical Help to Exporters Unit, 389 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London W4 4AL. Tel: 0208 996 7111.

Specific enquiries about electrical equipment standards: These should be made to the British Standards Institution, Electrical Section, 389 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London W4 4AL. Tel: 0208 996 7021

POLICY RELATING TO THE PLUGS & SOCKETS ETC REGULATIONS 1994

Department of Trade & Industry
Sustainable Development & Regulations Directorate
Bay 280
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 9SS

Telephone: 020 7215 1323

Fax: 020 7215 1340

<mailto:dti.strd6@gtnet.gov.uk>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/strd>

Schedule 1 of the Regulations - Excluded Electrical Devices

Relevant to Regulation 4 of Part I

1. Any plug, socket or adaptor which incorporates any other electrical device (other than a fuse link, switch or indicator light).
2. Any plug or socket forming part of a ceiling-rose connector (that is to say a connector designed to hold up overhead electric lighting fittings).
3. Any plug or socket forming part of a luminaire comprising a track system for electric lights and their fittings.
4. Any non-UK plug supplied loose which is manufactured to comply with the safety provisions of IEC 884-1 and which is marked with or accompanied by a warning that it is not suitable for connection to a mains socket in the United Kingdom.
5. Any non-rewirable or any moulded-on Europlug (that is to say any plug conforming with BS EN 50075) which is designed for the purpose of connecting to a shaver supply unit conforming to BS 3535: Part 1 any electrical shaver, toothbrush or similar appliance; and for the purposes of this paragraph the expression "shaver supply unit" shall have the meaning given to it in BS 3535: Part 1.
6. Any travel adaptor (that is to say an adaptor which enables a plug designed for use in the United Kingdom to be connected to a socket used outside the United Kingdom).

ANNEX B

Schedule 2 of the Regulations - Specified British Standards

Relevant to Regulations 4 and 10 of Part I

(1)	(2)	(3)
Item No.	Electrical devices	British Standard
1	Standard plugs; sockets with which standard plugs may be engaged.	BS 1363
2	Round-pin plugs; sockets and adaptors with which round-pin plugs may be engaged.	BS 546
3	2-pin reversible plugs and shaver sockets.	BS 4573
4	Fuse links which are suitable for use in a standard plug.	BS 1362
5	Cartridge fuse-links (rated up to 5 amperes) which are suitable for use in a round-pin plug conforming to BS 546.	BS 646
6	Adaptors except those in item 2.	BS 5733

Schedule 3 of the Regulations - Excluded Appliances

Relevant to regulation 11 of Part II

1. Any fixed luminaire, being a luminaire which cannot easily be moved from one place to another, either because it can only be removed with the use of a tool, or because it is intended for use out of easy reach.
2. Any ceiling-rose connector (that is to say a connector designed to hold up overhead electric lighting fittings).
3. Any electric light designed and intended to be located within a recess in a wall or ceiling.
4. Any appliance which is fitted with an rcd plug.
5. Any appliance which is fitted with a plug transformer.
6. Any appliance which is fitted with a plug other than a standard plug which is designed to engage with a compatible portable multiple socket outlet.
7. Any appliance which is intended to be permanently connected to the fixed wiring of the mains system other than by means of a plug and socket.

ANNEX D

Other Legislation that may affect Electrical Equipment

- ❑ **The Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994 No. 3260), implementing the Low Voltage Directive (2006/95/EC).**

More information about the Regulations is available from

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/strd>

and

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/electr_equipment/lv/

- ❑ **The Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005 No. 281) implementing The Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (89/336/EEC) and amending Directive (92/31/EEC).**

More information is available from

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/strd>

including information on the new EMC Directive 2004/108/EC and its implementation in the UK.

and

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/electr_equipment/emc/index.htm

- ❑ **The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/3073) as amended by The Supply of Machinery Safety (Amendment) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/2063) and The Supply of Machinery (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/831) implementing The Machinery Directive (98/37/EC)**

More information is available from

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/strd>

- ❑ **The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005 No 2748) implementing The Restriction of the Use of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (2002/95/EC) as amended by Commission Decision 2005/618/EC establishing the maximum concentration values for certain hazardous substances**

More information is available from

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/index.html>

- ❑ **EC Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**

For further information please see

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/index.html>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I supply an electrical appliance fitted with a non-UK plug (such as a European style plug) provided I supply a travel adaptor?

A. If the appliance is within the scope of regulation 11 then it must be supplied fitted with a standard plug or fitted with a conversion plug. The definitions explain the difference between a conversion plug and an adaptor. An adaptor is not a conversion plug.

Q. Can I supply an electrical appliance fitted with a non-UK plug (such as a European style plug) provided I supply a conversion plug loose with the appliance?

A. Regulation 12 requires the conversion plug to be fitted for all appliances specified in Regulation 11 unless excluded under Schedule 3.

Q. Does my electrical device (as described in Part I) have to comply with a standard?

A. Standard plugs have to comply with BS1363 or an equivalent level of safety and be approved by a notified body. Conversion plugs must provide the same level of safety as a standard plug conforming to BS1363 and be approved by a notified body. Schedule 2 specifies the standards which a device must comply with, and other devices have no conformity requirements. As well as the British Standards specified in Schedule 2 any standard or specification recognised for use in a member State may be used provided it provides an equivalent level of safety.

Q. What is a member State ?

A. This is defined in regulation 3 as a member State of the European Economic Community or another State within the European Economic Area.

Q. I have imported a piece of electrical equipment which has a two pin plug connected to it. Can I remove the two pin plug and replace it with a three pin plug?

A. Yes but you will need to consider what further testing should be applied to the electrical equipment to ensure it is safe. There may be implications under the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994

Q. Does an Adaptor or travel adaptor need a CE mark?

A. No - They are covered by the Regulations

Q. Can I export my products within Europe supplied with a three pin plug?

A. Before you place a product on their market you must comply with the Member States own national regulations.

- Q. Is it acceptable to supply an electric shaver in the UK fitted with a Europlug as opposed to the normal UK shaver plug.**
- A. The Regulations have an exclusion under Schedule I, regulation 4 “Excluded electrical devices”, item 5 that notes non-rewireable Europlug (EN50075) fitted to electric shavers are acceptable for use connecting to UK shaver outlets.
- Q. If I cut off a cord and plug from an appliance, would it be excluded from the Plugs and Sockets Regulations?**
- A. The appliance would not be excluded from the Regulations.
- Q. Can I supply a cord set fitted with a non-UK plug loose with an electrical appliance, included in the packaging for the appliance?**
- A. Yes, but the cord set must comply with the requirements of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994. Additionally, the plug must comply with the national Regulations of the member States where it is normally used. There must be contained within the packaging a cord set for use within the UK, fitted with a standard plug to BS 1363 or with an appropriate converter plug.