

Electrical Safety Fact Sheet

Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) has implemented a new electrical safety strategy to help protect and improve our safety and compliance as a venue. As the largest exhibition and function venue in Canberra with up to a million visitors each year, safety is key step in managing the health and safety for our clients and our visitors.

Key elements of our strategy include:

- Prohibiting the use of domestic rated power leads and power boards
- Ensuring all electrical items are test and tagged with annual tags.
- The appropriate use and fastening of electrical equipment.

The EPIC site, especially during events, is considered high risk and the site owners have a legal duty of care (WHS Act 2011) to ensure that onsite electrical risks are at all times effectively controlled and managed.

It is worth noting that it is the code of practice *Managing Electrical Risks in the Workplace* that is the legislative *notifiable* instrument and standard by which electrical is managed/operated on all Venues Canberra sites.

As a high risk site, EPIC does not allow the use of domestic rated leads or powerboards due to the specific hazards involved in their operation on a commercial 'high risk' site.

In short; domestic leads and power boards are not rated to or provide the same level of insulation protection including from environment (e.g. moisture), movement, heat protection and or shock resistance (or RCDs in the case of domestic power boards) as the commercial rated equivalent.

The use of domestic rated leads and power boards on the EPIC site is therefore **prohibited** and may be removed by EPIC Management.

EPIC's decision to prohibit the use of domestic rated leads and powerboards accords with the Model code of Practice Managing Electrical Hazards in the Workplace, specifically as per below (which does incorporate leads and powerboards):

The most common electrical risks and causes of injury are:

- Electric shock causing injury or death. The electric shock may be received by direct or indirect contact, tracking through or across a medium, or by arcing. For example, electric shock may result from indirect contact where a conductive part that is not normally energised due to a fault (e.g. fence)
- Arcing, explosion or fire causing burns. The injuries are often suffered because arcing or explosion or both occur when high fault currents are present
- Electric shock from 'step-and-touch' potentials
- Toxic gases causing illness or death. Burning and arcing associated with electrical equipment may release various gases and contaminants
- Fire resulting from an electrical fault.

Domestic rated electrical equipment is not designed to be used in commercial high risk environments.

Commercially rated electrical equipment has the appropriate safety mechanisms and precautions which comply with the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011.

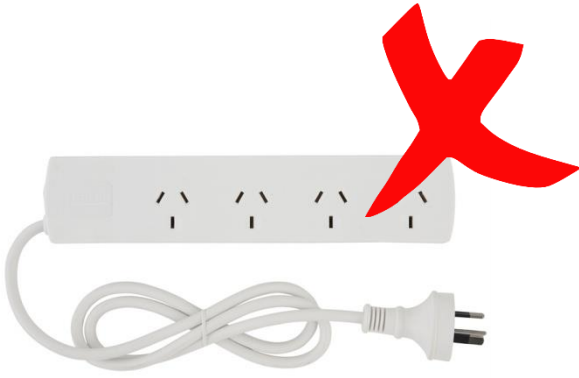
Domestic Rated items are generally a thin white cord with a cable thickness of 1.5mm and are generally limited to 10amp adapters.

Commercially rated electrical items are generally coloured (red, orange, blue etc) with a cable thickness of 2.5mm providing the extra protection to prevent damage to and overheating of the cable. These types of cables can come with 10, 15 or 20amp adapters.

The use of unprotected plug to plug adapters and reducers is strictly prohibited on the EPIC site. These leads generally step down from a 15amp plug to a 10amp plug which can cause the cable to come under extreme duress and may begin to show signs of extreme heat deformation.

Examples of these are shown overleaf.

Domestic Rated Power board



Domestic Rated extension lead
(1.5mm cable thickness)



Domestic Rated Piggy Back lead



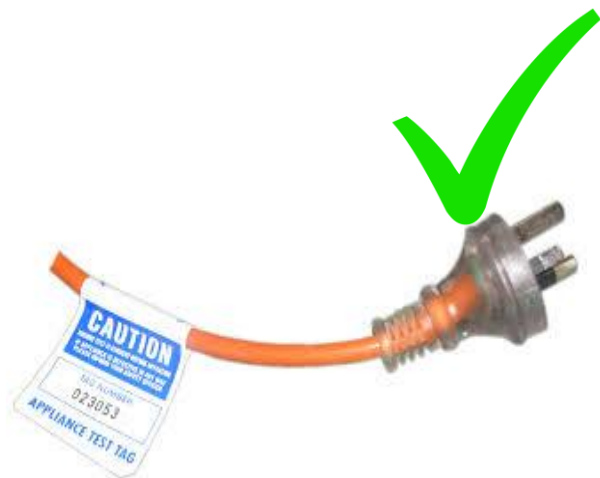
Commercial Rated Power block



Commercial Rated extension lead
(2.5mm Cable thickness)



Current Test and Tag on all leads



It would therefore be helpful if you could share this information with your team, contractors and vendors to ensure we are all doing our part to comply with these guidelines.

Should you have any questions regarding electrical safety at EPIC please contact our Events team on (02) 6205 5320 or eventsepic@act.gov.au.