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Residual Current Devices (RCD's) AS/NZS 3000:2018 Amendment 2

This document has been produced in consultation with, and is endorsed by, electrical safety regulators in all Australian States and Territories, and in New Zealand, via their representatives on the Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council (ERAC).

The purpose of this document is to provide a consistent approach across Australia to the implementation of Clause 2.6.2.2.2 of AS/NZS 3000:2018 Amendment 2.

From 1 May 2023 “Type AC” RCD's must not be installed in Australia. This change is due to the increased use of electronics, solar energy generation and other similar products with a high d.c waveform component.

From 1 May 2023, only “Type A”, “Type B” and “Type F”, RCD's should be used. “Type A” is the most suitable replacement of the previous “Type AC” RCD.

“Type A” RCDs are marked as follows:



Installation requirements for RCD's after 1 May 2023

“Type AC” RCDs must not be installed in the following circumstances;

- New electrical installations as required by AS/NZS 3000
- New final sub-circuits
- Alterations or additions to an existing final sub-circuit that requires an RCD to now be installed.
- Existing equipment containing RCDs that are connected by fixed or “hard” wiring and energised for the first time at a new location; including
 - building and construction sites;
 - demolition sites;
 - shows, carnivals and similar events; and
 - transportable structures

Electrical installations that fall within the scope of transportable structures with detachable connections in accordance with AS/NZS 3001 do not require the replacement of existing “Type

AC” RCDs when the transportable structure is relocated and connected to a supply at a new location. All connectable electrical installations complying with AS/NZS 3001.2:2022 must have “Type A” RCDs in accordance with section 3.5.4.

Electrical equipment such as socket outlets, luminaires, heating (cooling) and the like that are replaced do not invoke the requirement to replace the existing RCD of that final sub-circuit provided correct operation is ensured.

Although it is always recommended that electrical contractors advise customers of the new requirements, however it is not mandatory to replace existing “Type AC” RCD’s that have been installed in a permanent location, tested and certified prior to 1 May 2023.

Purchasing compliant RCD’s

RCD must be marked with either the relevant approval number or the regulatory compliance mark (RCM). This is in addition to any other marks which indicate the RCD Type (such as the “Type A” mark above). The RCM looks like this:



Marking with these approval marks is evidence that the RCD complies with the applicable Australian Standards for RCD’s. Only RCD’s which are marked with the RCM or an approval number may be used in electrical installations in Australia.

This is important to ensure that RCD’s meet minimum safety and quality standards and are appropriate for use in Australia.

Be aware that some RCD’s and other electrical equipment that are sold online may not comply with Australian Standards. It is always recommended to only purchase electrical equipment such as RCD’s from reputable retailers that offer a recall guarantee. Never purchase or install RCD’s unless they are marked with either the regulatory compliance mark or relevant approval number.

If you are unsure whether an RCD is compliant, request a copy of the certificate of conformity from your supplier before purchasing or installing. You can also search the model number on the EESS register at www.eess.gov.au

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