

Device compliance levels

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) is responsible for administering the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) regulatory arrangements for electrical and electronic devices supplied to the Australian market.

The EMC regulatory arrangements specify mandatory requirements for suppliers of devices capable of incidental emissions. These requirements are divided into three compliance levels (or evidence levels) and include compliance with applicable technical standards, labelling and record keeping requirements.

All devices covered by the EMC regulatory arrangements must comply with an applicable technical standard.

The level of documentary evidence (to demonstrate compliance with the regulatory arrangements) that is required to be maintained by the supplier varies depending on the risk of interference that may be expected from the device—high risk, medium risk or low risk. Suppliers of high risk devices are required to maintain higher levels of evidence than suppliers of low risk devices.

Compliance level requirements

Low risk

A low risk device is a device that is not a medium risk device or a high risk device. Low risk devices must still comply with an applicable technical standard. The evidence the supplier uses to demonstrate compliance with an applicable technical standard is at the supplier's discretion. Suppliers of low risk devices that are compliant with an applicable technical standard are only required to hold a description of the device. Suppliers are not required to label or maintain a Declaration of Conformity (DoC). Should a supplier voluntarily choose to label their device, they must then maintain a DoC.

Some examples of low risk devices may include: battery powered LED torches, battery powered pocket calculators, battery powered clocks, wrist watches and battery powered toys. (See also the Battery Powered Devices fact sheet)

Medium risk

A medium risk device is a device that is not a high risk device and contains one or more of the following:

- > a switch mode power supply
- > a transistor switching circuit
- > a microprocessor
- > a commutator
- > a slip-ring motor
- > an electronic device operating in a switching or non-linear mode.

Devices that meet the definition of a battery-powered device (see also the Battery Powered Devices fact sheet) are NOT medium risk devices unless the ACMA has declared the device to be a medium risk device. This means that if a battery powered device is not a high risk device, it is classed as a low risk device.

In addition to compliance with an applicable technical standard, the ACMA requires suppliers of medium risk devices to label their device and hold the following documentary evidence:

- > a test report or technical construction file (TCF) showing the device complies with an applicable technical standard
- > a declaration of conformity
- > a description of the device.

Some examples of medium risk devices include: televisions, laptops, computers, video game consoles, stereo equipment, DVD players/recorders, mobile phone chargers, printers, compact fluorescent lamps, electronic ballasts, etc.

High risk

A high risk device is a device described as 'Group 2 ISM equipment' in AS/NZS CISPR 11:2004 (2nd Edition). The requirements for high risk devices is the same as medium risk devices except the test report must be an accredited test report from an accredited testing body.

The definition from AS/NZS CISPR 11:2004 (2nd Edition) is:

Group 2 ISM equipment: group 2 contains all ISM equipment in which radio-frequency energy is intentionally generated and/or used in the form of electromagnetic radiation for the treatment of material, and EDM (electro-discharge machining) and arc welding equipment.

Some examples of Group 2 equipment (taken from Annex A of AS/NZS CISPR 11) include:

- > Induction heating equipment
- > Induction cookers
- > Microwave ovens
- > Arc welding equipment
- > Spot welders
- > RF Welding equipment

More information

Suppliers may contact comply.label@acma.gov.au for more information.

The ACMA has [fact sheets](#) on a range of topics.

Please note: this document is intended as a guide only and should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases.

CANBERRA
Purple Building Benjamin Offices
Chan Street
Belconnen ACT 2617
PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616
T: 02 6219 5555
F: 02 6219 5200

MELBOURNE
Level 44, Melbourne Central Tower
360 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
PO Box 13112 Law Courts
Melbourne VIC 8010
T: 03 9963 6800
F: 03 9963 6899

SYDNEY
Level 15, Tower 1 Darling Park
201 Sussex Street
Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box Q500
Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230
T: 02 9334 7700
F: 02 9334 7799