



Fair
Trading

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MEDIA RELEASE

26 June 2014

SAFETY ALERT - USB STYLE CHARGERS

Fair Trading Commissioner Rod Stowe is warning consumers about the potentially fatal risk of using non-compliant USB style chargers following the recent death of a consumer where an unapproved USB charger was potentially implicated.

The Commissioner said Fair Trading investigators had recently removed from sale a number of unapproved and non-compliant USB style chargers, travel adaptors and power boards at a stall and mobile phone accessory shop in the Campsie area. *Photographs below. Jpgs attached.*

“These devices pose a serious risk of electrocution or fire,” he said.

The trader at Campsie faces possible prosecution.

Maximum penalties are \$87,500 and/or two years imprisonment for an individual and \$875,000 for a corporation.

The unapproved devices do not meet the essential safety requirements of Australian standards and are often made of inferior plastics and other insulation materials. Devices found by Fair Trading had no insulation on pins, or approval marks.

Consumers must avoid these products and retailers should not be selling them.

All electrical products sold in NSW must comply with the *Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2004* and its regulations to ensure they are designed and manufactured to meet Australian Standards.

Do not purchase or use an electrical product that does not carry a recognised safety approval mark or insulation on the pins of the plug.


Consumers in possession of unapproved and non-compliant USB style chargers, typically used to charge phones and tablets, should bend the pins on the chargers and dispose of them immediately.

As a general safety rule, consumers should not use any devices while they are plugged in and charging.

Anyone with information about the purchase of any unapproved and non-compliant electrical or gas products should contact Fair Trading on 13 32 20.

For full details or to download further information on electrical products and equipment go to the Fair Trading website at: www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au



Types of approval marks	Example
NSW Approval Number	NSW number on articles approved after 24 February 2005. N number on articles approved before 24 February 2005.
Interstate Approval Numbers	Q number, V number, S number, T number
Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) Note: The N number does not identify a NSW approval. It is a supplier code issued under the RCM provisions.	 N followed by number
TUV Rheinland Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 124 175 953)	*TUV number**EA
SAA Approvals Pty Ltd (ACN 125 451 327)	*SAA number**EA
SAI Global Certification Services Pty Ltd (ACN 108 716 669)	*SAI TE**EA number *SAI SMK**EA number
SGS Systems and Services Certification Pty Ltd (ACN 060 156 014)	*SGS**EA number
The Australian Gas Association (ACN 004 206 044)	*AGA number**EA
UL International New Zealand Limited (NZ Incorporation Number 1983441)	*U number**EA

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