

REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES (RCD)

General

There is a requirement to minimise the electrical risks associated with the supply of electricity to 'plug in' electrical equipment by the use of an appropriate RCD in certain higher-risk workplaces.

Types of RCD

There are two main types available:

- Fixed, non-portable units incorporated in fixed wall outlets which replace the normal general purpose outlet and into which the cord of the appliance is plugged; and
- Portable units which plug into a fixed power outlet via a short cord and into which the cord of the appliance is plugged.

Electrical equipment that requires RCD protection

- All hand-held electrical equipment.
- Portable electrical equipment that is frequently moved during its normal use.
- Electrical equipment that is moved between different locations in circumstances where damage to the electrical equipment or flexible supply cord is reasonably likely.
- The normal use of the electrical equipment exposes the equipment to operating conditions that are likely to result in damage to the equipment or a reduction in its expected life span.
- Electrical equipment forming part of, or is used in, an amusement device.

Note that the requirement for a RCD does not apply where the supply of electricity is to an extra low voltage system that is electrically separated from earth and from other systems so that a single fault cannot give rise to an electric shock.

The RCD must:

- be a non-portable unit, connected on the supply side of the socket outlet, or
- be a portable unit connected directly to the output side of the socket outlet;
- comply with the requirements of [AS 3190 Approval and Test Specification for Current Operated \(core balance\) Earth-Leakage Devices](#);
- have a tripping current not exceeding 30mA; and
- be tested on a regular basis by means of its in-built testing facility and by an authorised person.

Testing

Portable RCDs must be tested before the device is used on any day by means of the built-in test facility. In addition, programmed testing must be conducted and recorded within the School/Branch in accordance with [Appendix H](#).

Note that the day to day testing does not need to be recorded.

Records

Testing records (3 and 6 monthly) are to be maintained by the School/Branch, to provide evidence that portable RCDs have been tested. Records must be kept until the next test.

Tags

Portable RCDs must be tagged to indicate the date of the next test and should be checked during workplace inspections to monitor compliance with the Regulations.

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