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### **Statement on The Facts about Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Fire Risk - No.2**

- **Are Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) manufactured using flame retardant materials?**
  - Yes, CFLs from Lighting Council members are manufactured utilising flame retardant materials throughout all elements including: plastics, electronic circuit board, components and fuse. While regulations in some countries make the use of flame retardant materials mandatory, they are not made mandatory in New Zealand, so Lighting Council member's products are the safest choice.
  
- **Have any CFL light globes cause fires globally?**
  - From our knowledge fires caused by CFLs globally are a result of manufacturers not utilising flame retardant materials. There are no known cases of CFLs produced with flame retardant materials emitting a flame.
  
- **My CFL has looked burnt and black at the base, has it lit on fire or is it at risk of lighting on fire?**
  - No. If the CFL is made of flame retardant materials it is designed to blacken at the base when under risk of overheating. This does not mean that the light globe is at risk of producing a flame/lighting on fire.
  
- **Is overheating a common phenomenon with CFLs?**
  - No. Many hundreds of millions of major brand CFLs were sold worldwide last year and the recorded fire incidents related to these lamps was less than 20.
  
- **Do Lighting Council members regularly test their products to ensure they meet safety standards?**
  - Yes, all members of the Lighting Council undergo stringent and regular testing of their products to ensure they meet the highest local and global safety standards. However, the Lighting Council cannot attest for its non-member companies who may not subscribe to international standards such as those covering the use of flame retardant materials.
  - The Lighting Council strongly encourages the New Zealand Government to consider regulating the use of flame retardant materials within CFLs.
  
- **If my CFL overheats or lights on fire does the mercury within it pose a risk to my health?**
  - No, the small amount of mercury contained within the CFL will not pose a risk to your health unless the globe is broken. If it does break you should follow the standard precautionary procedure for clean-up and disposal?

- **What is the procedure for clean-up and disposal of a CFL?**

- CFL lamps are safe to use in your house. No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use and they pose no danger to you or your family when used properly. However, CFLs are made of glass tubing and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Care should be taken when removing the lamp from its packaging, installing it, or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base, and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by its tubes.

If you break a CFL, please take the following steps:

- Ventilate the room for 20-30 minutes.
- Use gloves to remove all the pieces.
- Do not use a vacuum cleaner.
- Do not throw CFLs away in your household garbage if better disposal options exist.
- If your local waste management agency offers no other disposal options except your household garbage, wrap the CFL in newspaper and place and seal the CFL in a plastic bag before putting it in the trash.

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- **How can I find out if my CFL is made of flame retardant materials?**

- The Lighting Council has provided information regarding safe CFLs to the Fire Service watchdog that is currently investigating this issue. They will be able to provide you with an up to date list. Or please find below the names of Lighting Council members whose products are made of flame retardant materials.

Lamp Brands imported by LCNZ members and constructed using fire retardant – also known as self extinguishing – plastics.

GE  
MEGAMAN  
OSRAM  
PHILIPS  
RADIUM  
SYLVANIA

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