



Use of the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) in New Zealand

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All electrical and electronic product manufacturers, importers, suppliers, retailers, in the New Zealand supply chain are responsible for the safety and radio spectrum compliance of their products.

The Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) is a marking process used in Australia and New Zealand to confirm product compliance with:

- electrical safety regulations
- electromagnetic compatibility
- telecommunications requirements

The RCM is a graphic symbol that represents compliance under two separate schemes:

- Worksafe NZ marking requirements for safety compliance
- MBIE-RSM marking requirements for radio spectrum compliance

Each scheme has its own Supplier Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) form template, both forms are needed for the compliance of lighting products containing electronic components. Usage of RCM marking can be a point of confusion particularly in relation to whether the RCM Mark is mandatory or not in New Zealand.

1) AS/NZS Regulatory Compliance Mark standards

a) *AS/NZS 4417.1:2012 Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) for electrical and electronic equipment - Use of the mark.*

This standard is the overarching RCM use standard, to read in conjunction with relevant New Zealand electricity safety regulations, and radio spectrum management regulations. SNZ website [Here](#)

b) *AS/NZS 4417.2:2020 Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) for electrical and electronic equipment - Particular regulatory applications*

This standard specifies the requirements for the RCM and its placement on electrical and electronic equipment to indicate compliance with particular regulations.

SNZ website [Here](#)

2) Overview of NZ regulators

a) Worksafe NZ - Energy Safety

Worksafe NZ Energy Safety is the government agency responsible for development, administration and enforcement of laws applying to the safe generation, distribution and use of electricity and gas, through the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010.

Worksafe NZ Energy Safety website [Here](#)

b) MBIE-RSM - Radio Spectrum Management

MBIE-Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) is the government agency responsible for managing the radio spectrum for electrical and radio products in NZ through the Radiocommunications Act 1989.

MBIE-RSM website [Here](#)

3) Electrical safety regulation

The voluntary Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) is a mark that can be used on a product that has been shown to meet the regulatory requirements for the legal sale of products under electrical safety legislation in New Zealand and Australia. However, there are some differences between the regulatory requirements between New Zealand and Australia, which require compliance with both regimes prior to the legal use of the RCM in both countries.

Worksafe Energy Safety compliance guide [Here](#)

Use of the RCM on a product for sale in New Zealand requires a company or organisation to be a registered RCM user. A publicly available database of registered users of the RCM is available on the Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council (ERAC) website.

ERAC website [Here](#)

Whilst the RCM is mandatory for safety under the Australian Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) rules, Worksafe NZ does not recognise this for electrical safety in New Zealand.

EESS website [Here](#)

Registration can be actioned via the EESS, the RCM Registrar, on behalf of the New Zealand and Australian Regulators.

EESS website [Here](#)

Declared articles are still required to be approved or covered by a recognised certification, although the marking of the certification number can be replaced by the RCM. Supplier declared articles will be required to be supported by recognised test reports, before the RCM application can be made.

4) Radio spectrum regulation

The technology to transmit and receive radio waves is hampered by 'radio frequency interference' (RFI). There are two main types:

a) Electrical products - Unintentional radiators

All electrical and electronic products generate 'noise' in the radio spectrum. Minimising this noise is known as 'electromagnetic compatibility' (EMC), and International EMC standards define acceptable levels of this form of RFI. EMC from the use of electronic lighting control gear is regulated by MBIE-RSM.

Products supplied in New Zealand are required to meet the requirements of the NZ Radiocommunications (EMC Standards notice) 2004 No.2, and suppliers are required to hold test reports or other documented evidence of conformity to an applicable standard, and such products require marking with the RCM.

b) Radio products - Intentional radiators

Radio transmissions intended for communications have a range of users that need to co-exist within the finite spectrum. National and international standards and licensing prevents RFI that can occur between radio services. Radio transmission from lighting system communication devices used with indoor and outdoor connected wireless control systems is regulated by MBIE-RSM.

In addition to RCM marking, connected wireless lighting products require compliance and marking with the NZ Radio Label ('R-NZ'), the exception being products that meet Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) compliance requirements, in which case RCM marking only is required.



The NZ Radiocommunications (Compliance) Notice 2013 outlines the requirements for each risk level and the minimum information required on the radio spectrum SDoC.

The Radio Spectrum Management Compliance Guide is [Here](#)