

Changes to Australian Regulatory Compliance Labels.

RCM Label

As of the 1 March 2013 the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) replaces the C-Tick and A-Tick marks.

The RCM now indicates compliance with all applicable telecommunications, radiocommunications, EMC and EME technical standards.

Suppliers of products previously labelled with the C-Tick or A-Tick are able to supply products with these labels until 1 March 2016. After this date the RCM label must be used.



Supplier Identification

The Supplier Code Number (SCN) previously issued by the ACMA is no longer applicable to products labelled with the RCM.

Suppliers may include their own supplier identification on devices if desired.

Labelling Notices

The following Labelling Notices have been amended to include the changes

- Radiocommunications Devices (Compliance Labelling) Notice 2003
- Radiocommunications Labelling (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Notice 2008
- Radiocommunications Labelling (Electromagnetic Radiation) Notice 2003
- Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Notice 2001.

Application of Label

As with the previous regulations, the RCM may not be applied to products until they have been proven to be compliant with all applicable technical standards and the associated Compliance Folder and Declarations, including all relevant documentation, have been established.

Supplier Database

All suppliers of products labelled with the RCM must first register on a national database. A supplier is either the Australian manufacturer or the Australian importer of the product.

Australian Agent

Where an Australian agent is engaged by an overseas manufacturer to ensure compliance obligations are met, an Agreement must be in place between the Australian agent and each Australian importer. Each importer must be registered on the supplier database.

Electrical Safety

The RCM label will also be used under a new Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) currently being introduced by electrical equipment safety regulators. The EESS does not apply to devices which fall within the scope of the ACMA regulations.

Impact of Regulatory Compliance Marks changes on Overseas Manufacturers Exporting to Australia and New Zealand and using Agent Services.

Regulatory Arrangements

The new RCM labelling arrangements do not change the existing compliance requirements for electronic and electrical equipment supplied in Australia and New Zealand.

Devices must still be tested to applicable standards, compliance folders must still be set up and maintained and a Declaration of Conformity must still be signed by the Supplier.

The main changes relate to the use of a single compliance label for ACMA regulations and electrical safety and the set-up of a national database of suppliers.

Label

The RCM Label replaces the C-Tick and A-Tick marks which are required to be placed on electronic equipment supplied to the Australian and New Zealand markets and manufactured after 1 March 2013.

However existing suppliers who supplied product to the Australian or New Zealand market before 29 February 2013 can continue to supply products marked with the C-Tick or A-Tick until 1 March 2016.

The RCM label shall appear on the equipment label and the manufacturer's name or brand can also appear on the label at the manufacturers option.

Supplier Database

A database has been established to register all suppliers of electronic and electrical equipment in Australian and New Zealand and their Agents.

A supplier must be registered on the database by the Agent prior to selling devices marked with the RCM label.

Manufacturer

The overseas manufacturer shall only apply the RCM label when authorised in writing by the importer or agent.

The manufacturer shall inform the agent whenever there is a new customer in Australia and New Zealand to whom devices will be shipped so that the database can be updated (see above).

As with the previous regulations the manufacturer shall provide the agent with test reports, product descriptions and information on change of design or manufacture.

Importer or Agent

The importer or their agent (subsequent to appointment in writing) shall set up a Compliance Folder. The requirements for a Compliance Folder are unchanged.

All importers of the device and their Agent are to be registered on the supplier database.

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