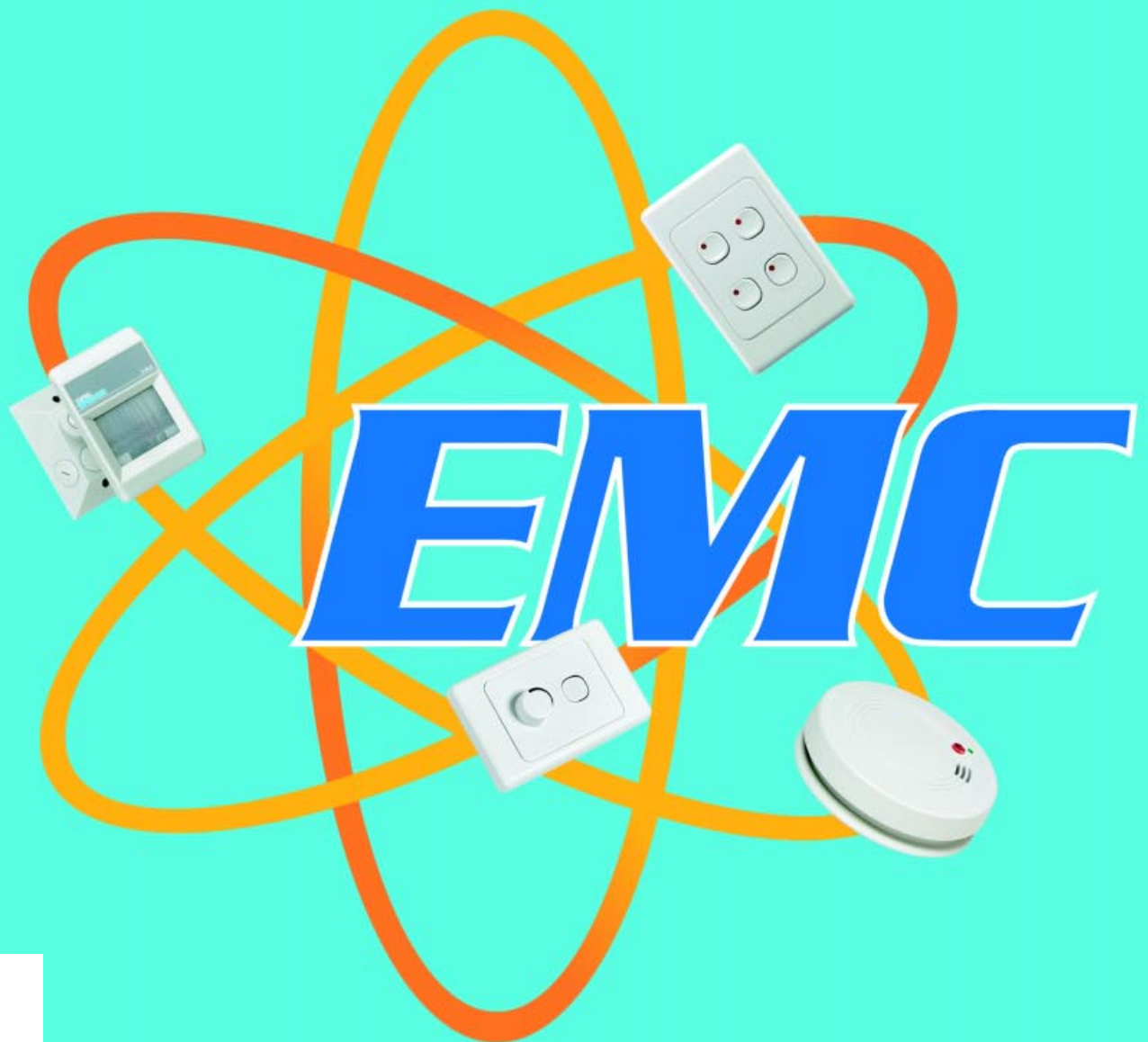


What's all the noise about?



PROVIDER

A Guide to the new EMC Regulations

1. Why are these new regulations being introduced?

Today's high tech environment with its many complex electronic systems can lead to compatibility problems, especially when these systems are in close proximity to each other.

Typical examples of this are laptop computers interfering with aircraft electronics and video displays fluctuating in the presence of fluorescent lamps.

To address this growing problem, the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) has introduced the Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) framework, which includes standard permissible emission levels for all commercial, residential and light industrial equipment.

Compliance with the EMC Standards, through controlled design and testing, will ensure that the potential for interference between appliances is minimised.

2. When did these regulations come into effect?

The new EMC regulations came into effect for all products (new and existing) on the 1st of January, 1999. Manufacturers and importers must not supply non-compliant electrical and electronic equipment such as dimmers, motion detectors and electronic timers from this date.

Wholesalers and retailers, however, have no time constraints on selling non-compliant products purchased prior to January 1, 1999.

3. What types of compliance marks are there?

Two Australian compliance marks may be used:



This compliance mark, referred to as the C-Tick, visibly indicates compliance to the EMC Regulations.



This compliance mark, referred to as the RCM mark, indicates compliance with both the relevant Electrical Safety and the EMC Regulations.

The European compliance mark:



The CE mark indicates compliance with European directives, however this alone is not a substitute for C-Tick or RCM marks. The CE and RCM or C-Tick marks may appear together on a product if it is sold into both Australian and European markets.

4. Where will these compliance marks be shown?

The Australian legislation covers products with radio frequency emissions in the range 9KHz to 400GHz, which must be labelled as per the EMC framework.

The EMC compliance marks are a visible symbol of compliance, and should appear on the product itself. In addition, the manufacturer or importer should be able to produce a Declaration of Conformity upon request to verify the equipment has been tested and complies with the relevant standards.

As well as product labelling, Gerard Industries is undertaking a programme of including compliance marks on operating instructions and external packaging. This will provide greater convenience for electrical contractors and installers.



5. Who is the responsible agency?

The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) is a national body that has introduced the legislation and is independent of manufacturers and importers of electrical equipment.

6. Are there any exclusions to the framework?

The following electrical and electronic equipment is excluded from the EMC framework requirements and is therefore exempt from compliance marking:

- Commercial, residential and light industry: This covers the supply of a wide range of finished electrical and electronic products such as white goods, brown goods, office equipment and consumer electronics. (This environment is further defined in Generic Emission Standard AS/NZS 4251).
- Installation/maintenance: This extends the coverage from finished products to installations and systems. It will include systems such as computer networks, lighting systems and wiring and cabling of buildings, fixed fittings in retail outlets, business premises, workshops, laboratories and service centres. Where necessary it will also deal with maintenance of equipment and systems.
- Automotive: This deals with the supply of vehicles and other transport equipment.
- Heavy Industry: Power transmission and large scale manufacturing plants.

Gerard Industries product replacement and deletion programme

Gerard Industries Pty Ltd has identified all products which are affected and has either deleted these or replaced them with equivalent products, to meet the EMC Regulations.

Some examples of products which have been replaced, together with equivalent units that may be used are indicated below. For a comprehensive list of products to be deleted or replaced, please contact your local Clipsal Office.

Unit to be deleted	Equivalent or replacement unit, EMC Compliant
Cat No. 2032V500 500VA, 250V dimmer, incandescent	Cat No. 2032E400 400VA, 250V dimmer, incandescent
Cat No. 31V1000LV 1000VA, 250V dimmer, low voltage	Cat No. 31V500LV 500VA, 250V dimmer, low voltage

In many instances the replacement unit had to be de-rated to meet the compliance requirements.

Look out for details of new Clipsal EMC Compliant products in upcoming New Products Bulletins and product brochures.

Replacement units and spare stocks

The legislation permits the manufacture and supply of non-compliant products as spare parts, if its intended use is to replace a faulty or failed product currently in the field. It is the intention of Gerard Industries to support this, as long as:

- We are in a position to manufacture the product. However, when component stocks run out we will cease manufacture.
- There is no equivalent replacement unit that meets the EMC Regulations.

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