

ACCC CONSUMER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR FAULTY ELECTRICAL CABLING

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) today launched a national awareness campaign directed at consumers who may have Infinity or Olsent electrical cabling in their homes.

In July last year, HIA issued a Member Alert providing information on defective electrical cables imported into Australia under the 'Infinity' and 'Olsent' brands. The Member Alert referred to homes and other building projects constructed or renovated after May 2010 where the defective imported cabling may have been installed.

The ACCC today launched a national awareness campaign for the Infinity and Olsent-branded cable recall. The campaign is targeted at consumers across Australia, with an '**act now before it's too late – get your cable checked**' message, through radio, online and YouTube coverage.

The problem with the Infinity and Olsent-branded Infinity cables is that they failed to meet electrical safety standards due to poor quality insulation (plastic coating). Testing found the insulation on the 'TPS' and 'orange round' range of cables can become brittle prematurely, which may present a safety hazard if the cables are disturbed and the insulation breaks. Cables exposed to prolonged high temperatures will degrade at a faster rate.

Once the insulation is brittle, physical contact with the cables could dislodge the insulation and lead to electric shock or possibly fires.

The ACCC campaign highlights the potential risk of fire, and advises that up to 40,000 residential and business properties across Australia may be affected. It recommends that consumers who have purchased a new home or had building renovations or electrical work carried out (including any new appliance installations) – between 2010 and 2013 - contact an electrician to check their wiring.

The ACCC's campaign website is www.accc.gov.au/checkyourcable

It is recommended that members who have not already done so, take action to determine whether the non-complying cabling was used on their projects, built between 2010 and 2013.

If cabling was, or may have been installed in any projects, members should contact HIA's Workplace Services and Building Services staff for more information on 1300 650 620.



MEMBER ALERT