

How to avoid marketing of unsafe electrical products

GUIDELINES

Baltic Sea Network
Product Safety

CARRY OUT A SAFETY CHECK

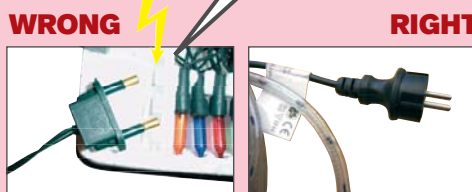
Do not expose your customers to life threatening hazards. Use our guidelines below to inspect electrical products before you buy and sell them. By doing so, you will help to avoid accidents and fires. Ask the manufacturer for the declaration of conformity, if required in the relevant directive for the product. E.g. for products covered by the Low Voltage Directive (LVD) a declaration of conformity is required.

Is the product marked correctly with the manufacturers name or trademark, type reference and CE-mark?



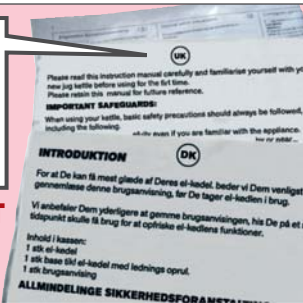
RIGHT

Does the product have cables and cords, which are thinner than a matchstick?

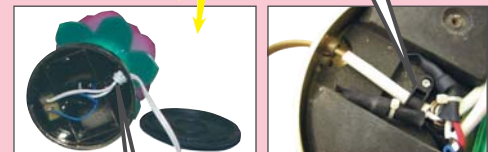


Is there a user's manual in the language of the country where the product is sold?

RIGHT



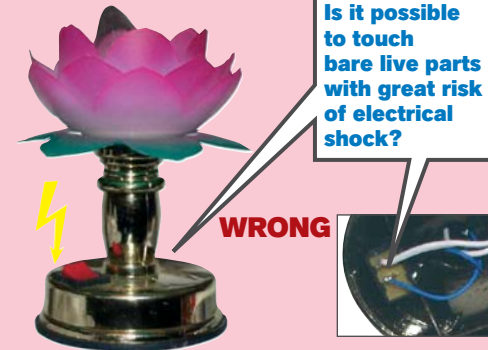
Are cables or cords mounted correctly and well secured, so that they cannot be pulled out of the product?



WRONG

RIGHT

Do cables and cords pass sharp edges on or inside the product? If so, there is a high risk of electrical shock due to damage to the insulation and risk of live parts touching accessible conducting parts.



WRONG

Is it possible to touch bare live parts with great risk of electrical shock?



CONSEQUENCES WHEN PLACING AN UNSAFE PRODUCT ON THE MARKET:

If you place an unsafe product on the market the national authority can issue a sales ban. If the product poses a life threatening risk, e.g. if live parts are accessible, the authority will demand a withdrawal from consumers and may issue a prohibition of use to the consumer. A withdrawal from consumers often has to be effected through advertisements in several nationwide newspapers or on TV.

As a seller of an unsafe product, you are responsible and you have to pay all expenses, including laboratory tests, handling fees and ads in newspapers or on TV. You can avoid all these problems and expenses by only placing safe products on the market. Therefore, carry out a safety check before you put products on the market.

ANGEROUS PRODUCTS FOUND IN THE MARKET AND USEFUL LINKS

Every Friday, the European Commission publishes a weekly overview of the dangerous products reported by the national authorities (RAPEX notifications).



RAPEX is the EU rapid alert system for all dangerous consumer products. It ensures rapid exchange of information between Member States and the Commission on measures taken to prevent or restrict the marketing or use of products posing a serious risk to the health and safety of consumers. Both measures ordered by national authorities and measures taken voluntarily by producers and distributors are covered by RAPEX.

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_pl.htm
– the EC consumer affairs website (in English)
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/>
<http://www.newapproach.org/>
– the Nando (New Approach Notified and Designated Organisations) Information System

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