



Message from Southwark Trading Standards illegal electrical products Are you selling unsafe chargers?

1. Introduction

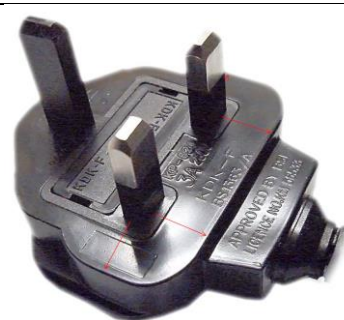
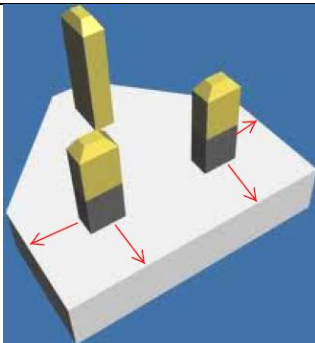
Unsafe chargers for mobile devices have the potential to kill or injure and they must comply with the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016. Counterfeit products are big problem. If you supply an unsafe item you could be held liable for any deaths or injuries. You could also be prosecuted for dealing in unsafe or counterfeit goods.

This leaflet outlines how you can carry out your own checks for some obvious failure points so that you can avoid breaking the law and having stock seized.

2. Pin distances from edge of plug face

Cheap inferior chargers can often be identified by looking at the distance between the pins of the plug and the outside edge of the plug body. This should be a minimum of 9.5mm to help prevent the fingers touching the pins when the plug is put into, or taken out of, a socket. 9.5mm is about the width of a ballpoint pen. The pictures below illustrate this.

The distance from the 2 lower pins to plug edge should be at least 9.5mm as shown below



This charger does not comply - the pins are too close to the plug edge. It should not be on sale

This is the same charger after it exploded in two when plugged in



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3. Instructions and warnings

Sufficient information must be provided to ensure chargers can be used safely. As a minimum, user instructions in English should provide information on conditions and limitations of use, how to operate the charger safely, basic electrical safety guidance and details of safe dispose methods.

4. All equipment must be marked by the manufacturer with the following

- A UK compliance assessment mark - ^{UK}CA or a CE mark, or both. Manufacturers must confirm that the equipment conforms to safety regulations by marking the equipment, packing or instructions with one of these marks. Unfortunately the mark is no guarantee as it is often misused but do not stock any electrical equipment without the mark
- A type, batch or serial number or other element allowing identification of the equipment*
- The name, registered trade name or registered trade mark of the manufacturer and a single postal address at which the manufacturer can be contacted *

If there is no way of tracing who made or supplied the product then it must not be on sale.

5. All equipment must be marked by an importer into the UK or EU with:

- the name, registered trade name or registered trade mark of the importer and a postal address at which the importer can be contacted *

** If it is not possible to indicate this information on the electrical equipment, the manufacturer or importer must indicate that information on the packaging or in a document accompanying the electrical equipment.*

6. Switch off a wall socket and plug it in

Turn off a wall socket outlet and then try plugging the charger in. If the charger does not easily plug into a socket, the pins may be the wrong size or length, or the distance between the pins may be wrong. If pins do not fit properly into the socket overheating, arcing and mechanical damage can occur to both the socket and the charger. This can be dangerous.

7. Traceability – your duty to keep records

All persons in the supply chain, including retailers, must be able to provide details of who supplied them with electrical equipment. This information must be kept available to the enforcement authorities for 10 years from when the equipment was supplied. If you sell equipment to other distributors you must keep records of that too.

8. What should I do if I find my stock is not correct?

Stop selling it, return it to your supplier or contact trading standards. If you require further assistance on these requirements, or would like additional information leaflets, please contact us at the address given or visit www.southwark.gov.uk/tradingstandards

For free business advice on what you can and cannot sell contact Trading Standards or visit [Business companion website](#)