

BEWARE of these UNSAFE products

- There are more than 3000 electrical fires annually in South Africa and there are many more with unknown causes that could be electrical. Cases of electrocution are not widely publicized.
- The products illustrated below and purchased locally are a tiny sample of many sub-standard, unsafe electrical products being distributed in South Africa on a large scale.
- The problem also extends to safety devices such as circuit breakers and earth-leakage units that do not perform their function and endanger lives and property.
- Such products do not comply with compulsory standards and are illegal. Distributing such products is a criminal act, yet unscrupulous suppliers are able to distribute them with apparent impunity.

- Non-compliance is difficult to assess and unsuspecting users are using unsafe products in their homes and in commercial and industrial buildings.
- Sub-standard products are sometimes distributed under different brand names and in packaging that obscures their identity. **A common response to exposure of unsafe brands is to rebrand the product and/or to change its packaging.**
- **Documents produced as authorisation to distribute products are not always reliable proof that the version of the product currently in circulation complies with regulations.**

Except for the SAFY SF-A007 adaptor which has visual non-compliances, the SAFEhouse Association has had the electrical products depicted below tested by an accredited laboratory. They have been found to be non-compliant with SA regulations and are unsafe.

PRODUCT: 10M LAMP HOLDER			REDISSON LAMP HOLDER
NON COMPLIANCE	RISK	POSSIBLE OUTCOME	
1 SANS 1411 – Cable conductor resistance - Fail	Conductor resistance higher than the maximum specified – increases resistive losses in cable.	Overheating and fire hazard. The conductor material used is illegal and dangerous.	
PRODUCT: 2 WAY CORD EXTENSION SET 10A – 5m			SAFY CORD EXTENSION SET
NON COMPLIANCE	RISK	POSSIBLE OUTCOME	
2 SANS 1661: Ref SANS 60277-5: Cl 5.1.1: Conductor resistance – Fail	Conductor resistance higher than the maximum specified – increases resistive losses in cable.	Overheating and fire hazard. The conductor material used is illegal and dangerous.	
PRODUCT: PLUG-IN ADAPTOR TYPE SF-A007			SAFY PLUG-IN ADAPTOR
NON COMPLIANCE	RISK	POSSIBLE OUTCOME	
1 SANS 164-2 Well characteristics - Fail	Risk of live pins exposed on entry.	Risk of electric shock without any earth leakage protection. This product is dangerous and has been banned for many years now.	
2 SANS 164-2 Single pin insertion – Fail	Access to live contact with foreign metallic object.	Risk of electric shock – especially to children.	

WE URGENTLY APPEAL TO:

- All re-sellers concerned to recall the products from the market, including from users that may be using the products in homes and other buildings.
- The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) to institute the action required in terms of its mandate to protect users.
- The National Consumer Commission to institute the action required in terms of its mandate to protect consumers who may be potential victims.

SAFEhouse has identified a retailer for the REDISSON product, an “AFRICA CASH & CARRY” outlet in the Gauteng area, with whom SAFEhouse has had a meeting but who have not responded to our communications and there is no indication that the products have been recalled from the market, as they ought to be. The product appears to have not been withdrawn from the Africa Cash & Carry store in Crown Mines. It is also known to be available at other re-sellers.

SAFEhouse has attempted to make contact with the importer of the REDISSON products but has had no response to the approach.

SAFEhouse has identified retailers in the Gauteng area, “CRAZY PLASTICS”, for the “SAFY” brand of products above.

In August 2015 the apparent owner of the Crazy Plastics brand was advised of these findings, but Crazy Plastics outlets were still offering the product for sale a year later. Neither the brand owner nor the outlets concerned responded to our communications. At least one of the products depicted above was still being offered for sale at Crazy Plastics, Alberton. There is no indication that the products have been recalled from the market, as they ought to be.

SAFEhouse has reported its findings to the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications and lodged a complaint with the National Consumer Commission.

In our view, these products are dangerous and should be withdrawn from the market. Sold products should be recalled as users are at risk.

SAFEhouse appeals to the importer, distributor and retailer of the products to make contact at the email address or telephone number below.

SAFEhouse cautions distributors, retail chains, hardware stores, electrical contractors and end-users.

The South African SAFEhouse Association is an independent, registered, non-profit organization established by the electrical industry and committed to communicating with customers.

The South African SAFEhouse Association has been established to combat the proliferation of dangerous electrical products and services by:

- Making the market aware of the risks in using such products and services
- Exposing sub-standard products and services
- Persuading specifiers, suppliers and distribution channels not to recommend or to offer such products and services for sale

For more information contact:

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