

Some **FACTS** about plugs and sockets.



✓ ✓
Legal and Safe

The South African SANS164-2 standard allows the introduction of both the 3 pin and 2 pin plug. Here the 'Europlug' (EN 50075) that has also been adopted by the country as SANS 164-5, is shown being plugged into a standard socket. These configurations are both safe and legally used in SA.



✓ ✗
Legal but Unsafe

In this case the 'unearthed' socket, legal in SA and compliant to SANS 164-6, allows the entry of an 'earthed' Schuko plug because of the poor design of the protruding plastic rim at the top of the socket. The consequence of this, may lead to electric shocks as the appliance at the end of the plug requires the protective earth as its safety measure and the installation Earth Leakage Protection may not pick up the internal fault due to the lack of earthing.



✗ ✓
Illegal but Safe

These are examples of the Schuko system (DIN49441) where both the plug and the socket-outlet are earthed. The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications has banned this configuration for sale or installation in SA in VC8008, for over 30 years. The system is perfectly safe when used correctly, in those countries that allow it.



✗ ✗
Illegal and Unsafe

The adaptor shown has been banned since around 2005. The 'open' two pin sockets are now enclosed in a 12mm deep trapezoidal well. The situation where an earthed Schuko plug can be plugged into this type of 'open' faced 2 pin socket is not only illegal but also dangerous due to the lack of earth connection to the appliance. This raises the risk of electric shock and lack of earth protection for a possible failure of the appliance, which without it, can cause a fire.

SAFEhouse members have signed a code of conduct: Your assurance of commitment to offer only safe electrical products and services.

SAFEhouse membership is suppliers' assurance to customers of responsible behaviour and of customers' safety as a priority. SAFEhouse members regulate themselves. SAFEhouse is primarily a communications association that informs users of safety requirements and occurrences of non-compliance with such requirements.



The SAFEhouse Association is a non-profit, industry organisation committed to the fight against sub-standard, unsafe electrical products and services.

For more information contact:

Connie Jonker: Tel: 011 396 8251
Email: connie.jonker@safehousesa.co.za

www.safehousesa.co.za

