

# Choosing Remote Mount LED Drivers

In February this year Worksafe New Zealand reclassified remote mount LED drivers for recessed luminaires as safety critical or "high risk" articles. This aligns New Zealand regulations with Australia where this classification has been in place for many years.

It can be difficult for buyers and contractors to keep abreast of the key regulatory and practical requirements. LCNZ provides updated guidelines and information below to assist:

## NZ SUPPLIER MANDATORY OBLIGATIONS

With the reclassification to high risk articles there are now stringent mandatory obligations for manufacturers and importers of remote mount LED drivers, covering:

- Product and Installation Safety – electrical and thermal
- Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) – radio and ICT interference

The Australian and NZ Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) is the product label that is now mandatory on all remote mount LED drivers offered to the NZ (and Australian) market.



Without this mark the product is non-compliant in both Australia and New Zealand

## AS/NZS REMOTE MOUNT LED DRIVER STANDARD

LCNZ has been working on AS/NZS standards committees to update technical standards for today's market.

The current remote mount LED drivers standard, published in 2016, AS/NZS61347.1:2016 Lamp Controlgear Part 1: General and safety requirements is a modified version of IEC 61347-1:2015,

adapted for AU and NZ applicability. The current standard does not include remote mount LED drivers intended to be abutted or covered by thermal insulation, but an amendment (AS/NZS61347.1:2016 Amendment No. 1) will soon be forthcoming to accommodate this requirement, including updated classifications, test methods and product markings.

Amendment No. 1 will provide a classification system and test procedure for insulation cover remote mount LED drivers and will clarify the current uncertainties and misinformation on installation principles and compliance.

## THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The licenced electrician is the responsible party that must sign the CoC that all mandatory regulatory obligations have been met. Installers need to ensure that their remote mount LED driver supplier has strong compliance competencies. Such suppliers will only provide remote mount LED drivers labelled with the above RCM mark.

## MEETING COMPLIANCE – WHAT TO DO?

- Always work with trusted brands and suppliers of substance
- Always seek supplier-matched recessed luminaires and remote mount LED drivers
- Always check, and insist on the product RCM compliance mark

LCNZ is the industry association for lighting manufacturing and importing companies in New Zealand.

[www.lightingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.lightingcouncil.org.nz)

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