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Statement on Health Issues with regard to the use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps

There are a number of concerns being expressed about the safety of CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lamps) if accidentally broken. In the event of accidental breakage it is recommended that instructions given on the Ministry of the Environment website are followed for safe disposal. See:-

[The safe use and disposal of household lamps](#)

Any release of mercury under these circumstances is of levels well below those widely regarded as a health hazard.

The guides referred to for the above include advisories from NEWMOA, the USEPA and the World Health Organisation. We are therefore confident that based on literature available at present, the operation of, or even the very occasional breakage of, a CFL will not expose the user to undue levels of mercury provided sensible precautions are taken with its disposal.

The LCNZ membership accounts for approximately 80% of the CFLs imported into New Zealand. We are therefore confident that the majority of CFLs entering the country are manufactured to specifications widely accepted as in accordance with good international practice in all respects including the maximum mercury content. They would also be RoHS compliant, or of similar quality if imported from the US.

It is widely believed that the use of CFLs will be compulsory from next year – this is incorrect. According to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, planned Minimum Energy Performance Standards are intended to just phase the least efficient lighting products off the market (including the least efficient CFLs) not prescribe what sort of light bulbs people should use. CFLs are one lighting option but not the only lighting option. We refer you to the LCNZ & Energywise CFL Information Sheets found elsewhere on this website.

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