

Product Compliance and Safety Management System (PCSMS)

The Product Compliance and Safety Management System is a new approach to managing compliance and product safety within organisations. It has been initiated by StanCert and developed in collaboration with Standards Australia and the Australian International Design Awards. The System aims to address safety concerns at every point in a product's design, development, sale and use.

It outlines the principles and framework to help organisations assess and manage the possible dangers or risks that can be built into a product at any point in the supply chain - from design to distribution.

The System can be incorporated into existing management systems to:

- help suppliers assess and manage consumer product hazards and risks throughout the product lifecycle - from the design, manufacture and distribution to the end-use and disposal;
- assist manufacturers to manage these risks and provide consumers with the information they need to use and dispose of products safely;
- allow problems to be corrected at any point in the design, production or distribution chain; and
- place greater emphasis on safety during design and manufacture, reducing the possibility of injuries, legal cases, customer dissatisfaction and regulatory issues.

The System covers the following:

- The suitability of the design of the product for both the intended user and the intended environment.
- Research and development processes.
- Product information for consumers.
- Quality assurance.
- Testing of prototypes throughout a product's development and final production.
- Consumer feedback.
- Product recall.
- Product traceability to limit the impact and facilitate recalls.
- Integrated systems.
- Control within the supply chain.

Manufacturers, retailers and importers have a clear responsibility for ensuring the compliance and safety of the products they endorse. They are all concerned with protecting the reputation of their products and services in the marketplace. By these three sectors incorporating this new System into their safety management systems, consumers will have greater confidence in the products they buy and use.