

INSULATED PINS ON 3 PIN PLUG TOPS



It appears that there was a fundamental design flaw when the pins on 3 pin plug tops were narrowed to allow for insulating medium to be installed to provide protection against inadvertent contact.

In some circumstances, this caused the pins to snap off at the plug top, and in some instances, the pin remained in the socket outlet.

Standards Australia has amended the applicable test requirements for plug tops, but the issue still remains.

There is no way of identifying the plug tops with potential problems, against those that have been manufactured to the amended test regime.

This is a reminder that we must be ever vigilant and inspect all electrical equipment prior to use and assess whether there may be anything located in the socket opening.

Where it is established that easy extraction of pins is not possible, the socket outlet should be replaced.