

DIY warning signs

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Who needs to display a DIY warning sign?

From 1 July 2011, people conducting a business or selling particular electrical equipment to the public whether as a retailer or wholesaler must not sell such an item unless a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) warning sign is displayed for the item.

This requirement applies to face-to-face as well as online selling, but generally does not apply to garage sales, jumble sales, fêtes - unless a person sells at these events as part of a business or undertaking.

For the purpose of this requirement, *sell* is defined under section 95 of the [Electrical Safety Regulation 2002 \(PDF File, 1.02MB\)](#) and includes:

- sell by wholesale, retail or auction
- supply in trade or commerce or under an arrangement
- agree, attempt or offer to sell
- keep or expose for sale
- cause or permit to be sold.

It should be noted that although the signage requirement refers to a single sign (a DIY warning sign is displayed for the item), more than one sign may be required depending on

- which of the two types of signs is chosen,
- the display method
- the number of items displayed (to which the signage requirement applies)
- the layout of the store.

Failure to display a sign attracts a maximum penalty of 40 penalty units for individuals or 200 penalty units for corporations.

What items do the DIY warning sign requirements apply to?

The signage requirement applies to particular electrical equipment. Particular electrical equipment means electrical equipment and the installation, testing, maintenance, repair, alteration, removal, or replacement of which is electrical work under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*, which must be performed by a licensed electrical contractor or licensed electrical worker.

Examples of particular electrical equipment include—

- fixed-wired electrical equipment,
 - air conditioners
 - stoves
 - ovens
 - electric hot water systems
 - ceiling fans
 - light fittings

- electrical accessories,
 - socket outlets
 - light switches
 - electrical cable
 - wall switches
 - plugs
 - cord extension sockets
- electrical parts
 - electrical motors
 - switches
 - solenoids
 - elements.

The above examples are not exclusive and some manufactured versions of the examples provided may not be subject to the definition. For example, many light fittings require electrical installation to operate, but there are some DIY fittings available that simply connect into an existing batten holder.

See section 18 of the [Electrical Safety Act 2002 \(PDF File, 886KB\)](#) for the meaning of 'electrical work'.

What is a DIY warning sign?

A DIY warning sign means a sign which:

- contains a symbol in the form of a red circle and a red diagonal line over the letters 'DIY' in black letters
- contains the following words in uppercase black letters
 - 'ALL ELECTRICAL WORK MUST BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN' (for a sign displayed to apply to, and in close proximity to the point of display of, multiple items of particular electrical equipment)
 - 'MUST BE INSTALLED BY A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN' (for a sign displayed to apply to an individual item of particular electrical equipment)
- has a white background
- is unambiguous and clearly legible.

The requirement for a sign to be 'unambiguous and clearly legible' is to ensure that in the absence of a minimum size requirement, a sign (whatever size is chosen) is printed and displayed in such a way it may at all times be clearly seen and read by any person in the area where the particular electrical equipment (to which the sign applies) is displayed for sale.

How does a DIY warning sign need to be displayed?

As there are a large variety of environments in which particular electrical equipment may be sold, the DIY warning sign requirements have been drafted to provide five display options. A DIY warning sign is displayed for an item of particular electrical equipment if the sign is displayed:

- (a) in close proximity to the point of display of the item
- (b) as part of the price tag of the item
- (c) on a label attached to the packaging of the item
- (d) as part of the packaging of the item
- (e) on a label attached to the item.

Display option (a) does not limit the application of the DIY warning sign to just one item, so a sign may apply to a number of items of particular electrical equipment in the vicinity of the sign, so long as the sign is unambiguous and clearly legible in relation to the item. For example, one A4 sized DIY warning sign, located in a location where a range of different items are displayed for sale, would meet the signage requirements for the particular electrical equipment in the vicinity. However, particular electrical equipment located in an area from where the original sign is not clearly legible, would not be covered by the original sign, and another DIY warning sign would be necessary in order to comply with the requirements.

In relation to display method (a), the 'point of display' for an item means:

- for an item displayed in a shop, warehouse or other physical space — the place where the item is displayed in the shop, warehouse or other physical space
- for an item displayed in an online shop — the place where the item is displayed on the online shop's website.

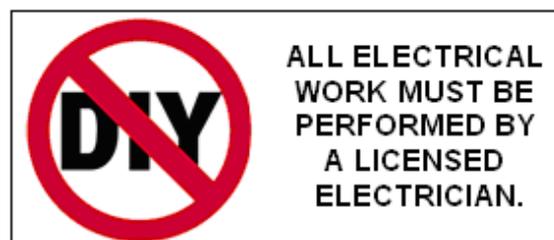
For an online shop, a sign should be displayed on the online shop's website at the place where a customer may initiate a transaction to purchase a specific item. For example, for an item to be sold through a third party online auction site, the person to whom the DIY warning sign obligation applies needs to display a DIY warning sign on a page that provides specific details for the item and where an option to purchase or bid is provided.

Display options (b) through (e) are relative to just one item, where the DIY warning sign may be incorporated into the price tag or packaging for an item or attached as a label to the packaging of the item or to the item itself. Should one of these display options be chosen, care must be taken to ensure the sign remains unambiguous and clearly legible.

Example DIY warning signs

Please note that the sizes of these example signs are only suggestive. The size of actual signs will vary according to a number of factors including the environment in which particular electrical equipment is displayed for sale.

Examples of DIY warning signs which may be positioned at the point of display for an item of particular electrical equipment—



Examples of DIY warning signs which may be attached to, or depicted on, the packaging, price tag, or label for an item of particular electrical equipment—



DIY warning sign templates

Templates in various sizes have been prepared to assist obligation holders comply with the DIY warning sign requirements. These files are available for download below; however, their use is not mandatory and compliance can be achieved by the means most suited to specific retail environments.

Template of the Don't DIY symbol—



Templates of DIY warning signs which may be positioned at the point of display for an item of particular electrical equipment—



Templates of DIY warning signs which may be attached to, or depicted on, the packaging, price tag, or label for an item of particular electrical equipment—



Where can I get more information?

Further specific information on these amendments may be found in the [Electrical Safety and Other Regulation Amendment and Repeal Regulation \(No.1\) 2010 \(PDF File, 193KB\)](#) and in the [Explanatory Notes \(PDF File, 184KB\)](#).