



THE ELECTRICAL CONFORMANCE BOARD

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As requested I include the new requirement in respect of socket outlets (plugs)

SOCKET OUTLETS. Often referred to as PLUGS.

The ECB as a service to everyone wishes to draw the following to your attention.

South Africa has a new socket outlet which must be installed in respect of all **NEW** electrical installations as from 1st January 2018. This is a **“MANDATORY REQUIREMENT”**.

This socket has been introduced for safety reasons. Imagine no more adaptors as this new socket accepts all the new “euro” two pin type sockets being fitted to many new kitchen appliances, cell phone chargers and many other devices. It also saves on raw materials, so you will be going “Green”. A switch is optional and deemed safer without one, most appliances are fitted with their own switch anyway.

AN EXTRACT FROM SECTION 6.15.1.1.1 (C) OF THE SABS CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WIRING OF PREMISES SAYS THE FOLLOWING

c) effective from January 2018 ***all socket-outlet points*** for ***new electrical installations*** shall include at least ***one socket-outlet complying with the dimensions of SANS 164-2*** Socket-outlet points may ***also include socket-outlets*** complying with the dimensions of SANS 164-1.

Therefore every socket outlet ***shall be the new type***, but for the immediate future, they may include the old type, ***provided that it is included in the same box / cover and frame.***

The old type is not recommended and they may not be installed independently of the new type. Refer to the photographs.

IN RESPECT OF EXISTING INSTALLATIONS, THE FOLLOWING APPLIES.

“If an existing installation ***is extended or altered, such ***extension or alteration shall comply with the provisions of this part of SANS 10142-1 that were applicable at the time of the erection of the extension or alteration.***”***

Therefore only the ***EXTENDED*** section of an existing installation, or if a ***NEW SOCKET CIRCUIT*** is added to an existing installation shall be fitted with the ***new type socket***.

Therefore existing installations to be sold ***need not be changed*** to conform to the new requirement.

Be aware that some combinations of new / old sockets are fitted with ***1 switch which only switches off the old socket***. This could prove dangerous because the user may believe that all the sockets are dead when switching off that one switch, which may not be true. Choose sockets therefore either with no switches or sufficient switches to switch off each socket.

NEW 164/2 SOCKETS WITH OR WITHOUT SWITCHES.

Many configurations can be accommodated.

2 X SOCKETS IN 2x4 FLUSH BOX



THESE FIXED MULTI SOCKETS DO AWAY WITH DANGEROUS MULTI ADAPTORS.
UN-SWITCHED SOCKETS ARE GENERALLY SAFER THAN SWITCHED SOCKETS.



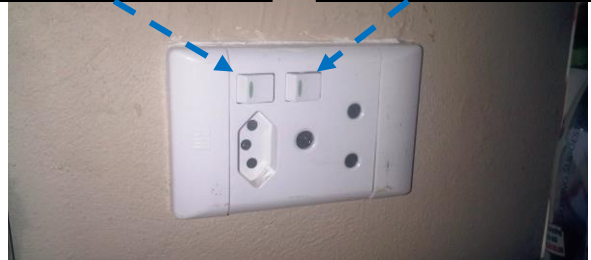
4x164-2 sockets with 3 pin and 2 pin plugs accommodated in the new socket. Up to 6 are possible in one box.
Note no switches.

THESE 164-1 3 PIN SOCKETS ARE NO LONGER PERMITTED TO BE MOUNTED INDEPENDENTLY IN ANY NEW ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION.

DOUBLE SOCKET
1 x 164-2 Switched

+

DOUBLE SOCKET
1 x 164-1 Switched



This shows a combined flush mounted double socket consisting of 1x164-2 and 1x164-1 which is a permitted option as are the switches.

It is the intention to do away with the old 164-1 in due course.

164-1 3 PIN DOUBLE SOCKET IS. NO LONGER PERMITTED IN NEW INSTALLATIONS ON THEIR OWN



164-1 SINGLE SWITCHED SOCKET IN 2X4 FLUSH BOX, NO LONGER PERMITTED ON THEIR OWN.

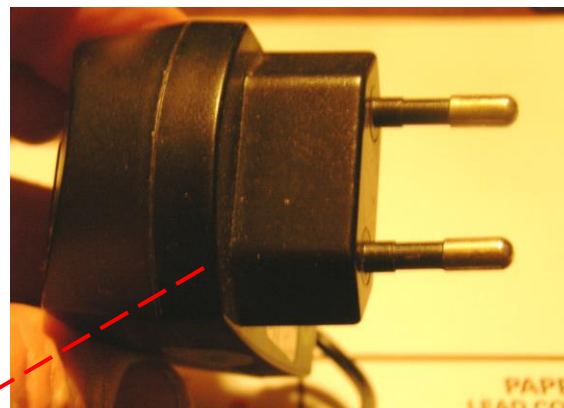
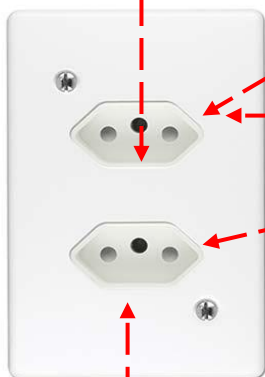


2 PIN 164-2 EURO APPLIANCE PLUG.
FITS 3 PIN 164-2 SA SOCKET (SAFRI SOCKET)

BATTERY CHARGER FITS 164-2.
2 PIN EURO PLUG.
FITS 3 PIN 164-2 SA SOCKET
(SAFRI SOCKET)



164-2. 3 PIN UNSWITCHED
SA SOCKET (SAFRI SOCKET)



NEW 164-2, 3 PIN SA PLUG TOP
(SAFRI PLUG)



STANDARD 164-2 PLUG TOP
WHICH CAN BE
RE-WIRED 3 PIN (EARTH PIN)
PLUG,
FITS 3 PIN 164-2 SA SOCKET
(SAFRI SOCKET)



164-2. 2 PIN EURO PLUG, CELL
CHARGERS APPLIANCES ETC
FITS 3 PIN 164-2 SA SOCKET
(SAFRI SOCKET)

I trust that this explanation helps to clarify the situation.

The majority of new appliances are being fitted with the two pin plug and as the volumes of the new 164-2 sockets increase, more and more of the "euro" plugs will be fitted to appliances.

Some appliance manufacturers are saying that if you cut the old plugs off, you lose your guarantee. This is not true, we have been assured by the NRCS that as both of these sockets are South African standards and as such if your house is fitted with one or the other, it may be necessary for the plug top to be removed. If an

I hope the above explanation helps to clarify the matter.

Tony McDonald. ECB.
Technical Director.