



# HSEM ALERT

## Electric Shock - Overseas

### Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff

### Background / Incident Details

A staff member working overseas sustained an electric shock when they plugged a Travel Adaptor into the local mains supply. The Travel Adaptor being used had both European and British plug terminals exposed. The shock received was the line voltage of 240V 50hz AC.

### Lessons learnt

A number of travel adaptors are known to be potentially dangerous and can result in overloading, heating and fires, as well as expose live parts, with the potential for electric shock, as has occurred in this case.

There appeared to be no Residual Current Device (RCD) in the plug socket circuit which would have greatly reduced the severity of the shock and the risk to the staff member involved in this incident.

When travelling overseas it is important to remember to –

1. Review the Curtin Electrical Safety Procedure and familiarise yourself with Curtin's safe electrical practice requirements before you travel
2. Charge any portable devices from of your computer USB where possible
3. Purchase Australian Standards approved International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) appliance power cords suitable for your electrical appliances (laptop) before you travel



4. Should you receive an electric shock whilst overseas, seek medical assistance immediately, through [International SOS](#) and report the incident via Curtin's [online reporting system](#)

#### **Who do we call with questions?**

If you have any queries, please contact Properties, Facilities and Development, Infrastructure Manager, Electrical on 9266 2020 or email [scc@curtin.edu.au](mailto:scc@curtin.edu.au).

#### **References**

[Curtin Electrical Safety Procedure](#)

#### **Date of Issue**

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