



HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Promoting a safer place to work and study

HSEM BULLETIN

Safe Use of Power Boards

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff, Students and Contractors

Background

Poor maintenance and incorrect use of power boards can result in fires - endangering lives and causing considerable damage to property.

Information

Issues that can occur with power boards include:

- Overloading
- Dust build-up in unused points
- Power leads becoming dislodged over time
- Inadequate ventilation that prevents normal dissipation of heat generated
- Heavy plug-in transformers that overbalance and/or partially unplug resulting in overheating
- Failure of electrical safety switches

Recommendations

- Use only one power board and one extension cord for each socket outlet
- If they are used in a [hostile environment](#) they are required to be individually switched or fitted with safety shutters
- Only approved travel adaptors are to be used
- Ensure that they are not overloaded
- Place them on their side during use to prevent dust build-up in unused points



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- Ensure adequate ventilation around each one during use
- Ensure regular visual inspection or testing and tagging in line with Curtin's [Electrical Safety Procedures](#).

Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health, Safety and Emergency Management on 9266 4900 or email healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au.

References

Curtin's [Electrical Safety Procedures](#)

New South Wales Fire & Rescue – [Electrical Power Boards](#)

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