

Personal electrical equipment on Campus

There have been recent instances of personal 230 volt plug in electrical equipment being brought on to campus by staff for use in their office spaces. Items such as electric heaters, jugs, toasters, fans and hair dryers have all been reported.

The Facilities Management Division has the responsibility of maintaining a safe and secure campus and part of this duty is to ensure that all electrical safety regulations are adhered to. These are requirements that include the regular inspection, testing and certification of portable electrical appliances.

The Facilities Management Division maintains a database of such inspected equipment and ensures as far as practicable that compliance is maintained. Personal/private portable appliances brought onto campus will currently escape this recording and testing regime, thereby leaving the university, its staff and students open to risks such as electrocution, fire, circuit overloading, etc.

Some ramifications of this type of occurrence are possible prosecution by OSH, insurance companies disclaiming liability and personal prosecution of individuals.

The Facilities Management Division therefore requests that no items of 240 volt portable electrical equipment be brought on to campus. If any such equipment is required and not supplied, such as heaters or jugs, please ask your departmental manager to contact FMD to consider the purchase of such equipment as a university asset or to recommend alternative solutions.

Any queries please feel free to contact Facilities Management, email fmd_service@waikato.ac.nz or ext 4001.

John Cameron
Director, Facilities Management Division