

Media Release

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Decorative lamps - a real shocker

Purchasers of a decorative lamp made in Bali could be in for a real shock.

The lamp, which has been found on sale in a lighting boutique in Adelaide, includes a cord and switch that do not have electrical safety approval, and a globe holder that is not high enough to protect users against the risk of electrocution.

In a combined effort, the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) and the Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR) have removed them from sale. About 10 of the lamps appear to have been sold.

Under South Australia's Electrical Products Act 2000, numerous types of electrical appliances and components need to be labelled, to indicate they comply with specified safety standards, before they can be offered for sale.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat explained that the withdrawal was the result of positive cooperation between the two offices.

"Electrical appliances can potentially be dangerous if misused or poorly designed. This is a good example of how the two offices have been able to work together and remove dangerous electrical appliances from sale."

Mr Bodycoat emphasised the importance of supplying safe products.

"Many people don't realise the stringent tests and approvals that are required for electrical appliances. Consumers have a right to expect that the products they purchase will be safe."

Supplying goods that do not comply with a mandatory standard is an offence under the Trade Standards Act 1979 and may result in fines of up to \$10,000. Sellers also face the possibility of having to pay compensation for the loss suffered by any person as the result of failing to comply with the requirements of the Act.

"It is the responsibility of traders to provide safe products for sale. If they are unsure about whether any goods meet the required standards they should seek advice from OCBA or the OTR."

Mr Bodycoat urged consumers to cease using the lamps and return them to the place of purchase for a full refund.

"If you think you have one of these lamps, but are not sure, stop using it and contact OCBA for further information."

OCBA regularly monitors products that are available for sale across the State. Random samples are checked to ensure that they comply with safety standards. A list of banned and dangerous goods can be found on the OCBA website (www.ocba.sa.gov.au). Consumers and traders are encouraged to visit the website to check on banned and dangerous goods, or telephone 8152 0732 (131 882 for regional callers) if they have any concerns.

OCBA has samples of the Bali lamps available. Please contact Tanya Berryman on 8204 9507 if you wish to view/photograph the lamps.



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