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VEHICLE JACKS THAT CAN'T STAND THE STRAIN

People who purchased a specific kind of electric car jack over the Internet are being warned to stop using it immediately due to severe safety concerns about its capacity to lift the weight of a vehicle.

A National recall notice has been ordered on a 12-volt electric vehicle jack being promoted and sold via online sites including Overstock Outlet, Deals Direct and the importer Lifestyle Brilliance Australia Pty Ltd.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, said, "The risk of potential and serious injury if people continue using these recalled items is high. People who have one of these jacks at home need to abstain from using them and heed the advice of the importer who's been instructed to issue the recall."

The jack is purported to hold up to 1000 kilograms, but tests undertaken by Consumer Affairs has revealed that it fails to work after lifting 250 kilograms and may physically break when it has a weight close to its 1000 kilograms capacity.

Whilst no injuries have been reported to date, Ms Rankine has expressed concern about the dangers associated with the use of a vehicle jack that does not carry the weight it is promoted to hold.

"Tests have proven that this electric jack has the propensity to buckle well under the weight it is promoted to withstand, and it doesn't meet the labelling or performance requirements of the Australian Standard for vehicle jacks," Ms Rankine said.

The importer, Lifestyle Brilliance Australia Pty Ltd, has recalled the vehicle jack through its supply chains, including 157 that were sold via Deals Direct and 57 sold via Overstock Outlet. The recall will initially be conducted via email with Consumer Affairs monitoring the results.

"Due to easily traceable links to the buyers, it is anticipated people will be contacted swiftly and warned of the hazards associated with this product," Ms Rankine said.

For more information about recalled and dangerous items consumers can contact Consumer Affairs on 8152 0732 or visit www.ocba.sa.gov.au

Media wishing to view examples of the recalled items should phone 0438 777 454