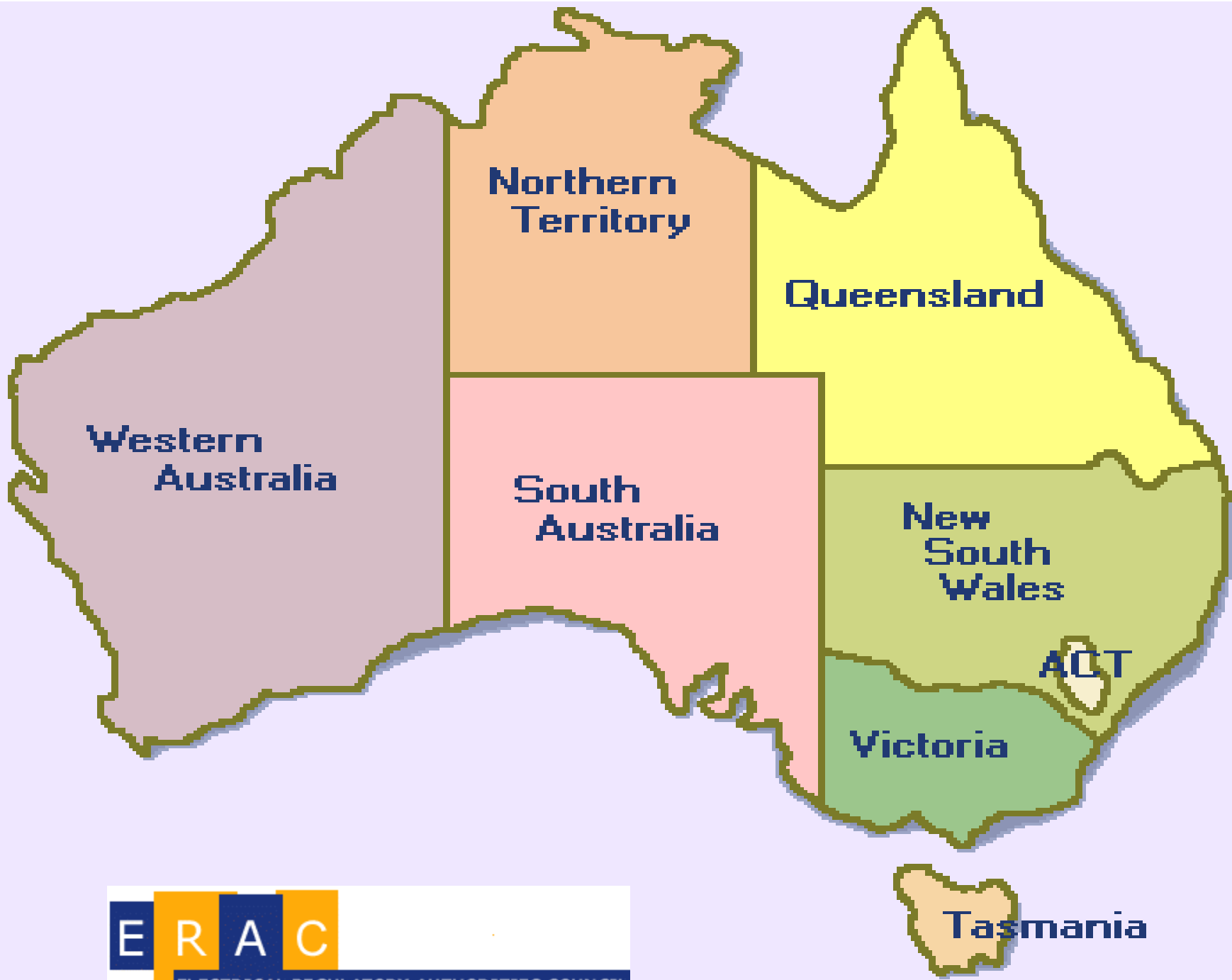


ERAC Review of the Electrical Equipment Safety System in Australia





ERAC

- Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council, the peak body of electrical regulators.
- State & Territory regulatory authorities
- Responsible for harmonisation of Australia & NZ electrical safety
- Principal Objectives:
 - Coordinated regulatory development
 - Coordination of program objectives & activities
 - Representation at national level
 - Participation in policy & technical committees



Electrical Equipment Review

Increased imports & internet sales have the potential to increase the risk of unsafe equipment being supplied in Australia and New Zealand

Formal and comprehensive review required to provide direction for future regulatory policy

ERAC agreed to undertake a review

Review Recommendations

Nationally consistent legislation in each jurisdiction

Appropriate mix of pre-market registration & post-market enforcement

Equipment will be classified into 3 levels of risk:

Level 1 – low risk

Level 2 – medium risk

Level 3 – high risk

Advantages over Existing System

- Current System
 - Lack of harmonisation across jurisdictions
 - Serious deficiency in enforcement
- Proposed System
 - Uniform pre-market approval process
 - Different levels of risk based on market experience
 - Coordinated post-market enforcement
 - National Database

Implementation

3 Major initiatives:

1. National Regulation Impact Statement
2. Scheme Rules
3. National Database

RIS Consultation

RIS released for consultation Nov 2008

- notices in all major Aus & NZ newspapers Nov 2008 and Feb 2009
- consultation closed Feb 2009

Workshop with industry March 2009

Analysis of feedback from RIS & workshop with industry lead to preferred option

National RIS Process

Approved by Canberra April 2009

Approved by ERAC May 2009

To Be Approved by State/Territory
Ministers

- QLD Attorney-General July 2009
- Other State/Territory Ministers to follow late 2009

Legislative Drafting to begin late 2009

Scheme Rules

Nationally consistent set of rules for approval of electrical equipment

- ensure uniformity in pre-market approval

Regulators and 3rd party certifiers to use RCM common approval numbering system

Registration on National Database

All Responsible Suppliers (Aus/NZ entity)

All Levels 3 (High Risk) and Level 2 (Low Risk) equipment

Registration on National Database will enhance traceability

Registration fees to provide funds for the system

Where to from now – 2009

QLD Cabinet approval and Attorney-General signature July

Scheme Rules finalised September 2009

Final RIS signed by Ministers from 4 other states by December

Where to from now – 2010

New website design and testing

Risk calculation of electrical equipment

New legislation developed for all states

Awareness campaign

National Database developed

New System to Commence 1 July 2011

Questions?