

Distributor/Retailer Guide: Electrical Chargers

What is an electrical charger?

Electrical chargers are devices that are plugged in to a mains socket at the wall, and they convert the mains current in to a current which can recharge the battery in an electrical or electronic appliance or device.

Electrical chargers are also known as plug adapters, power adapters, USB chargers, wall chargers, plug chargers, plug transformers, AC/DC adapters, power supply adapters or a plug in power supply.



Plug-type electrical charger




Laptop electrical charger

Are you a distributor?


If you source electrical chargers for retailers or sell electrical chargers to consumers in Ireland, you are a distributor. Distributors have specific legal obligations which you must comply with under the [European Union \(Low Voltage Electrical Equipment\) Regulations 2016](#) (the Regulations).


Distributors who place the electrical chargers on the market under their name or trade mark or who modify the electrical chargers in any way that could affect their compliance with the Regulations, take on the obligations of a manufacturer. Manufacturers of electrical chargers have additional obligations under the Regulations.

What do you need to do if you are a distributor/retailer of electrical chargers?



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As a distributor/retailer, you are responsible for ensuring that electrical chargers that you source for distribution or resale come from reputable and established suppliers.





Before sourcing or selling an electrical charger, you must check and verify:
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The electrical charger has a compliant CE mark. The CE mark must be at least 5mm high, indelible and in the form shown in this diagram.


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The registered company name, trademark and address of the Manufacturer and the EU Importer is provided on the electrical charger, labelling, and/or packaging (English and/or Irish language only).


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Is there a safety manual/user instructions with each electrical charger in clear, unbroken English/Irish? They should detail how to use the electrical charger safely, basic electrical safety guidance and details of how to safely dispose of the electrical charger.


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The product type, batch or serial number or other element such as an EAN/ Model code or identification number should be on the electrical charger, labelling and/or packaging. These details are used to trace the electrical charger, and link it to the legal conformity documentation including the EU Declaration of Conformity and safety test reports.



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There is no reason that you believe that the electrical charger is unsafe or not in conformity with the Regulations.




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You have stored and transported the electrical chargers correctly so that they stay in compliance with the Regulations.





At any time, either before or after sourcing or selling an electric charger:
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If you have any reason to believe that the electrical charger presents a risk to consumers, e.g. of fire or electrocution, you must immediately notify the manufacturer or the importer of that risk. You must also immediately notify the CCPC with all relevant details. You can notify the CCPC [here](#).


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If requested by the CCPC, you must supply all information and the legal conformity documentation in paper or electronic form necessary to demonstrate the conformity of the electrical equipment, including the EU Declaration of Conformity and the appropriate test reports. Your suppliers should have no hesitation in providing you with the legal conformity documentation for any product (i.e. an EU Declaration of Conformity and safety test reports).


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You are legally obliged to cooperate with the CCPC on any action taken to eliminate the risks posed by the electrical chargers which you have sourced for distribution or sold on the Irish market.



Note: You are legally required to identify your supply chain.

Distributor/Retailer Checklist: Electrical Chargers

	Yes	No
Does the electrical charger have a compliant CE mark?		
Is the name and address of the manufacturer visible?		
Is the name and address of the EU importer visible?		
Does the electrical charger have an identifying name or trademark?		
Does the electrical charger have an identifying model or serial number?		
Is there a safety manual/user instructions with each electrical charger in clear, unbroken English?		
Can I demonstrate full traceability for these electrical chargers? For example: 1. Who is the manufacturer? 2. Where were they produced/manufactured? 3. Has the manufacturer appointed an authorised representative? 4. If so, who is the authorised representative? 5. Who imported them to the European Union? 6. Who imported them into the Republic of Ireland? 7. Who is distributing the electrical chargers on the Irish market? 8. Who is my direct supplier? Do I have names, addresses and full contact details for all of the entities listed above?		
Can I get the EU Declaration of Conformity for these electrical chargers if requested by the CCPC?		
Do I know who to request safety test reports from if they are requested by the CCPC?		
Am I satisfied that the price I am paying for these electrical chargers does not make me question the authenticity of these electrical chargers?		
Have I stored and transported the electrical chargers safely without compromising the safety of the electrical chargers?		
Am I confident that I have no reason to believe that the electrical charger is unsafe or is non-compliant?		
I understand that if I become aware that the electrical chargers I have distributed or sold pose a risk to consumers, I must report those electrical chargers to the CCPC.		
I understand that I must cooperate with the CCPC on any action taken to eliminate the risks posed by any electrical chargers which I have placed or made available on the Irish market.		
Am I satisfied that I have not modified the electrical chargers in any way that may affect their compliance with the European Union (Low Voltage Electrical Equipment) Regulations 2016?		

*If you answered 'NO' to any of the above, then you should not purchase or source these electrical chargers for resale or sell these electrical chargers to consumers.

The Law

As a distributor/retailer placing or making electrical chargers available on the market in Ireland, you are legally required to comply with the applicable requirements of the relevant legislation including the [European Union \(Low Voltage Electrical Equipment\) Regulations 2016](#). You owe a duty of care to your customers and you may be held accountable for any electrical charger which you place or make available on the market, in particular where essential health and safety requirements are not met.

If you commit an offence under the Regulations, the electrical chargers may be seized and detained, and you may face prosecution. If you are convicted following a prosecution, you could be fined and/or be sentenced to a term of imprisonment depending on the offence or breach committed.

Other legislation

USB charging cables must comply with the requirements of the [European Communities \(General Product Safety\) Regulations 2004](#).

Plug similar devices such as plug type electrical chargers must comply with the [National Standards Authority Of Ireland \(Section 28\) \(Electrical Plugs, Plug Similar Devices and Sockets For Domestic Use\) Regulations, 1997 \[S.I. No. 526/1997\]](#) and plugs fitted to laptop type or similar electrical chargers must comply with the [National Standards Authority Of Ireland \(Section 28\) \(13 a Plugs & Conversion Adaptors For Domestic Use\) Regulations, 1997 \[S.I. No. 525/1997\]](#).

Many mobile phones use wireless electrical chargers. As a result you must also comply with the requirements of the [European Union \(Radio Equipment\) Regulations 2017](#) if such wireless chargers are “radio equipment” as defined there. Electrical Chargers which are wireless must also comply with the requirements of the [European Communities \(Electromagnetic Compatibility\) Regulations 2016 and 2017](#). The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has responsibility for both of these regulations. More information is available [here](#).

It is your duty to ensure that you comply with **all** relevant legislation.

CCPC

The CCPC endeavours to assist businesses to a reasonable extent, i.e. we will help you to be compliant with the law by providing guidance and information. However, we cannot give legal advice.

The CCPC will never approve or preclear any electrical charger that you intend to sell or import.

We are contactable by email at

productsafety@ccpc.ie.



Coimisiún um
Iomaíocht agus
Cosaint Tomhaltóirí

Competition and
Consumer Protection
Commission