



## AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2008/56

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### Change to the import control on “mosquito zappers”

The application of the import control on hand-held electric devices designed to administer an electric shock on contact is being changed, as it relates to hand-held insect electrocutors. These devices, commonly known as “mosquito zappers”, are controlled within Item 12 of Schedule 2 of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC), the policy agency that provides advice to Customs on this control, has advised that it is prepared to support the availability of certain types of the device in the market place.

The ACCC has made this decision based on the view that, provided the devices meet certain standards, they pose a negligible risk to human safety in normal operating conditions.

Based on the ACCC’s decision, Customs has determined that mosquito zappers may now be imported without a permit if they are powered by a storage battery capacity not exceeding 6 volts, and the electrified grid is shielded in such a way as to prevent contact with the live component.

The revised control can be accommodated without amending existing legislation. Consequently, it takes effect immediately.

The ACCC remains concerned about the potential risks these devices pose if the voltage capacity of the storage batteries increases above the levels currently seen in the devices. In particular, the ACCC would not support the availability of devices with a storage battery capacity exceeding 6 volts.

Neither the ACCC or Customs is aware of any devices currently available with a storage battery capacity exceeding 6 volts. However, if such devices were to become available, consideration would be given to a regulation amendment specifically designed to address the ACCC’s concerns.

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to the Manager, Environment and Wildlife, Community Protection on telephone number (02) 6275 6047 or fax number (02) 6229 3840.

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December 2008