



GCC Standardization Organization (GSO)

Conformity Assessment Regulation Number: 3

Electrical Devices and Appliances Designed for Use in the Domain of Rated Voltage --

General Regulation

Issue number: 1 Date: November 1, 2007



Technical Regulation Number: 3
Issue Number: 1
Date: November 1, 2007
Electrical Devices and Appliances Designed for Use
in the Domain of Fixed Voltage

GCC Standardization
Organization (GSO)

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Introduction

1. Starting with the goals of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to achieve integration and cohesion among member states in all fields leading to unification; in keeping with the goals of the new Unified Economic Agreement among the states of the Council -- which laid the groundwork for the Gulf Common Market -- to develop the common work order among states of the Council, and which established the steps towards economic integration, beginning with the establishment of a free trade zone, followed by the customs union, then the completion of the Gulf Common Market, and ending with currency and economic unification, as well as unification of their commercial, industrial, and customs legislation applied in it.
2. In order to achieve the goals of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to establish the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) to promote economic integration; keep up with the unification of specifications and standards required for the establishment of a customs union in the member states; guarantee the safety and quality of products that enter the markets of the Council states in the interests of its citizens; unify the various standardization activities and monitor their implementation and the compliance therewith to contribute to the development of their production and service sectors, the development of trade among them, and the protection of the consumer, environment, and public health, and the promotion of Gulf industries and agricultural products, so as to support the Gulf economy, preserve the gains of the Council states, and help reduce the technical obstacles to trade in keeping with the goals of the customs union and with the obligations of the states under the WTO agreements.
3. In implementation of the resolution of the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee at its 72nd meeting (November 4-5, 2006) to "encourage the GCC Standardization Organization to complete its work to devise unified procedures to apply standardized specifications in the GCC countries so that they can be implemented in a unified way within secondary ports of entry to support implementation of the requirements of the customs union at the specified time and to facilitate the streamlining of goods."
4. In implementation of the resolution of the board of directors of the Standardization Organization at its sixth meeting on June 5, 2007 to authorize the start of implementation of the recommendations of the project to develop the activity for assessment of conformity in the states of the Cooperation Council (RCAS) [Regional Conformity Assessment Scheme], and thereby "rely on the concept that compliance depends on the basic requirements of products (safety, health, and the environment) as a basis for devising the new course that the Gulf will follow for mandated compliance.
5. Whereas the laws, legislation, and methods of supervision that are in effect in the member states that pertain to aspects of safety for low voltage electrical appliances differ in scope and content, and therefore, these disparities present obstacles to trade and disparities in the conditions of competition in the unified domestic market that is being sought by the states of the Cooperation Council, without this disparity having a tangible return on the protection of the consumers from the risks that may be present in these products;

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6. Whereas it is necessary to eliminate the obstacles that prevent the establishment of the desired unified market among the states of the Cooperation Council in which products are sold that are sufficiently safe;
7. Whereas it is necessary to achieve harmony by determining the basic requirements and unified principles among the member countries, concerning the health and safety of the consumer which are required on all low voltage electrical devices and appliances, thereby allowing them to be offered in the markets and to move freely in the region of the customs union;
8. Whereas low voltage electrical devices and appliances that are offered in the proposed unified market shall not cause injury to the direct user or to other parties;
9. Whereas safety specifications for low voltage electrical appliances must be set within the standards of their intended use, while it is nevertheless necessary to set higher limits to cover any unforeseen circumstances, while taking into consideration the behavior of consumers;
10. Whereas safety specifications for low voltage electrical appliances must be taken into consideration when offering them in the markets, while also taking into consideration the requirement to comply with them during the specified normal period of use of low voltage electrical appliances;
11. Whereas the GCC Standardization Organization is in charge of devising, authorizing, updating, and publishing the technical regulations and standards specifications for the GCC, and the procedures for assessing conformity in the Gulf for goods and products, measuring and testing devices, definitions, symbols, technical terms, conditions for implementation, and methods of sampling, examining, testing, and measuring in accordance with the rules of implementation issued in that regard;

This general regulation pertaining to low voltage electrical devices and appliances, which presents the basic requirements that must be fulfilled in low voltage electrical devices and appliances, both locally produced and imported from abroad to any of the Cooperation Council states, have been issued. Any of these products are allowed to be freely traded in the markets of the member states without hindrance at the customs windows as long as there are no other reasons other than lack of conformity with the essential requirements.

Note: This introduction and all of the appendices are an integral part of this regulation.

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Article 1

For the purposes of this regulation, low voltage electrical devices and appliances are devices designed to be used at a rated voltage between 50 and 1,000 volts of alternating current, and between 75 and 1,500 volts of direct current, aside from the ordinary devices and accessories mentioned in Appendix 1, using the definitions and terminology corresponding thereto in Appendix 2.

Article 2

The purpose of this regulation is to protect users of low voltage devices and appliances, as well as people and animals in their vicinity, and to maintain the safety of property -- wherever appropriate -- from risks to health or physical harm when these devices and appliances are properly installed and used for the purpose for which they were intended. The member states must take all necessary measures to ensure that electrical devices and appliances offered for sale in the markets have been manufactured in accordance with good engineering practices as they pertain to safety and security as required and applicable in the Council states. Appendix 3 sets out all the essential requirements necessary for achieving the goals mentioned in this article.

Article 3

The member states must take all necessary measures to ensure the free flow of electrical devices and appliances with specifications that are in conformity with the requirements of Article 2, meet the requirements mentioned in Articles 5, 6, 7, and 8, and are not hindered by claims about safety.

Article 4

The member states must ensure that restrictions that are more rigorous than those mentioned in Article 2 are not imposed by electricity supply agencies and authorities for connecting to the network or for supplying electricity to users of electrical devices and appliances, without prior coordination with the GCC Standardization Organization.

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Article 5

The member states must take all necessary measures through the relevant supervisory authorities to make sure that electrical devices and appliances, which are in conformity with the GCC technical regulations -- or the national or international regulations that are in agreement with them -- are in conformity with the requirements mentioned in Articles 2 and 3 for the free movement and flow of these products among the Council states (see Appendix 5).

(Refer to the Standardization Organization's website for information about standard specifications that are in effect).

Article 6

1. Since the unified GCC standard specifications referred to in Article 5 have not been issued or published, for purposes of offering low voltage electrical devices and appliances and ensuring their free movement in the Common Market of the Cooperation Council states mentioned in Articles 2 and 3, the member states must take all necessary measures to ensure that the relevant supervisory agencies make sure that electrical devices and appliances are in conformity with the requirements of Article 2 when the requirements and specifications conform either to those of the International Commission for the Approval of Electrical Devices and Appliances (CEE), or those of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).
2. The GCC Standardization Organization will notify the member states of the safety requirements mentioned in the paragraph above as of the date on which this regulation goes into effect, and thereafter as soon as these requirements are published.
3. Within a period of three months after the publication of this regulation, the member states must notify the Standardization Organization of any comments on the requirements of which they will be notified (Paragraph 2), and specify the nature of the safety principles on which the comments are based.
4. All the safety requirements on which comments are not received will be published on the Standardization Organization's website.

Article 7

Whenever there are no standard specifications that are in agreement as mentioned in Article 5, and there are no declared safety requirements as mentioned in Article 6, for purposes of offering low voltage devices and appliances and ensuring their free movement in the Common Market of the Cooperation Council states referred to in Articles 2 and 3, the member states must take all necessary measures to ensure that the supervisory agencies make sure that electrical devices and appliances are also in conformity with the requirements of Article 2, and that they are manufactured in accordance with the safety specifications mentioned

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in the standard specifications in effect in the Council countries when they ensure a sufficient level of safety in the country of manufacture.

Article 8

1. Electrical devices and appliances must bear the GCC Conformity Marking before they are offered for sale in the Common Market of the Cooperation Council states (Article 10), which indicates that they are in conformity with the requirements of these regulations with regard to all the measures for verifying conformity mentioned in Appendix 4.
2. If the manufacturer or supplier has objections, he can submit a technical report through one of the approved agencies (registered in accordance with Article 12) to prove the conformity of the electrical devices and appliances in question with the requirements mentioned in Article 2.
3. If an electrical device or appliance is subject to the requirements of one or several other regulations that also require a GCC Conformity Marking to be affixed, the GCC marking that is applied to the device will also mean that it is in conformity with the requirements of the other regulation or regulations.
4. If a manufacturer is permitted to choose which requirements to meet, particularly during the transition periods for the application of the regulations, then the GCC Conformity Marking will indicate that the product is in conformity only with the regulations that meet the safety requirements that are mentioned therein and that measures have been taken to verify conformity in accordance with what is mentioned therein. Therefore, the manufacturer must state that in the documentation that accompanies the electrical device or appliance.

Article 9

1. If one of the member states, for reasons related to safety, prohibits the offering for sale of any electrical device or appliance, or prevents its free movement in the Common Market of the Council states, it must immediately notify the other member states and the Standardization Organization and explain the basis for making this decision: whether the lack of conformity with the requirements of Article 2 was connected to a shortcoming in the requirements mentioned in the unified standard specifications mentioned in Article 5, or the terms mentioned in Article 6 and the specifications mentioned in Article 7; or whether the lack of conformity was connected to the erroneous application of those standard specifications or publications, or an inability to meet the requirements of good engineering practices mentioned in Article 2.

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2. If a member state objects to the decision made in Paragraph 1 above, the Standardization Organization, in coordination with the concerned states, through the mechanisms of the work of the GCC Committee, must immediately verify the conformity.
3. If the member states are unable to reach an agreement on the decision mentioned in Paragraph 1 within three months of the notification mentioned in Paragraph 1, the Standardization Organization must seek the opinion of one of the approved agencies (registered in accordance with Article 11), which headquarters are outside the member states that are the parties to the dispute, and which did not participate in the process mentioned in Article 8 provided that this opinion determines the extent to which the electrical device that is the subject of the dispute does not conform to the requirements of Article 2.
4. The Standardization Organization shall notify all the member states of this agency's opinion, so that these states can provide the Organization with their comments within a month, and the Organization can at the same time record these comments and take them into consideration.
5. If necessary, the Standardization Organization shall formulate the opinion or the recommendations appropriate for the situation.

Article 10

1. The GCC Conformity Marking must be affixed to the electrical device or appliance by the manufacturer or its authorized agent in the market of the Cooperation Council states. If that cannot be done, then it must be affixed to the package or the documentation that comes with the device, or the warranty certificate, so that it is visible and easily legible and cannot be removed or erased.
2. Affixing any mark that may cause the consumer to be deceived about the meaning and form of the GCC Conformity Marking is prohibited. Any other symbol may be affixed to the electrical device or appliance or to the box or documentation that comes with the device, or the warranty certificate, without causing the clarity of the GCC Conformity Marking to be diminished.
3. Without any restriction on Article 9:
 - 3.1. If a member state discovers that the manufacturer or supplier has affixed a GCC Conformity Marking without adhering to its conditions, the manufacturer or the supplier must take all necessary measures to remedy the situation so that the device or appliance is in conformity with the requirements of the GCC Conformity Marking and the dispute with the country in question is resolved.

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Appendix 1

Equipment and Ordinary Accessories outside the Scope of this Regulation

1. Electrical devices and equipment for use in an explosive environment
2. Electrical devices for radiology and medical purposes
3. Electrical parts for elevators that carry people and goods
4. Electrical measurement devices
5. Plugs and wall sockets for use in the home
6. Control devices in electric fences
7. Electric radiation interference devices
8. Specialized electrical devices and equipment for use in boats, aircraft, and railroads that are in conformity with the safety requirements established by international agencies (parties) in which the Council states are represented

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Appendix 2

Definitions

1. **Electrical device**
Any device designed for use at a rated voltage of 50 to 1,000 volts of alternating current or 75 to 1,500 volts of direct current, aside from the devices and accessories mentioned in Appendix 1
2. **Rated voltage**
The voltage specified for the device by the manufacturer
3. **Rated voltage range**
The voltage range specified for the device by the manufacturer, expressed by its minimum and maximum limits
4. **Rated power input**
The power input specified for the device by the manufacturer
5. **Rated power input range**
The power input range specified for the device by the manufacturer, expressed by its minimum and maximum limits
6. **Rated current**
The current specified for the device by the manufacturer
7. **Rated frequency**
The frequency specified for the device by the manufacturer
8. **Rated frequency range**
The frequency range specified for the device by the manufacturer, expressed by its minimum and maximum limits
9. **Normal operation**
The circumstances under which the device is operated for ordinary use when it is connected to a power source
10. **Devices**
All electrical and electronic devices and appliances or devices and fixtures that contain electrical and/or electronic components

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11. Electromagnetic disturbance

Any electromagnetic phenomenon that can degrade the operation of a device or a unit of a device or system. An electromagnetic disturbance can be equivalent to electromagnetic noise, an unwanted signal, or a change in the diffusion of the medium itself.

12. Immunity

The ability of a device or a unit of a device or system to operate without degradation of quality in the presence of an electromagnetic disturbance

13. Electromagnetic compatibility

The ability of a device or a unit of a device or system to function satisfactorily in its electromagnetic environment without introducing electromagnetic disturbances that are not tolerated by anything in that environment.

14. Approved agency

Any agency that satisfies the rules for approval and is distinguished as such

15. Type examination certificate

A document in which an approved agency attests that the type of device tested is in conformity with the requirements of the relevant regulation

16. Safety

The prevention of accidents that can harm or affect people's health

17. Type test (Code "T")

Tests that must be performed before supplying a certain type of product that is included in standard specifications on a general commercial basis for the purpose of explaining the proper particulars of operation for it to satisfy its required use.

These tests have a special characteristic so that it is not necessary to repeat them after they have already been carried out, as long as there have been no changes in the materials or design of the product which might change the particulars of performance.

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Appendix 3

Essential Requirements for Low Voltage Electrical Devices

The essential requirements for health and safety mentioned in this regulation are considered mandatory.

The essential requirements mentioned in this appendix are the requirements that if not complied with may have an impact on health, safety, or the environment.

Compliance with these requirements enables the supplier or the manufacturer to clear low voltage electrical devices and appliances through customs without objection, and then to offer them for sale in the Gulf Common Market.

1. General Conditions

Sequence	Essential Requirements
1	Devices must be designed and installed to operate safely under normal use so that they do not cause any harm to people, animals, or things in the vicinity, even in situations when they are not used carefully, which may happen under normal operation.
2	There must not be any risk to the safety of people, animals, or property when they are properly installed, maintained, and used for the purposes for which they were manufactured.
3	Electrical devices and appliances -- including their component parts -- must be manufactured in such a way as to ensure that they can be assembled and connected safely and properly.
4	Electrical devices and appliances must be designed and manufactured so as to guarantee the protection against hazards referred to in Items 2 and 3 below in this appendix, as long as the device is used for the purposes for which it was designed, and that it is properly maintained.

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2. Protection against Hazards Arising from Electrical Devices and Appliances

Technical measures must be specified in accordance with the general requirements of Article 1 above, in order to ensure the following:

Sequence	Essential Requirements
1	The proper protection of people and animals from the hazard of physical injury or any harm that might be caused by coming into direct or indirect contact with electricity.
2	That it will not produce heat, electric arcs, or radiation that might pose a hazard.
3	The appropriate protection of people, animals, and property from non-electrical hazards that are produced by electrical devices and appliances and that could result from actual use (for example, the effects of electromagnetism).
4	That the insulation is appropriate for the foreseen circumstances.

3. Protection against Hazards which may be caused by External Influences on Electrical Devices and Appliances

Technical measures must be specified in accordance with the general requirements of Article 1 above, in order to ensure the following:

Sequence	Essential Requirements
1	That the electrical devices and appliances satisfy the anticipated mechanical requirements so as not to expose people, animals, or property to a hazard.
2	The electrical devices and appliances must resist non-mechanical effects in the foreseen environmental circumstances so as not to expose people, animals, or property to a hazard.
3	The electrical devices and appliances must not constitute a hazard to people, animals, or property in the foreseen circumstances of overloading.

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4. Marking

Sequence	Essential Requirements
1	The main features of electrical devices and appliances must be affixed to them clearly either with a stick-on label or by marking on the device or appliance. If that is impractical, they must be stated in an accompanying notice or warning. This is to ensure that the device is used safely for the purposes for which it was manufactured.
2	The trademark or commercial mark must be printed clearly on an electrical device or appliance, or on the package if that is not possible.
3	In addition to the markings on every device individually (see Paragraph 1 above), all low voltage devices must have affixed to them securely -- where applicable -- a non-removable plate containing information that is easy to see in which the following is clearly stated in Arabic and/or English:
3.1.	The rated voltage or rated voltage range.
3.2.	The symbol of the type of feed, as long as it shows the rated frequency in hertz.
3.3.	The rated power input in watts, or the rated current in amperes.
3.4.	The name, trademark, or logo of the manufacturer or the distributor.
3.5.	The model or the type reference number.
3.6.	The equivalent international protection (IP) number for the degree of waterproof protection if the number is different from IPX0.
4	If the device can be adjusted for different rated voltages, the adjusted voltage on it must be easily and clearly visible.
5	The symbols used as mentioned in subparagraph 7.6. must be from the standard reference 2.4.
6	There must be warning/danger symbols or precaution symbols in both Arabic and English as long as the international symbols are used in accordance with the IEC 417 specifications.

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5. Instruction Booklet

Sequence	Essential Requirements
1	<p>All low voltage devices and appliances must be accompanied by an instruction booklet in Arabic or English that in addition to the information mentioned in Article 4 above, -- where applicable -- explains the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation or assembly instructions - Connection instructions - Adjustment instructions - Instructions for safe use - Maintenance <p>so that the person who performs the installation can perform these procedures effectively and without any danger.</p>

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Appendix 4

Conformity Assessment Procedures

1. In view of the wide range and scope of the application of this regulation, which make it impractical to limit the essential requirements mentioned in the technical regulations and the GCC, national, international, and European standard specifications pertaining to low voltage devices and appliances, low voltage devices and appliances must meet the essential requirements mentioned in this regulation in addition to those mentioned in the sub-regulation pertaining to the group that includes the device or appliance that is the subject of discussion.
2. All of the Council states agree that affixing or attaching the GCC Conformity Marking (or any other equivalent symbol that has been announced) to a low voltage device or appliance -- wherever that is impossible, this symbol will be placed on a card that is attached to the device -- indicates conformity with all the requirements of this regulation, including the conformity assessment procedures.

3. **External Examination**

The external examination -- to the extent that it is practical -- is to be performed to the following:

2.1 Markings

2.2 The instruction manual

An external examination may be carried out to the essential requirements mentioned in Appendix 3.

4. **Testing Methods**

All essential requirements mentioned in Item 2 shall be verified by using the standard references pertaining to the electrical device or appliance that is being tested. For this, refer to the sub-regulation pertaining to the device or the appliance.

5. **Samples Pertaining to Low Voltage Devices and Appliances**

In the event that sub-regulations are issued, these regulations shall determine the level of the conformity assessment to be performed for each category of electrical devices and appliances. In the event that the device or appliance does not fall within the scope of those regulations, the manufacturer or the supplier must provide a certificate in accordance with this general regulation, unless otherwise specified by the concerned party

The inspector must allow a shipment of low voltage devices and appliances to be cleared if they bear the GCC Conformity Marking. However, in accordance with statistical reports that pertain to the inspection results and the prior testing of certain manufacturers or exporters of low voltage appliances, the inspector may draw samples of certain shipments to subject them

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to all or some of the sample tests or conformity tests to determine this product's continued conformity, and then allow the shipment to be cleared. (Customs and its employees must refer to the "GCC Guide to Customs Treatment of Products and their Registration"). Therefore, all Council states must take the necessary measures to enable sample tests to be performed on these devices that are available in their markets so that they can be assured of their conformity with this regulation and the sub-regulations.

6. The GCC Conformity Marking

6.1. Reference shall be made to the regulations of the GCC Conformity Marking system.

6.2. The proportions of the letters must be respected in the case of reduction or enlargement of the GCC Conformity Marking so that they remain in the same consistency and shape as those mentioned in the reference referred to.

7. GCC Conformity Certificate

The GCC Conformity Certificate must contain the following elements:

7.1. The name and address of the manufacturer or its authorized representative in the Council states

7.2. A description of the electrical device or appliance

7.3. Reference to the relevant standard specifications

7.4. Wherever appropriate, reference to the specifications in accordance with which the statement of conformity was prepared

7.5. Identification of the registered entity in the Council state that has been authorized to introduce commitments on behalf of the manufacturer or its authorized representative in the Council states

7.6. The last two digits of the year in which the GCC Conformity Marking was affixed or attached

8. Internal Production Control

8.1. Internal production control is the process by which the manufacturer or its authorized representative located in the Council states -- which requires the commitments mentioned in Paragraph 8.2. below -- ensures and confirms that an electrical device or appliance complies fully with the requirements of the applicable regulations. The manufacturer or its authorized representative located in the Council states must attach the GCC Conformity Marking to every product and provide a written certificate of conformity in accordance with Paragraph 7 above.

8.2. The manufacturer must prepare the technical dossier mentioned in Paragraph 8.3., and it or its authorized representative located in the Council states must also keep it in the Council states' region to be

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available upon request for examination by the national authorities for a period of at least 10 years as of the product's last date of manufacture.

If the headquarters of the manufacturer or its authorized representative is not located in the Council states, then this becomes the responsibility of the person who placed the electric device or appliance on the market in the Council states.

8.3. The technical dossier must show the conformity of the electrical device or appliance with all the requirements of this regulation that must be evaluated. To the extent to which that evaluation is concerned, it must cover the design, manufacture, and operation of the electrical device or appliance. It must include the following:

8.3.1. A general description of the electrical device or appliance

8.3.2. Illustrations and plans pertaining to the concept of the design and manufacture of the components, partially assembled pieces, circuits, etc.

8.3.3. The description and explanation necessary for an understanding of the illustrations and plans mentioned above and the operation of the electrical device

8.3.4. A list of the standard specifications applied in full or in part, or, if standard specifications were not applied, a description of the solutions that were used to satisfy the matters related to safety in this regulation

8.3.5. The results of the design calculations that were made, tests performed, etc.

8.3.6. The test reports

8.4. The manufacturer or its authorized representative must keep a copy of the conformity certificate in the technical dossier.

8.5. The manufacturer must take all necessary measures so that the manufacturing process ensures that the products manufactured will be in conformity with the technical dossier mentioned in Paragraph 8.2. above, and with the requirements of this regulation that apply to those products.

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Appendix 5

Standard References

Sequence	Number and Date of Standard Specification		Name of Standard Specification
	GCC	Other	
1	GSO 576 and its amendments		Safety Requirements in Electrical Devices and Appliances for Home Use and the Equivalent -- Part 1: General Requirements
2			All technical regulations and specifications -- GCC standard, Gulf national, and/or international, and/or European -- pertaining to any device that is subject to the application of this regulation
3			Conformity Assessment Procedures Guide
4			Unified Guide to Customs Treatment of Products and their Registration
5			The regulations of the GCC Conformity Marking
6			Guide for the Approval and Registration of Approved Agencies