

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Approval and Test Specification—Hand-  
held Portable Electric Tools**



## **AS/NZS 3160:2001**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee EL-002, Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances and Small Power Transformers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 21 May 2001 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 12 May 2001.

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The following are represented on Committee EL-002:

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Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association  
Canterbury Manufacturers Association New Zealand  
Consumer Electronic Suppliers Association, Australia  
Electrical Regulatory Authorities, Australia  
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## Australian/New Zealand Standard™

# Approval and Test Specification—Hand-held Portable Electric Tools

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EL-002 - Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances and Small Power Transformers, to supersede AS/NZS 3160:1996 from the date of publication.

This Standard is one of a series of Approval and Test Specifications issued by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand. These Standards are to be read in conjunction with AS/NZS 3100, *Approval and test specification — General requirements for electrical equipment*. The objective of these Standards is to outline the conditions which must be met to secure approval for the sale and use of electrical equipment. Only safety matters and related conditions are covered.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (June 2005) and Amendment No. 2 (October 2006). The changes required by the amendments are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected. Where an application date other than immediate is applicable to an amendment the date of application (DOA) is indicated by the marginal bar against the part affected.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

## AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

**Approval and test specification -  
Hand-held portable electric tools****1 Scope**

This Standard applies to hand-held portable electric tools as defined in Clause 4.1, which are intended for electrical operation at low voltage operating at not more than 60 Hz.

For the purpose of this Standard, a hand-held portable electric tool is called a 'tool' except where such term is associated with an implement required to remove covers, brush caps and the like which guard live parts.

This Standard does not deal with separate motors with or without capacitors, or with tools covered by separate Standards, or with equipment intended for the control of electric motors other than equipment which is built into the tool.

A1 | This standard will not apply to hand-held motor-operated electric tools within the scope of the AS/NZS 60745 series of standards after the dates specified in the parts 2 of that series.

NOTE: The following list is typical of tools to which the Standard applies:

Blowers  
Chainsaws and circular saws  
Cloth cutters, electric scissors  
Cord-line trimmers  
drills  
Hammers  
Hedge clippers  
Impact wrenches, nut runners  
Mortisers  
Polishers, buffers  
Reciprocating saws, sabre saws, jig saws  
Routers, planers, shapers  
Sanding machines, grinders and abrasive cutters  
Screwdrivers  
Shears and nibblers

**2 Application****2.1 General requirements of AS/NZS 3100**

This Standard shall be read in conjunction with AS/NZS 3100, and the appropriate provisions of that Standard shall apply to the construction of the tool and the insulation and safeguarding of parts which normally carry current.

NOTE Hand-held portable electric tools are deemed as being operated only for short periods of time.