

Hydro Tasmania

SAFETY ALERT

Electric shock from office desk USB-C dock

Alert Number (YYMMDD)	251216	Date Issued	16 December 2025
SAP Incident Number	84822	Approved By	Head of WHS
Alert Category	Safety	Action Required?	Yes

Alert details/incident summary

An electrical incident occurred in the Hobart office when a worker holding a charging tablet connected to a USB-C desktop power (dock) outlet shorted out. The outlet emitted a pop and spark, causing the circuit RCD to trip. The worker experienced a mild tingling sensation and attended a doctor for an ECG and check-up, was cleared with no injuries, and returned to work. The affected outlet was isolated, and safety checks were completed and further checks are underway. Please report any damaged outlets or electrical faults immediately and avoid using faulty equipment.

Alert/incident photos



USB charging dock



Rear of USB dock showing the fault



USB-C to USB-C Cable

Immediate action taken

The desk and power outlet in affected area were unplugged and tagged out. Electrical contractor attended site to conduct testing of the power outlet and circuit. It was evident the fault occurred at the USB-C charging port. The circuit RCD was within allowable tripping limits. There was not a clear cause for the fault, electrical contractor suggested possible causes could be: A faulty component in the charger, dust buildup causing a short, something spilled on the charger or a hotspot that has finally over heated.

Actions for employees and actions for leaders:

- Prior to use always ensure all electrical items and outlet are fit for purpose, in good condition and effectively plugged in.
- Power cables to be visual checked prior to use and where test and tagged they are in date.
- If unsure about an electrical item and think there may be an issue, do not use and immediately notify your Manager and where appropriate HT IT and Facilities.