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**DECLARATION OF A SCHEME UNDER THE  
*ELECTRICAL SAFETY ACT 2002***

I, CARL PORRITT, Director Electrical Equipment Safety, Electrical Safety Office, Office of Industrial Relations, being the delegate of the regulator acting under Part 2A, Division 3, Section 48J of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*, hereby declare SGS Australia Pty Ltd, Australian Business Number: 44 000 964 278, as a Recognised External Certification Scheme (RECS) to issue Certificates of Conformity for In-Scope electrical equipment Level 3 and Certificates of Suitability for In-Scope electrical equipment Levels 2.

The establishment of the RECS is effective from the date of publication of this notice in the Queensland Gazette and is for a period of 2 years.

In accordance with the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* Act, Part 2A, Division 3, Section 48J and the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013* – Part 7 In-scope electrical equipment, Division 8 Recognised external certification schemes – I, Carl Porritt Director Equipment Safety, Electrical Safety Office, Office of Industrial Relations, being the delegate of the regulator impose the following conditions on the declared scheme:

Conditions:

1. All certificates issued under the Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) by the Recognised External Certification Scheme (RECS) shall be in accordance with these conditions, the *Queensland Electrical Safety Act 2002*, *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013*, and the Equipment Safety Rules as current at the time of issuing the certificate. Certificates shall only be issued for in-scope electrical equipment listed in AS/NZS 4417.2: 2020 Regulatory compliance mark for electrical and electronic equipment Part 2: Specific requirements for particular regulatory applications. The RECS shall also adhere to any rulings, interpretations or other guidance material issued by the regulator or as published on a website by the regulator. The RECS shall maintain a quality system in accordance with AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065 and any scheme system processes accepted by the regulator.
2. The RECS shall not authorise or otherwise permit persons to conduct conformity assessments on certificate applications or make determinations to issue certificates if

those person's details were not originally supplied with the application to become a RECS and accepted, or whose details were subsequently supplied to and accepted as suitable by the regulator. All conformity assessment processes or determinations to issue certificates shall be conducted in Australia or New Zealand unless otherwise authorised by the regulator.

This includes, once a person is accepted by the regulator to conduct conformity assessments for certification, that person only conducts independent assessments (e.g. without supervision for their part of the process) on equipment to standard(s) once they are considered fully competent by the certification body, using accepted processes for competency in alignment with Clause 6.1.2 of the AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065 and any scheme system processes accepted by the regulator.

The RECS must have a two-stage independent review process of conformity assessment for issuing certificates. This involves, at a minimum, two competent persons accepted by the regulator in accordance with this condition conducting conformity assessments.

3. The RECS shall remain independent of any other parts or processes involved in the in-scope electrical equipment supply chain (that includes: design, manufacture, import, testing, consultancy, sale of in-scope electrical equipment), nor shall they be involved in work of, or act as, a consultant or agent or lobbyist for persons or companies involved in those processes. The RECS will not engage persons to assess applications for certification, or decide on certification, or to be involved in any other processes that relate to assessment or decisions for RECS certification (such as, but not limited to, training of staff, assessment of competency, writing of policies and procedures for certification), if those persons conduct other work in the supply chain of in-scope electrical equipment, unless the person and activity is accepted by the Regulator prior to the activity occurring. Such other work includes, but is not limited to, designing, importing, manufacturing or selling in-scope electrical equipment, consultancy, compiling documents for application for certification, testing of the in-scope electrical equipment or supervising or training of people conducting any of that work.
4. During the period of recognition as a RECS, the RECS shall notify the regulator of any material change related to the

information supplied with the related application to become a RECS within two weeks of any such change. Such change includes but is not limited to: change of ownership, change of directors, change of senior officers of company, change of personnel involved in certification processes as a RECS, relocation of business premises or places where certification processes are conducted, changes to procedures.

5. The RECS shall allow the regulator access to the RECS within 3 working days of a request by the regulator, including participating in random and/or scheduled auditing of files by the regulator. Such access may include making available files, the staff involved in the assessment of an application for certification, the staff involved in making decisions to issue a certificate, making available the physical location where assessment and decisions for certification occur and all records and documentation relating to any certificate or the process of assessing and issuing of certificates.
6. All certificates issued will be in accordance with the requirements of the Equipment Safety Rules, any rulings, interpretations or other guidance material issued by the regulator or as published on a website by the regulator. Certification shall be based on test reports that meet the requirements of the Equipment Safety Rules, any rulings, interpretations or other guidance material issued by the regulator or as published on a website by the regulator unless otherwise agreed to by the Regulator. The RECS shall maintain suitable records of the equipment certified to be able to verify this condition.
7. If a certificate is issued, the RECS shall provide written documentation of the details of certification to the applicant related to that certificate. If the certification status changes the RECS shall give written documentation to the certificate holder of the changed certification status.
8. The RECS shall execute the Electrical Equipment safety system (EESS) database – Private Certifier Access Agreement. Unless otherwise agreed to by the regulator the RECS shall ensure the relevant equipment certification details are uploaded onto the certification database within three days of issue of the certificate. SGS Australia Pty Ltd shall onboard to new EESS Platform certification system and perform manual upload of certificates (and automatic program interface {API} upload as and when the system and SGS Australia Pty Ltd are ready to do so).
9. The RECS shall cancel, suspend or amend any details relating to a certificate within three days of written advice from the regulator. The RECS shall update the certificate details on the certification database to align with the status of the certificate within one day of making the required change.
10. The RECS shall cancel, suspend or amend any details relating to a certificate that they identify as having been issued incorrectly (either through failing of certifier or failing of applicant supplied information or failing in the safety standards applied) and inform the regulator within 5 days, in a form acceptable to the regulator,
11. The RECS shall not extend a certificate beyond the initial expiry date without evidence of compliance to the relevant standard as in force at the time of extension unless written exemption to this requirement is given by the regulator, the duration of extension is agreed to by the regulator.
12. Where the RECS issues an additional certificate or modification to an existing certificate to include additional equipment on that certificate the RECS shall ensure the equipment on the certificate falls within the definition of 'family' as indicated with the Equipment Safety Rules, and shall ensure the additional equipment listed on the certificate is compliant to the relevant standard listed on the existing certificate.
13. The RECS shall inform the regulator within 5 days, in a form acceptable to the regulator, of any applications for certification that were refused by the RECS.
14. The RECS shall inform the regulator, in a form acceptable to the regulator, within five days of becoming aware of equipment certified by the RECS that no longer meets the conditions of the issued certificate.
15. The RECS shall only issue certificates identified as being a RECS issued certificate for equipment within the scope of the RECS accreditation. If any accreditation status changes (either RECS status or status of accreditation listed in the application for RECS) any further certificates issued will only be within the scope of the changed accreditation. The RECS will ensure any certificates issued by the RECS that relate to electrical equipment that is not in the scope of the RECS recognition will be clearly identified as not being a certificate issued under the regulators recognition of the RECS and details of the certificate will not be placed on the certification database.
16. A RECS shall not indicate there is authorisation of the use of the RCM mark on electrical equipment where that use is not consistent with the requirements of AS/NZS 4417 standards and electrical safety legislative requirements. The RECS certificate shall not mandate use of any other mark unless agreed to by the regulator.
17. The RECS shall not make statements or provide advice that may be considered to bring the EESS into disrepute or otherwise cause harm to the implementation and application of the EESS. The RECS shall not offer their 'interpretation' of the requirements of the equipment safety rules or requirements for certification issued by the RECS that are inconsistent with the interpretations given by the regulator or as published on a website by the regulator. If any 'interpretation' of the Equipment Safety Rules or certification offered by a RECS is found to be inconsistent by the regulator the RECS will take immediate steps to rectify the information previously offered and will not continue to offer that 'interpretation'.
18. The RECS shall not misrepresent their RECS accreditation or offer information in relation to the EESS and/or their accreditation as a RECS that may mislead persons in relation to the extent of acceptance of themselves or any other organisation by electrical safety regulators; recognition of certificates not within the scope of the RECS accreditation; recognition or endorsement of any other products or services offered by the RECS. The RECS shall not misrepresent to the regulator any details of their organization, or withhold from the regulator any information that may show they do not comply with the requirements to maintain their RECS accreditation.
19. Unless the information obtained by a RECS from the regulator has been made public by the regulator, the RECS shall consider the information obtained from the regulator as confidential information and shall not disclose or use the information without the written consent of the regulator unless required by law.
20. The RECS shall not act as a consultant, or offer consultancy, or exclusively offer the services of a consultant or test facility. The only exceptions being the RECS may assist the applicant for certification, who is also a registered responsible supplier, by acting as an authorised representative to register the equipment for that responsible supplier for certificates the RECS have issued to that certificate applicant/responsible supplier;

offering general information on electrical equipment safety requirements; details of requirements relating to the RECS process for application for certification; information on the various test facilities or consultants that the applicant may utilise to assist in their application process.

21. The RECS shall not specify particular consultants or test facilities that an applicant for a certificate of conformity or certificate of suitability must use. The RECS shall not indicate, intimate, suggest or otherwise recommend a particular consultant, testing facility or other person/company would be able to give a service that would cause the RECS to reduce the appropriate assessment and verification processes of the RECS. The RECS shall not engage in agreements or advertising of agreements or other activities that may be seen to compromise the independence and impartiality of the RECS in the performance of the RECS function.
  22. The RECS shall inform the Regulator without delay of any circumstances that may cause the RECS to not be able to perform its functions in accordance with the Equipment Safety Rules, these conditions and Queensland electrical safety legislative requirements.
  23. The RECS shall make arrangements such that if the RECS ceases to trade all files relating to certificates issued as a REC are to be made available to the regulator.
  24. These conditions do not in any way inhibit the regulator from exercising powers under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* or *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013* to amend, revoke or vary conditions or to act on regulators own initiative to vary or impose new conditions. Any variations to the requirements of these conditions shall be in writing and shall form part of these conditions.
  25. Disputes as to interpretations or application of the *Queensland Electrical Safety Act*, *Electrical Safety Regulation*, the Equipment Safety Rules and any rulings, interpretations or other guidance material issued by the regulator or as published on a website by the regulator shall in the first instance be referred to the regulator for consideration.
  26. The RECS shall maintain suitable professional indemnity, public liability and business continuity insurances commensurate with the level of risk of work undertaken.
  27. The RECS shall, upon request by the Regulator for information or a specified report, furnish such reports or information to the regulator within 5 days, or a time longer if agreed by the regulator.
  28. A RECS shall not place themselves in a position where a conflict of interest may arise in relation to issuing of certificates. Any real or perceived conflict of interest shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the regulator. As part of maintaining the independence of certification process of a RECS, the RECS shall not be part of any processes to lobby to government or any other body on behalf of requirements or criteria or actions demanded by designers, manufacturers, importers, sellers of in-scope electrical equipment, or bodies who are involved in acting as a consultant or agent or lobbyists for persons or companies involved in those processes. This includes RECS shall not be members of associations formed for the purposes of advancing interests of the above. This does not preclude a RECS being part of an independent association aimed at representing interests of certification bodies or participating on bodies to develop equipment safety standards ('equipment safety standards' that is permitted for a RECS to be a member of does not include the committees or standards related to use of the RCM mark or determining risk levels of equipment).
- Supplementary conditions for SGS
- I. No SGS new level 3 or level 2 equipment certificates or modification or renewals to SGS certificates to be uploaded to the EESS certification database until SGS has signed the access agreement and on-boarded to input data into the new EESS platform.
  - II. For DC Isolators (level 3 equipment) SGS to only issue certificates of conformity to AS 60947.3:2023 & AS/NZS 60947.1:2021 (or later editions of those standards).
  - III. For the period of this declaration, SGS to conduct internal audits at least every three months to verify all staff follow all SGS procedures, comply with all conditions of this declaration, comply with AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065 requirements, and provide reports of those audits to regulator (Electrical Safety Office) within 1 week of the audit occurring.
  - IV. Within the first 3 months after this declaration SGS to confirm updating and properly documenting of training methods used for determining competence to assess safety standards and EESS requirements), and details of determination of competency of staff (and ongoing competency) without use of 'self-declaration' processes (and any existing 'self-declaration' competency to be confirmed as having been reviewed and re-assessed within that 3 month period).
  - V. Within the first 3 months after this declaration SGS Advisory Board ("Advisory Committee") to be confirmed as trained (and training details and method and outcome documented) on the EESS and RECS requirements.
  - VI. SGS either to not accept test reports from any SGS related entity, or within 6 months of this declaration SGS to confirm they have properly reviewed and documented, and submitted to regulator (Electrical Safety Office) for approval, detailed policy and procedures to address risk to impartiality and independence from accepting test reports for SGS related entities.
  - VII. Within 12 months of this declaration SGS to confirm they have, or develop, a new risk register that addresses each of the risks to impartiality identified to meet clause 4.2 and 5.2 in AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065 and submit to the regulator (Electrical Safety Office) for approval.
  - VIII. Within 18 months of this declaration confirm SGS have, or properly develop, a consistent risk assessment approach to determine the equipment being certified is 'electrically safe'.
  - IX. The following SGS staff are acceptable to the regulator to conduct EESS RECS assessments in accordance to RECS condition 2 (noting after 3 months this recognition is revoked if any 'self-declaration' competency has not been reviewed and re-assessed within that 3 month period):
    - i. Kenny Zhou
    - ii. Jihai Zhu
    - iii. Peter Strajner.

Carl Porritt  
Director Electrical Equipment Safety  
Electrical Safety Office  
Office of Industrial Relations

