

19 May 2021

File Ref: 21/00342

D.J. Neville
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Dear D.J. Neville

Thank you for your request of 28 April 2021, requesting:

- *Are electric heaters in New Zealand required to include a tip-over switch to disconnect the power from the heating element when the heater falls over? Last year I purchased a Goldair GSCV220 2kW heater and noticed it oddly lacks such a feature, though it bears the new RCM logo. Having just witnessed the base of a Warehouse touch lamp (N13133, App.N19083) spontaneously catch fire in front of me a few hours ago, I'm rather wary of the safety of some of my appliances.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The relevant safety standard for room heaters for New Zealand is IEC 60335-2-30 *Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-30: Particular requirements for room heaters safety*. This standard requires heaters to meet a range of specific safety requirements. The tests for portable heaters include a specific test for safe operation if the heater is overturned. In most cases the manufacturer fits an anti-tilt or a tip-over switch to ensure the heater satisfies this requirement. However, an anti-tilt or a tip-over switch is not always necessary, provided the heater passes the relevant test for safe operation if it is overturned.

I note the supplier's website states the convector heater GSCV220 has a safety tip over switch, although the user manual makes no reference to the tip over switch:
<https://goldair.co.nz/products/convector-heater-gscv220>.

You have referred to a touch lamp which caught fire. If you can provide some more information including make and model of the touch lamp, including approximate date of purchase we will follow this up with the supplier. You can use the WorkSafe notification system to make notifications of electrical or gas incidents:
<https://portal.worksafe.govt.nz/report-an-accident/>

Yours sincerely



Darren Handforth
Head of High Hazards, Energy and Public Safety