



Global Product Safety & Market Access

REGULATORY SNAPSHOT

Electrical and mechanical products | August 2026

In This Issue

A country-by-country summary of August developments — ready to adapt as a LinkedIn teaser:

United States

- **FCC proposes major equipment-authorization reforms** — Potential new supply-chain disclosures, certification triggers, database duties and U.S. responsible-party rules for connected products.
- **Battery enforcement spotlights design, packaging and firmware controls** — August recalls and warnings reinforce coin-battery access controls, required warnings and traceable firmware remedies.

Canada

- **RSS-Gen and RSS-310 Issue 6 enter transition** — Updated radio-equipment testing, labeling, e-labeling and Category II provisions; Issue 6 becomes mandatory after 30 July 2027.
- **Energy Efficiency Amendment 19 consultation closes** — Proposed changes cover motors, chargers, UPS products, appliances and other equipment; final text is still pending.

European Union

- **Commission publishes Digital Battery Passport guidance** — The 71-point data guide supports preparation for the 18 February 2027 battery-passport obligation.
- **Draft timetable extends high-risk AI standards work** — A proposed extension matters to machinery and robotics using AI safety components; it creates no new duty by itself.

United Kingdom

- **Plug-in solar market-access pathway becomes effective** — Qualifying single-phase devices up to 800 VA may use a standard UK plug under a detailed interim product specification.

Australia

- **GEMS check testing identifies two cancelled registrations** — The regulator tested 73 models across 13 categories, including motors and external power supplies.

New Zealand

- **No consequential August product-market change identified** — No new national requirement or transition date within this snapshot's product scope was found for the month.

Reporting window: 1–31 August 2026. Information verified through 8 September 2026. Status labels distinguish confirmed requirements from proposals, guidance and enforcement signals.

United States

FCC proposes major equipment-authorization reforms

PROPOSED Published 7 August 2026; comments closed 8 September 2026

What changed: The FCC sought comment on a broad package that could change equipment authorization and market access. Proposals include Covered List treatment, white-label products, hardware and software bills of materials, component and software restrictions, wider certification triggers, import and pre-authorization rules, FCC-logo use, authorization term limits, registration of Supplier's Declaration of Conformity devices, database modernization and a U.S.-based liable party for certified equipment.

Why it matters: If adopted, the changes could materially expand supplier-data, traceability and authorization obligations for wireless modules and connected appliances, instruments, controls, robotics, routers and UAS-related equipment. These are proposals, not current requirements.

Review now: Map critical hardware and software suppliers against the Covered List; identify private-label and permissive-change arrangements; assess whether HBOM/SBOM data can be produced; inventory SDoC products; and confirm the U.S. responsible party for certified devices.

[FCC proposed rule](#)

Battery enforcement spotlights design, packaging and firmware controls

ENFORCEMENT / RECALL TREND CPSC actions dated 6 and 20 August 2026

What changed: CPSC recalled a coin-battery charger because batteries were readily accessible and supplied batteries lacked child-resistant packaging and required warnings. It separately warned against LED candle lights with accessible coin batteries and missing warnings after the seller did not agree to a recall. A 46,200-unit portable power-station recall addressed circuit-board overheating through a firmware repair.

Why it matters: Together, the actions show that battery compliance extends beyond the enclosure to supplied battery packaging, product and package warnings, online-marketplace controls, thermal incident monitoring and the ability to deploy and document safety-critical firmware remedies.

Review now: Audit 16 CFR Part 1263 evidence, battery-compartment access, spare-battery packaging and warning artwork. For rechargeable products, review thermal-risk files, field-incident escalation, firmware validation, update delivery and proof that affected units receive the remedy.

[CPSC coin-battery charger recall](#)

[CPSC LED-product warning](#)

[CPSC portable power-station recall](#)

Canada

RSS-Gen and RSS-310 Issue 6 enter transition

TRANSITION Issued 30 July; Canada Gazette notice published 15 August 2026; transition ends 30 July 2027

What changed: ISED replaced Issue 5 of both standards. RSS-Gen Issue 6 updates general radio-apparatus certification, testing, calibration, labeling and e-labeling provisions. RSS-310 Issue 6 adds requirements for stand-alone receivers and passive RFID tags, revises low-power and below-9 kHz exemptions, and consolidates labeling and manual rules with RSS-Gen.

Why it matters: The changes affect Canadian market-access files for wireless or radio functions built into instruments, robots, automation controls, luminaires and appliances, as well as Category II equipment exempt from certification. Either issue is accepted during the one-year transition; Issue 6 is then required for equipment manufactured, imported, distributed, leased or sold.

Review now: Update Canadian RF specifications, test-report templates, labels/e-labels and user-manual notices. Record which issue each model uses and set a conversion gate before 30 July 2027.

[Canada Gazette publication notice](#)

[ISED RSS-Gen Issue 6](#)

[ISED RSS-310 Issue 6](#)

Energy Efficiency Amendment 19 consultation closes

PROPOSED Consultation milestone reached in August 2026; final regulation not yet published

What changed: NRCan's proposed Amendment 19 would add or revise requirements across roughly 20 product categories, including electric motors, battery chargers and uninterruptible power supplies, household appliances, water heaters, ventilation equipment and pool products. The proposal contains product-specific compliance dates extending across multiple years.

Why it matters: The proposal could change product scope, test methods, minimum efficiency levels, verification marking, reporting and model documentation. Its dates and technical text are not final until publication in Canada Gazette, Part II.

Review now: Maintain an affected-product matrix showing proposed scope, test method, efficiency threshold, verification mark and energy-efficiency report fields. Keep project dates provisional pending the final Part II text.

[Canada Gazette proposed regulation](#)

European Union

Commission publishes Digital Battery Passport guidance

GUIDANCE / ADOPTED DEADLINE Guidance published 21 August 2026; passport duty applies 18 February 2027

What changed: The Commission published a data-point guide identifying 71 battery-passport data points and indicating which are mandatory, optional or category-specific. From 18 February 2027, each electric-vehicle battery, light-means-of-transport battery and industrial battery above 2 kWh placed on the market or put into service must have an electronic battery passport.

Why it matters: Battery-powered machinery, mobile robots, industrial storage and larger UPS systems may depend on suppliers for composition, performance, durability, due-diligence and lifecycle data. The guide supports implementation but does not amend Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 or constitute a binding interpretation.

Review now: Confirm battery category and capacity; assign responsibility for the unique identifier and data carrier; map the 71 data points to suppliers and internal systems; and test public, restricted and authority-access workflows.

[European Commission guidance](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1542](#)

Draft timetable extends high-risk AI standards work

DRAFT Draft published for feedback in August 2026; feedback deadline 17 September 2026

What changed: The Commission proposed amending its standardisation request for high-risk AI systems by extending CEN and CENELEC's delivery target to 28 February 2027 and the decision's expiry to 31 August 2028.

Why it matters: The timetable is relevant where AI is a safety component of machinery or another regulated product that may qualify as a high-risk AI system. It signals that harmonized standards may not be available as early as some 2027 compliance plans assumed. The draft itself creates no new product obligation.

Review now: Screen machinery and robotics portfolios for AI Act high-risk classification. For potentially in-scope systems, document the conformity route and interim evidence strategy instead of assuming harmonized standards will be available before launch.

[European Commission draft amendment](#)

United Kingdom

Plug-in solar market-access pathway becomes effective

EFFECTIVE Effective 27 August 2026

What changed: UK regulations created a controlled route for qualifying plug-in solar devices. The interim specification covers single-phase domestic products up to 253 V AC and 800 VA apparent output, with a maximum 3.5 A output current, supplied as a defined PV-module, inverter, connection-lead, BS 1363 plug and mounting-system assembly.

Why it matters: This opens a new product category while imposing detailed electrical, mechanical, environmental, grid-interface, marking, instruction and test-report requirements. Plug-in batteries, battery-integrated PV products and other generation technologies are outside the specification.

Review now: Verify the product definition and output limits; BS 1363 plug and fuse; anti-islanding and G98 interface; IP, EMC, shock, fire, structural and weathering evidence; factory-supplied cables/connectors; household installation limits; warning labels; instructions; and technical documentation.

[UK Statutory Instrument 2026/848](#)

[Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification v2](#)

Australia and New Zealand

GEMS check testing identifies two cancelled registrations

ENFORCEMENT / MONITORING Interim results published August 2026

What changed: The GEMS Regulator reported check testing of 73 models across 13 product categories during July 2025–June 2026. At the reporting date, 54 models passed, 17 remained pending and two failed Stage 1 testing and had their registrations cancelled: one refrigerated cabinet and one clothes dryer. Testing also covered electric motors and external power supplies.

Why it matters: The published outcomes show active verification of minimum energy performance and supplier efficiency claims. A cancelled registration means the model can no longer be offered for sale or supply under that registration.

Review now: Confirm that registered families match production models and declarations; retain test samples and technical evidence; compare rated values with current production; and define an escalation path for check-test notices, failures and registration changes.

[GEMS check-testing report](#)

New Zealand — no consequential August product-market change identified

NO MATERIAL UPDATE Review completed for 1–31 August 2026

What changed: No new national electrical or mechanical product-safety, conformity-assessment, labeling or energy-efficiency requirement with broad market-access impact was identified within the reporting window.

Why it matters: Projects remain subject to existing New Zealand requirements and any product-specific notices, recalls or local installation rules; absence of a monthly headline is not a waiver of ongoing obligations.

Review now: Continue normal project-specific monitoring. No additional August action is recommended solely on the basis of this monthly review.

Review This Month

1. United States: build an FCC proposal impact map covering Covered List suppliers, white-label products, HBOM/SBOM readiness, SDoC inventory and U.S. responsible parties.
2. Battery products: audit coin-battery access, spare-battery packaging, warning artwork, thermal-incident escalation and firmware-remedy traceability.
3. Canada: move new radio projects to RSS-Gen/RSS-310 Issue 6 and maintain a dated transition register for legacy Issue 5 files.
4. EU battery projects: map the 71 passport data points and assign ownership before the 18 February 2027 application date.
5. UK plug-in solar: complete a clause-level gap assessment against Interim Product Specification v2 before market launch.
6. Australia GEMS products: reconcile registrations, ratings and production evidence; ensure a defined response process exists for regulator check testing.

Primary-source index

- [FCC — proposed equipment-authorization reforms](#)
- [CPSC — coin-battery charger recall](#)
- [CPSC — LED candle-light warning](#)
- [CPSC — portable power-station recall](#)
- [ISED — RSS-Gen and RSS-310 Issue 6 publication notice](#)
- [ISED — RSS-310 Issue 6](#)
- [NRCAN — proposed Energy Efficiency Amendment 19](#)
- [European Commission — Digital Battery Passport guidance](#)
- [EU — Batteries Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1542](#)
- [European Commission — draft high-risk AI standards timetable](#)
- [UK — plug-in solar amendment regulations](#)
- [UK — Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification v2](#)
- [Australia — GEMS check-testing results](#)

About this snapshot

Prepared by Connaughton Group LLC, an independent product-safety, regulatory-compliance and global market-access consulting firm. This snapshot is intended to help manufacturers identify developments requiring further review; it is not legal advice, a certification decision or a substitute for the complete regulatory text, applicable standard, certification-body requirements or product-specific engineering assessment.

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