



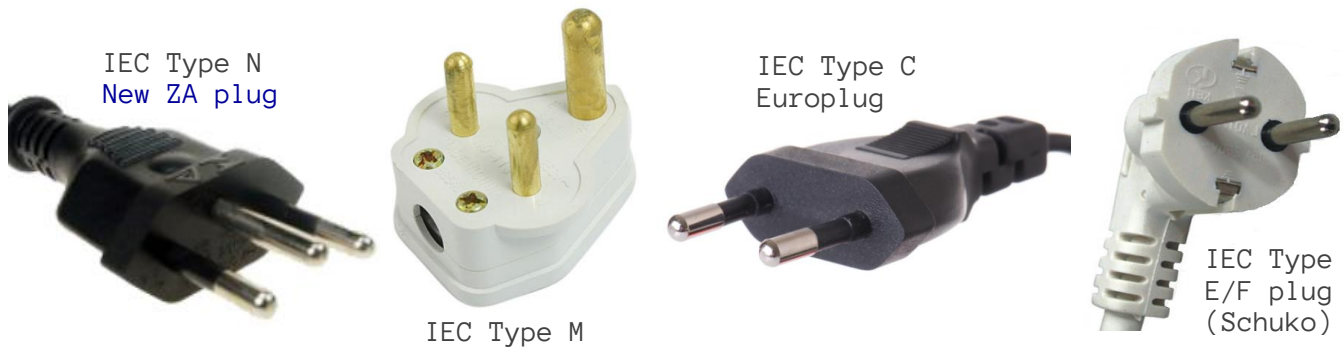
Midstream Electrical Supplies

New South African plug standard (ZA Plug)



South Africa's new plug and socket standard, SANS 164-2 or **ZA Plug**, has become mandatory for **new** installations. This means that any **new** building erected from 1 January 2018 must incorporate electrical sockets that conform to the new standard, the existing standard will however remain legal. This decision was made for the consumers safety.

It is mandatory to have at least 1 new **ZA Plug** in each new wall mounted socket, it is not mandatory for the new plug to be switched.



The new standard looks very similar to the commonly used two-point Europlug standard which is used on most small appliances. This new design will accommodate the two-point Europlug, but not the round two-point plug. The **ZA Plug** incorporates an additional third 'earth' pin in the design.

A double insulated appliance is identified by a double square symbol and will not have an Earth wire.
(If the appliance enclosure is completely non-conducting it does not need to be earthed)



THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW STANDARD VERSUS THE EXISTING STANDARD ARE:

Compatibility – All cell phone chargers and devices using Europlugs will be able to fit the **ZA Plug** socket directly without the need for an extra adaptor

Expansive – The current triangular three-prong wall socket can only securely accommodate two plug outlets. The smaller **ZA Plug** format can safely accommodate up to four outlets per wall mounted socket. This does away with the need for multi-plug adaptor strips

Safer – The new standard is considered a lot safer for a few reasons:

- ▶ Children's fingers or small objects cannot fit into the smaller holes
- ▶ Fire hazard has been reduced significantly
- ▶ Plug pins will be half insulated which was not the case previously
- ▶ Earthing of the socket is more reliable
- ▶ Each socket outlet has a shutter which open when 2 live pins are inserted

Smaller – The **ZA Plug** is smaller and less bulky than the standard triangular three-prong plug taking up less space and weight in transporting appliances