

To: All staff and students

For Information / action

Fire / electrical safety: Chargers for electronic cigarettes and mobile devices

Over the last year there has been a significant rise in the number of fires in the UK that have been started by electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and other electrical devices (e.g. laptops and mobile phones) when they are being recharged. In at least one case a man died following a fire started by an e-cigarette exploding and catching fire whilst the battery was being recharged. There is also a risk of electric shock from unsafe chargers.

Please follow the advice below to reduce the risk of a fire, electrical shock or damage to your equipment when recharging e-cigarettes and mobile devices.

All Chargers

- Where possible use the charger that is supplied with the mobile device or e-cigarette.
- If you need a replacement / additional charger always try to purchase a genuine factory made replacement that is suitable for the device you are charging. Avoid unbranded cheap items, usually purchased over the internet or from market stalls.
- Use the 6 point safety check below to check whether it is safe:

Does the charger have insulation on the pins?			Does it have a manufacturer's brand name, model and batch number?
Does it have a CE mark?			Does the charger have the correct output voltage (V) for your device?
Before you turn on the power check that it fits properly in the socket?			Does the charger have the correct output current rating (mA) for your device?

Charging E Cigarettes

- Do not leave e-cigarette charging for prolonged periods and never leave it on charge overnight or when you are not in your accommodation or office.

Note that the University's [No Smoking Policy](#) also applies to the use of electronic cigarettes.

The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited wherever smoking is prohibited.

Further Information

University guidance on electrical safety:

- See: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/safety/electricalsafety>

Electrical Safety First:

- Advice on safe use of chargers: <http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guides-and-advice/electrical-items/chargers/>
- General electrical safety advice: <http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guides-and-advice/>