Future Homes:
Electrical Safety in the Net Zero Home
Product Safety

Electrical Safety First
The UK's electrical safety experts

The use of smart home technologies is increasing at a rapid scale.
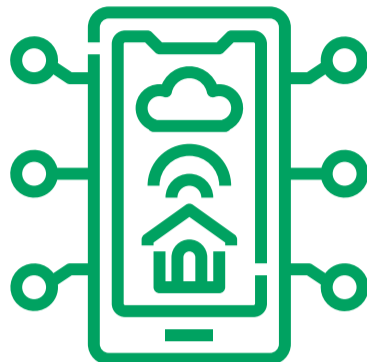
Smart home systems offer significant potential for flexible energy consumption, control of electrical systems and appliances within the home, and increased safety. However, risks could be posed if appliances decide or are instructed to run when occupants are asleep or not at home.

Developing products or solutions which overcome the risks associated with smart technologies will be key to their successful and safe roll out.

93%

of consumers expect e-commerce sites to protect them against counterfeit goods. However, online marketplaces are not bound by the same laws as traditional retailers. This means that unsafe goods can be bought online, and consumers do not have the same legal protections as they would when buying from a high street retailer. Action is therefore required to both tighten regulations and ensure such regulations can be enforced in practice.

Ensuring that consumers operate and maintain appliances correctly is crucial and the importance of this only increases as time of use is shifted.

There is less regulation, monitoring and compliance of smart devices compared to other more established systems. There must be a joined up and consistent approach to minimise safety and security risks. For example, the co-ordination of training standards for the safe installation, set-up and ongoing maintenance of smart home systems.

Right to Repair: Surveys show that **72%** of consumers are already repairing rather than replacing items and **52%** borrow or buy second-hand rather than buying new products.

• There is a risk that consumers will opt for low cost and often sub-standard, counterfeit or second-hand electrical products to replace faulty or broken equipment. Counterfeit electrical products almost always contain sub-standard or faulty parts, increasing the risk of fire or electric shock.

• Prioritising the repair and reuse of manufactured goods could create over 450,000 jobs in the circular economy over the next 15 years. However, it is important that the electrical safety implications of this are considered, and that consumers use reputable and competent tradespeople to carry out repairs.

To read Electrical Safety First's full report, **Future Homes** – Electrical Safety in the Net Zero Home, which includes recommendations to improve product safety,

visit: **www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/futurehomes**

All sources mentioned in this infographic can be found in the Future Homes report.