

## Sarajevo electricity safety

Across Bosnia and Herzegovina, citizens are reporting power outages. According to information obtained by Klix.ba, most of Bosnia and Herzegovina remained without electricity, including Sarajevo, Zenica, Banja Luka and the rest of the country.

You will need to consider what to pack, to ensure you can use your personal electrical appliances safely whilst abroad. This normally includes the use of a travel adaptor, which is a device that simply allows you to plug any UK electrical appliance into a foreign electrical socket. It is important to note that it does not convert the voltage or frequency.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina there are two associated plug types, types C and F. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins and plug type F is the plug which has two round pins with two earth clips on the side. Bosnia and Herzegovina operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.

As voltage can differ from country to country, you may need to use a voltage converter or transformer whilst in Bosnia and Herzegovina. If the frequency is different, the normal operation of an electrical appliance may also be affected. For example, a 50Hz clock may run faster on a 60Hz electricity supply. Most voltage converters and transformers come supplied with plug adaptors, so you may not need to buy a separate travel adaptor.

A dual voltage rated appliance will display for example "INPUT: 110-240V" on the body of the appliance or its power supply. This means that you will not need a converter or transformer but just a travel adaptor, because Bosnia and Herzegovina operates on a 230V supply voltage, which is within the 110-240V range that the dual voltage appliance operates on.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina the supply voltage is 230V. If the appliance is a single voltage rated appliance, it will need to operate at the same voltage as the supply voltage of the country i.e. 230V. If this is not the case it should be used alongside a voltage transformer or converter to allow the appliance to work safely and properly.

Converters and transformers perform a similar function, but their applications differ. Converters are typically used with appliances that operate for a short duration (1-2hours), whilst most transformers can be used alongside appliances that operate continuously.

It's important to understand that some travel adaptors are not suitable for any appliances that require an earth connection. These types of travel adaptors should only be used with double insulated equipment, which will be clearly marked with the symbol shown below.

In a country that produces more electricity than it needs, the email family in Sarajevo spent the whole month of last December without electricity. They are not alone. Whole villages in Bosnia-Herzegovina do not have electricity.

The only light Amela, Sanel and Habibia email used to do their homework that month came through a window from a street lamp. The dark month was the third time electricity has been cut off to their home in the last year. Bika email said that her family of six earns 85 KM a month, while the electric bill can be as high as 50 KM.

Her three children and a 2-month old baby are just numbers in the records and statistics of the three BH utilities. Elektroprivreda Federacije BiH (EPBiH), Elektroprivreda Republike Srpske (EPRS) and Elektroprivreda Hrvatske Zajednice Herceg Bosna (EPHZHB) disconnected electricity to some 70,000 households last year because of unpaid bills.

Power companies say they are forced to adopt such unpopular measures as they attempt the huge tasks of becoming profitable businesses, privatizing and splitting up resources to allow for open competition.

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