

## BE ALARMED - SMOKE ALARMS MANDATORY IN NSW HOMES

Standards Australia warned all NSW homeowners to be on guard against purchasing poor quality smoke alarms when it became compulsory for all homes to have alarms installed.

Mr Colin Blair, from Standards Australia, said homeowners need to be careful and purchase quality alarms that meet the Australian Standard.

"Home owners need to be aware of the different types of alarms that are on the market and their different performances," he said.

Since Monday 1 May 2006, all buildings in NSW where people sleep must be fitted with smoke alarms. Previously smoke alarms were only required in new and renovated homes.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (Smoke Alarms) regulation 2006, requires new alarms to comply with Australian Standard AS 3786.

The regulation applies to private homes and residences including apartments, and shared accommodation such as boarding houses and nursing homes.

The NSW Fire Brigades recommend photo-electric smoke alarms are installed in paths of travel between sleeping areas and exits to the open air or to common corridors.

Photo-electric smoke alarms detect smoke from the commonest types of house fire involving synthetic materials from furniture and fabrics and fires that smoulder.

The NSW Fire Brigades also recommend all alarms are hard wired into the main power supply by qualified electricians particularly in residences where people come and go.

The introduction of the new laws is in response to the 144 deaths from house fires in NSW over the last five years and a spate of deaths last winter.

According to the NSWFB, one third to a half of those fatalities may have been prevented if the homes had a working smoke alarm and had practiced a home escape plan. Sixty percent of deaths from house fires occur at night while people are asleep.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH CEN

Standards Australia has recently moved to strengthen and formalise its relationship with the European Standards Body, CEN by becoming a partner standards development organisation. This new relationship, which has been in effect from 1st April 2006 will simplify the process for Australia adopting European Standards as well as giving Australian experts access to attend CEN committees where we have identified a special interest and there is no existing arrangement for cooperation under the Vienna Agreement.

This is due to the relationship between CEN and ISO for joint working the Vienna Agreement, in support of Australian treaty obligations (such as the Australia-Europe MRA on medical devices) and in those cases where the European Standard is widely recognised as the de facto International Standard.

At a technical level, Australian experts have, over many years, sought to develop a high level of cooperation with those from Europe. A typical example is the joint meeting of ISO/TC 180 Solar Energy and its European counterpart, CEN/TC 312, held in Las Palmas (Canary Islands) in March.

Pictured Left: The Chair of ISO/TC 180, Mr Ken Guthrie of Renewable Energy, Victoria (Right) is seen congratulating, Dr Iordanis Paradissiadis Chair (Left) of CEN/TC 312 on a successful outcome from the meeting.



## SECURITY FORUM

Standards Australia is holding a Security Forum to discuss Australian Standards that are under development and those that have been recently introduced to address national security issues, assist owners and operators of infrastructure to protect their assets, and protect the community.

The program includes sessions dedicated to risk management, logical security and identity management, personnel and physical security.

Speakers include:

The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, Attorney General

- Mr John Tucker, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia
- Mr Chris Allen, Head of Security Sydney, Opera House
- Mr Geoffrey Askew, Head of Group Security, Qantas Airways Limited

The forum presents a unique opportunity to meet with key decision makers from government, leaders from industry and the Chairs of Standards Australia's security related committees.

### Where and when:

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

9.00am to 3.30pm (Registration from 8.00am)

### Information and Registration:

There is no charge for this event. Please [click here](#) to register.

Registration closes Monday 10 July 2006

### Sponsorship:

Sponsorship plays a key role in enabling Standards Australia to host forums such as this one - we welcome your participation and support.

For information about Sponsorship opportunities contact Mark Bezzina on (02) 8206 6730 or email [mark.bezzina@standards.org.au](mailto:mark.bezzina@standards.org.au)

## NEW CONSENSUS MODELS PILOTED - E-COMMITTEES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

A group of Standards Australia staff (Strategic Direction Milestone Group 12) is exploring new ways of developing documents which maintain our high standards of consensus while utilising online tools to cut down on requirements for paperwork and meetings. Three public project review groups are under way using a pilot process, revising AS 2333-1980 Water resistance of wristwatches, AS 2834-1995 Computer Accommodation, and reviewing the work of ISO TC120 Leather. These are action research projects from which we are learning important lessons about online registration of committee members, virtual committees and electronic working.

We recognise this approach is not suitable for all Standards development projects. The following criteria have been identified as key components for projects using this process:

- Indication of market need and stakeholder interest;
- There is no existing committee or lack of nominating organisations;
- The stakeholder group is suitable for online working;
- Existing standards or mature drafts are available;
- There has been little technological change in the subject area since the original document;
- Few input/reference standards to consider;
- Low level of expected controversy with clear development options available.

If you are interested in participating in either of the review groups and assisting us in trialling a new way of developing standards, please contact the relevant project manager:

**EX-001 Timepieces**

Angelo di Giunta (angelo.digiunta@standards.org.au)

Further information is available at: <https://committees.standards.org.au/COMMITTEES/EX-001>

**EX-002 Computer Accommodation**

Andrew McKay (andrew.mckay@standards.org.au)

Further information is available at: <https://committees.standards.org.au/COMMITTEES/EX-002>

**EX-003 Leather**

Diana Mead (diana.mead@standards.org.au)

Further information is available at: <https://committees.standards.org.au/COMMITTEES/EX-003>

If you have a suggestion for a new project that would be suitable for development using the new pilot process, please contact the Milestone Group 12 owner, Alistair Tegart (alistair.tegart@standards.org.au)

**NEW STANDARD TO BOOST CUSTOMER SATISFACTION**

Customers and businesses worldwide are set to benefit from the new International Standard for 'Customer Satisfaction - guidelines for complaints handling in organisations' that has been released by Standards Australia.

The new Standard provides private and public organisations in Australia and overseas with a 'how to' guide for complaints handling that will improve customer satisfaction and lead to product and service improvements.

Bill Dee, Chair of Standards Australia's Complaints Handling committee said the new Standard will provide greater assurance to customers when they buy goods and services in today's global market.

"Now more than ever, consumers are buying products online and from international companies that don't have a local presence. Complaints arising from these situations could be handled better.

"An International Standard is essential and in today's modern marketplace and internationally there is strong support for this International Standard. This Standard sets the benchmark for complaints handling around the globe.

"For business and organisations, it has long been accepted that effective complaint-handling practices have a positive impact on brand loyalty, and the absence of a system to deal with customer complaints and feedback on goods and services in the marketplace is a competitive disadvantage.

"The new Complaints Handling Standard offers effective complaints handling guidance and is a valuable reference for businesses and organisations for establishing, operating and maintaining an effective system that will provide market intelligence, build customer loyalty and improve domestic and international competitiveness.

"Industry based external dispute resolution schemes exist in the banking, insurance, financial services, mortgages, telecommunication, private health insurance, and utilities sectors and are likely to appear in other industries. Central to this is an effective complaints handling system which can deal with individual complaints effectively and also identify systemic issues that can be rectified and contribute to the continuous improvement of these services," he said.

The Complaints Handling Standard is the first of three international standards that will strengthen the focus on customers in organisations worldwide.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the ACCC, ASIC and the Consumers' Federation of Australia amongst others are represented on Standards Australia's committee OB-009 that reviewed the International Standard then adopted it with modifications as an Australian Standard.

This 'Customer Satisfaction - guidelines for complaints handling in organisations' provides guidance for the process of complaints handling related to products within an organisation, including planning, design, operation, maintenance and improvement.

Implementation of the process described in this International Standard can:

- provide a complainant with access to an open and responsive complaints-handling process;
- enhance the ability of the organisation to resolve complaints in a consistent, systematic and responsive manner;
- provide a basis for an organisation to identify trends and eliminate causes of complaints, and improve the organisation's operations;
- help an organisation create a customer-focused approach to resolving complaints; and
- provide a basis for continual review and analysis of the complaints-handling process, the resolution of complaints, and process improvements made.

### **WIRING RULES: DRAFT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

New drafts of AS/NZS 3000 Electrical installations, more commonly known as the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules, are now available for public comment.

Over many years, the Wiring Rules has provided a unified approach to electrical installation safety. It provides requirements for their design and construction to ensure safety from fire and electric shock and prevent electrical faults caused by poor, installation design, equipment selection and installation practices.

The Wiring Rules has played an important role in decreasing the incidence of electrical injuries and fatalities and the proposed changes are intended to further reduce such occurrences.

The Wiring Rules has been 'the bible' for electrical contractors, design consultants, regulators, electrical industry training bodies, and manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of electrical equipment and accessories.

A major change in the structure of the draft is the separation of the document into two parts within the one cover.

Part One provides an 'outcomes oriented' approach to allow flexibility in design while still satisfying the fundamental safety principles. Part Two details 'deemed to comply' solutions that are expected to be used in the majority of electrical installation work.

The main changes proposed by the draft include:

- extended application of Residual Current Devices (RCDs);
- the introduction of protection against arcing faults;
- installation couplers recognised as a suitable means of connection;
- strengthening of requirements for the prevention of the spread of fire;
- provision of enhanced requirements for recessed luminaires;
- introduction of requirements for sanitisation areas in the food processing industry;
- the mandatory requirement of RCD operation and earth fault-loop impedance testing;
- the reinstatement of much of the guidance material removed from the 2000 edition;
- additional informative appendices; and
- a more logical layout with additional illustrations and background information to make it easier to read and user-friendly.

There are ten sectional drafts that cover the Part 1, eight sections of Part 2 plus the Appendices to Part 2. These drafts are numbered DR 06001 to DR 06010 and will be available for public comment from 31 March 2006 until 30 June 2006. To view the draft visit [www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au) and click on the 'Drafts for Public Comment' link.

This draft Standard has been developed by Committee EL-001 Wiring Rules consisting of representative from a broad range of electrical industry organisations.

## SEMANTIC TECHNOLOGIES FORUM

On 2nd May 2006 National ICT Australia and Standards Australia hosted a semantic technologies forum at NICTA offices at Australian Technology Park. The forum was well attended, including the Environmental, Transport, Government, Emergency Services, Health, Finance, Software Engineering and Research sectors.

Issues relating to semantic technologies affect all business sectors. A lack of standardised language and concepts hinders data exchange both within business sector verticals and across horizontals. Many organisations within Australia have recognised these problems and are searching for solutions. The purpose of the forum was to bring these groups together to discuss issues, share experiences and explore new ways forward. In particular, explored the possibility of establishing an appropriate Standards Australia committee to assist progress.

The forum established that:

- Many attendees are actively involved in solving Semantic Technologies issues in their domain;
- Semantic technologies are being fitted into existing verticals and can also be a driver for the development of new service delivery models and technologies;
- Considerable problems occurred, however, at sector boundaries, e.g. between health and emergency services. Even within government there are Semantic Technology silos that prevent data interchange
- Participants would like a mechanism to better share and identify gaps to investigate the issues affecting all verticals;

Presentations were made by:

- Anne Cregan, NICTA;
- David Hansen, CSIRO;
- Michael Langdon, Standards Australia

NICTA and Standards Australia are now planning a follow-up meeting of interested parties to explore next steps. This will be preceded by an on-line discussion to help crystallise goals for the meeting. Please contact [michael.langdon@standards.org.au](mailto:michael.langdon@standards.org.au) for further details.

## EFFECTS OF CYCLONE 'LARRY'

Standards Australia Chairman of wind loading committee BD-006-02 Dr. John Holmes of JDH Consulting recently spent three days in the Innisfail district of North Queensland investigating the effects of Cyclone 'Larry' to buildings and other structures, shortly after the event. He accompanied researchers from the Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia, TimberED and the James Cook Cyclone Testing Station. Here, Dr Holmes provides an account of his visit:

'Larry' was a small storm, with an eye about 20 kilometres in diameter that crossed the coast at the mouth of the Johnstone River to the east of Innisfail. The storm moved quickly inland, which probably helped to limit the amount of wind damage. However, significant damage was experienced between Babinda in the north and Silkwood in the south. Storm surge effects were felt at Cowleys Beach, Kurrimine Beach and Mission Beach, on the south side of the track.

Although initially classified by the Bureau of Meteorology as a Category 5 cyclone at landfall, subsequent analysis of recorded wind speeds and the failure of simple structures such as road signs indicated that, in fact, it was a high Category 3, or low Category 4, event. The original assessment as a Category 5 was of considerable concern to Dr. Holmes, in his role of Chair of the wind actions sub-committee of Standards Australia, as the current design wind speed for ultimate limit states design on the Queensland coast (Region C) in the Australian Wind Actions Standard is at the Category 4 level. A Category 5 cyclone has never previously been recorded as crossing the Queensland coast.

For the general maximum gust wind speeds of 50-60 m/s (10 metres in open terrain) seen at locations near the eye wall of the cyclone, the performance of newer structures built since Cyclones 'Althea' and 'Tracy' in the 1970s, and 'Winifred' in 1986 also affecting the Innisfail area was generally satisfactory. However, some newer houses on a ridge in East Innisfail had failed - probably due to the lack of account of the topographic speed-up effects, as required by AS/NZS1170.2

### Structural design actions - Wind actions.

Many older buildings had failed, however; the failures were very often attributed to the development of high internal pressures, resulting from debris damage to window glass, or the failure of roller doors due to direct wind pressure. The latter has been of particular concern to the Standards Committee for some time, and it is currently considering an amendment to AS/NZS1170.2 requiring roller doors to be treated as dominant openings for internal pressure assessment. This would be applicable to all types of extreme winds, not just cyclones. Unfortunately roller doors have a very poor track record in extreme wind events. John Holmes believes that it should be possible for manufacturers to supply cyclonic resistant locking/retaining systems for roller doors.

Prevention of debris generation due to roof failure of older buildings, and of small structures, such as garden sheds was important, as large debris items, flying at speeds approaching cyclonic wind speeds, had the potential to cause failure of newer buildings, that had themselves been correctly designed for wind loads exceeding those experienced.

The performance of engineered non-building structures was generally good in 'Larry', with the notable exception of a chimney stack at the Mourilyan Sugar Mill. The latter was apparently suffering from corrosion. Interestingly the chimney was equipped with helical strakes. The latter are effective at mitigating cross-wind vibrations at low-medium wind speeds, but would have significantly increased the wind loads during the Cyclone, because of the increased drag coefficient. Failure of some small communications towers, including a mobile telephone tower were also observed during 'Larry'.

Detailed reports of the effects of Cyclone 'Larry' will be published by the Bureau of Meteorology ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)), the James Cook C.T.S. ([www.eng.jcu.au/cts](http://www.eng.jcu.au/cts)) and Geoscience Australia ([www.ga.gov.au](http://www.ga.gov.au)).

Top left (1): Failed road sign used to determine local gust wind speeds.

Top right (2): Collapsed chimney stack at the Mourilyan sugar mill.

Bottom left (3): Good performance from a new elevated house, East Innisfail.

Bottom right (4): Partial roof removal from 1960s house, Belvedere.



**2006 AUSTRALIAN DESIGN AWARDS**

The Australian design industry has united like never before at the spectacular 2006 Australian Design Awards, hosted by Standards Australia on Friday 19 May 2006 at Sydney's Wharf 8. Master of ceremonies and popular stand-up comedian Wil Anderson entertained a record 700 guests, including some of Australia's top product designers and emerging young talent.

Best known for his work as the Chief Design Advisor to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Committee, Guest of Honour Mr Michael Bryce presented the 2006 Australian Design Award® of the Year to ResMed. Awarded for the S8 Series Flow Generator and HumidAire 3i Humidifier System, a lightweight palm-sized sleep apnea treatment device, designed to alleviate common breathing and snoring problems suffered by around 10 per cent of Australia's adult population.

This year's judges commented that ResMed has a lot to be proud of.

"Years of design achievement have lead to one of the world's most compact and sophisticated sleep apnea devices. This is Australian product design at its best!"

Stephanie Watson, Manager of Standards Australia's Australian Design Awards said to win the Australian Design Award of the Year is to receive the highest national achievement of design excellence available to the Australian design industry.

More than 250 products across 11 categories were entered this year. Entries were shortlisted to 104 by an international panel of designers from America, Sweden, Korea, the Netherlands and Australia. They were then assessed by a panel of industry professionals who spent a full week judging the originality, design, safety and commercial viability of the products.

University of New South Wales student Tricia Ho was awarded the coveted Gold Award in Australia's leading student design award, the Australian Design Award® - Dyson Student Award, for her revolutionary Ergonomic Violin.

Tricia takes home prize money of \$7,000, and has earned a place in the James Dyson Award; a prestigious international award open exclusively to winners of national student design programs.

Framed by an exclusive Bombay Sapphire cocktail bar, a striking exhibition of the finalist products and an after-party to boot, this year's Australian Design Awards melded excellence, sophistication and glamour to once again create the Australian design industry's night of nights, and the culmination of an epic year in Australian design.

To view the winners and photos of the 2006 Australian Design Awards, visit: [www.designawards.com.au](http://www.designawards.com.au)

More information will appear in the next edition of Up Magazine.



## CERTIFICATION OF PLASTICS WELDERS

Standards Australia has received requests to prepare an Australian Standard setting out requirements for the qualification and certification of plastics welders.

The first meeting of a new Sub Committee PL-006-02 for the “Qualification and Certification of Plastics Welding Personnel” was held recently to discuss if there was a need for such a Standard.

It was stated at the Sub-Committee meeting that -

- There is an increasing use of plastics welding, particularly for Polyethylene pipes;
- There are ongoing failures in the water and mining industry plastics welding related to workmanship;
- Failure of larger sewer mains could result in fines of up to \$2m due to environmental damage and contamination;
- A National Standard would raise the issue of plastics welding and would promote the need for improved welding and welder certification;
- It would provide a mechanism for greater consistency in training courses;
- It would foster recognition and provide career paths for individuals;
- It promotes training facilities (there is likely to be an increased demand);
- Most importantly, it would provide a contractual document for specifications and a single reference point for plastics welding;
- Using ISO 9000 terminology, welding can be classified as a “special process” which is highly dependant on operator skills;
- The Standard would align plastics welding with metal welding qualification requirements (taking into account the differences);
- The Standard would also be consistent with other International schemes;

It was acknowledged that the transition needs should also be addressed in the Standard.

The Sub-Committee is now preparing a draft document for further discussion by the main Committee PL-006 - Polyolefin pipe systems.

**Subcommittee:** PL-006-02, Qualification and Certification of Welding Personnel

**Chairman:** Greg Moore SA Water

**Projects Manager:** Otto Marr [Otto.marr@standards.org.au](mailto:Otto.marr@standards.org.au)

## GAS CYLINDER TEST STATION

Standards Australia Committee ME-002-04 has agreed to adopt ISO 11623: 2002 ‘Transportable gas cylinders - Periodic inspection and testing of composite gas cylinders’ with national modifications. This Standard will supersede AS 2337.3: 1998 ‘Gas cylinder test stations - Inspection and testing of fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) gas cylinders’.

The Committee’s decision to replace AS 2337.3 with the adoption of an ISO Standard is based on the following:

- Currently, there is no manufacturing of composite cylinders to an Australian Standard, and hence no requirement for inspection or test parameters that are uniquely Australian;
- ISO 11623 gas has evolved to become a technically superior Standard concerning the examination and testing requirements of composite cylinders, and one which is not in conflict with AS 2337.3;

This Standard specifies requirements for periodic inspection and testing of hoop wrapped and fully wrapped composite transportable gas cylinders intended for compressed, liquefied or dissolved gases under water pressure capacity of 0.5 - 450 litres.

The main and significant changes to this Standard are replacing some of the normative references with relevant AS and ISO Standards. This is because some requirements of the ISO specification are in conflict with the requirements in the applicable Australian Standards or regulations.

Another change is the removal of Tables 1 to 4 in the current ISO Standard which is replaced by a new Table on Periodic inspection and test intervals for all composite

cylinders. This is due to the requirements of the ISO specification being in conflict with applicable Australian Standards or regulations.

This Standard is at the Public Review stage and closes on 15 June 2006.

**Committee:** ME-002-04 Revision of AS 2337.3 (MOD 11623:2002)

**Chairman:** Julian Hart

**Projects Manager:** Inderjeet Kaur [inderjeet.kaur@standards.org.au](mailto:inderjeet.kaur@standards.org.au)

## HEALTH STANDARDS

Having completed the much anticipated revision of joint Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4875 Office-based health care facilities – Reprocessing of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment, Committee HE-023 (Processing of medical and surgical instruments) will begin the revision of AS/NZS 4187 Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities in August.

A survey has recently been undertaken by key stakeholders to determine the relevance, need and support for a new Australian Standard on a health screening system to be utilised by employers as part of their quality system in the workplace. The survey was designed to identify the best way of approaching this area of standardization and the areas that need to be addressed. Results are currently being collated.

Two other Standards under development are:

- A new Standard outlining packaging requirements for the safe transport of biological material for surface transport. This Standard “Packaging for surface transport of biological material that may cause disease in humans, animals and plants” specifically outlines packaging requirements for biological material that is not covered in other codes or legislation. The objective is to provide the workforce with appropriate protection and the community with the assurance of safe surface transport of biological material. This work is being undertaken by HE-007 Packaging of Infectious materials
- Revision of the AS/NZS (3200.2.38:1997) Medical Electrical equipment - Part 2.38: Particular requirements for safety - Electrically and manually operated medical beds for adult use this is being undertaken by HE-027 (Hospital Beds). This Standard addresses safety issues for the person using the bed, their family, and health professionals.

For information on any of the above Standards or committees please contact:

**Project Manager:** Annette Keay [annette.keay@standards.org.au](mailto:annette.keay@standards.org.au).

## LIGHTNING PROTECTION STANDARD

Committee EL-024, Protection Against Lightning, has been diligently working on the revision of the interim Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1768(Int): 2003 Lightning Protection.

The Committee finalised the revision in early February 2006 and a draft DR 06132, was released for a public comment period commencing on 20th March 2006.

Major changes to the interim standard include:

- The 'risk management' calculation tool has been revised;
- The ground flash density maps have replaced the existing Thunderday maps for Australia and New Zealand;
- The recommended precautions for personal safety have been updated with current practice;
- A comprehensive set of design rules for the provision minimum requirements for air terminals, downconductors, and equipotential bonding earth terminations have been revised;
- A sub-section on "Protection of Equipment" within buildings has been significantly extended and also includes practical installation examples;
- The recommendations for the protection of small shelters have been strengthened;
- An informative appendix on "Earthing and Bonding" has been revised;

The public comment period has now closed and the compilation of comments will be reviewed in the August 2006 meeting of EL-024. It is anticipated that the new edition will supersede the interim Standard, by January 2007.

**Committee:** EL-024 Protection Against Lightning

**Projects Manager:** Jahanzeb Rahman [Jahanzeb.rahman@standards.org.au](mailto:Jahanzeb.rahman@standards.org.au)

## LOCKS AND LOCKSETS

Two revised Standards have been developed by committee CS-082 Locksets and Hardware to provide a better rating system for locksets and hardware for doors and windows.

The Standards will include:

- A Glossary of terms and rating system (AS 4145.1) to enable consumers to choose the appropriate locksets for their requirements;
- The design, performance and testing requirements for Mechanical locksets (AS 4145.2) that are the basis of the classification levels;

The main changes between the current Standard and the revised Standards are:

### Mix 'n match

The draft AS 4145.2 allows for greater flexibility in testing and rating. It allows locksets to claim a rating even if they comprise differently rated components from different manufacturers. In these cases, the lockset would be given the rating level for the lowest rated component in the unit.

### Security simplified

A big improvement is the separation of classifications for keying security and physical security, making both much easier to assess. Keying security relates to the numbers of differs, the way a duplicate key can be obtained and the legal protection of keys, while physical security relates to forcible unauthorised entry attacks on cylinders, such as pulling, drilling and so on.

### Classification levels

To ensure consistency, ten classification levels for each lockset requirement, such as physical security, durability, etc have been introduced. Assessments of locksets to the revised new standards will not need re-testing for these values.

### Corrosion resistance

The committee is currently working on an improved way of assessing the corrosion resistance of various finishes based on real world environments.

**Committee:** CS-082 Locksets and Hardware

**Chairman:** Hans Esser

**Acting Projects Manager:** Ahshanur Rashid [ahshanur.rashid@standards.org.au](mailto:ahshanur.rashid@standards.org.au)

The locksets committee wants to know your opinions on the Australian Standards on locks - both proposed and existing. Please spend a few moments answering a short online survey located here.

## **COMMUNICATIONS CABLING - CT-001-03 MATERIALS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION CABLES**

Subcommittee CT-001-03 is currently engaged in a project to revise and upgrade Australian Standard AS1049, Telecommunication cables - Insulation, sheath and jacket. The objective is to provide the Australian communications cabling industry with explanations and directions for use of specifications for various cabling materials.

The Standard specifies requirements for the composition, physical and electrical performance and test methods of various materials, insulation, sheath and jacket and is set out in the following six parts:

- Explanations and directions for use
- Materials - Polyolefins;
- Materials - Polyvinyl chloride (PVC);
- Materials - Polyamides;
- Materials - Others;
- Test methods;

AS1049 is currently in the initial stage of development and parts 1 - 5 are scheduled to be released for public comment in November 2006 with part 6 being released the following June.

With all standards development committees, Standards Australia is conscious of the importance of maintaining a correct balance of representation. This representation needs to be readdressed from time to time as members leave, sometimes because their work for the committee has been completed or because of pressure from conflicting demands on their time.

Standards Australia is actively seeking additional members, in particular from supplier organisations of cabling materials, for CT-001-03 Materials for Telecommunication Cables.

Please contact Ray Moth on 02 8206 6831 or at [raymond.moth@standards.org.au](mailto:raymond.moth@standards.org.au) to volunteer, or for further information.

**Committee:** CT-001-03 Materials for Telecommunication Cables

**Project Manager:** Ray Moth [raymond.moth@standards.org.au](mailto:raymond.moth@standards.org.au)

## **SAFETY WITH CONFIDENCE**

Every day, thousands of Australians work alongside hazardous chemicals that may inflict serious injuries, even if there is only minor contact. When the worst does happen, these people depend on emergency showers and eyewash stations to flush away the chemicals and minimise any long-term physical damage. Such equipment must operate perfectly, the first time.

Although emergency showers and eyewash stations are common in laboratories and factories, no current Australian Standard covers their design and performance. This leaves the way open for low-quality equipment, poor maintenance, or inadequate training, any of which may compromise workplace safety. The American National Standard ANSI Z358.1 has been widely used by suppliers and major purchasers for some time, but it does not properly meet the needs of the local industry.

Standards Australia has worked with a range of industrial and laboratory users, suppliers, and government and industry bodies to develop a draft Australian Standard which proposes requirements for performance, materials, installation, maintenance and training for this equipment. It is intended to allow the continued use of existing equipment built to the US Standard, while providing guidance appropriate to Australian companies and OH&S legislation.

The draft Standard, DR 06357 Emergency eyewash and shower equipment, is planned to be released for public comment around July 2006.

**Committee:** SF-048 Emergency eyewash and shower equipment

**Projects Manager:** Philip Wood [philip.wood@standards.org.au](mailto:philip.wood@standards.org.au)

## **SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR EXPLOSIVE GAS ATMOSPHERES**

Standards Australia is currently revising AS 1826, Electrical equipment for explosive gas atmospheres "Special protection" Type of protection 's'.

This is a very thorough review and takes into consideration all previously adopted IEC Standards applicable to this type of electrical equipment.

The intent of AS/NZS 1826 is to allow design, assessment and testing of apparatus or parts of apparatus that cannot be classified within a recognised technique because of functional or operational limitations.

There is currently no equivalent international Standard available and therefore the Committee has opted to publish it as an Interim Standard. This will allow for a longer 'public comment' period.

This Interim Standard specifies requirements relating to the design, construction, testing and marking of electrical apparatus suitable for use in explosive gas atmospheres. It supplements the general requirements in AS/NZS 60079.0 and the requirements of the standardized types of protection, in accordance with the AS/NZS 60079 series.

The special protection technique outlined in this Interim Standard should not be used as a last resort, in the event that the apparatus fails compliance using one of the usual explosion-protection techniques covered by the AS/NZS 60079 series of Standards .

By its complexity, testing and assessment to this special protection technique can not be as prescriptive as for the usual explosion-protection techniques and therefore it is expected that considerable dialogue will be required between the manufacturer and testing laboratory.

All efforts are being made to have this Interim Standard published by 30 June 2006.

**Subcommittee:** EL-014-04, Intrinsic safety

**Chairman:** Dr. Chris Simpson

**Projects Manager:** José David [jose.david@standards.org.au](mailto:jose.david@standards.org.au)

## **TELESCOPIC HANDLERS**

Standards Australia is in the process of developing the following new Telescopic Handlers Standards with the drafts reaching the Public Comment stage in June 2006:

- AS 1418.19, Cranes, hoists and winches, Part 19: Telescopic handlers
- AS 2550.19, Cranes, hoists and winches - Safe use, Part 19: Telescopic handlers.

The preparation of these Standards was requested and strongly supported by regulatory authorities, manufacturers/suppliers and end users, who were concerned about the risks involved in the use of such equipment in certain applications.

A telescopic handler, which is also known as "Telehandler", is defined as "a mobile rider mounted self-propelled counterbalanced lifting device with a telescopic boom, and without any hoisting mechanisms". The lifting is primarily achieved by luffing and telescoping of the boom. Telehandlers are usually fitted with a fork as the standard lifting device, but can be fitted with a variety of attachments for different types of loads, including ones incorporating hoisting mechanisms.

AS 1418.19 covers the design, manufacture and testing of the telehandlers and their attachments. The draft is largely based on the relevant European Standard EN 1459, Safety of industrial trucks"Self-propelled variable reach trucks, however significant and important changes were made to cover some aspects which were not adequately addressed in the European document.

AS 2550.19 covers the safe use of telehandlers, and is taking cognizance of the requirements and format of the current edition of AS 2550.1, Cranes, hoists and winches "Safe use, Part1: General requirements. It includes requirements for the planning, selection, siting, operation, maintenance and inspection of the telehandlers.

**Sub Committee:** Telescopic Handlers, ME-005-22

**Chairman:** Mr Stan Palmer

**Projects Manager:** Nabil Kolta Nabil.kolta@standards.org.au

## **WATER MICROBIOLOGY**

Joint Standards Australia/New Zealand Technical Committee FT-020 Water Microbiology prepares test methods pertaining to water microbiology parameters, disinfection tablets, legionella and guidelines for sampling containers amongst others.

The Committee is in the process of reviewing the AS 4276 Water microbiology series of Standards and is currently considering comments received from the public.

The following parts of the series have been reviewed and recommendations have been to:

- Withdraw - AS 4276.8:1995 Water microbiology, Method 8: Faecal streptococci - Estimation of most probable number (MPN);
- Withdraw - AS 4276.10:1995 Water microbiology, Method 10: Pseudomonads - Estimation of most probable number (MPN);
- Yet to be decided - AS 4276.11:1995 Water microbiology, Method 11: Pseudomonads - Membrane filtration method;
- Withdraw - AS 4276.12:1995 Water microbiology, Method 12: Pseudomonas aeruginosa - Estimation of most probable number (MPN);
- Revise - AS 4276.13:1995 Water microbiology, Method 13: Pseudomonas aeruginosa - Membrane filtration method;
- Revise - AS 4276.14:1995 Water microbiology, Method 14: Salmonellae;

The Standards identified for withdrawal will be removed as these are no longer used by the testing community. Revisions initiated by the committee, are expected to be issued for public comment within the next 6 to 12 months.

As a user of this series, if there are technical concerns or comments on these standards please send them to Project Manager, Numani Weerasuriya in order for the committee to consider them during this review period.

**Committee:** Water Microbiology, FT-020

**Chairman:** Mr Bruce Gray, Queensland Health Pathology & Scientific Services

**Projects Manager:** Numani Weerasuriya numani.weerasuriya@standards.org.au

## **NT-001 NANOTECHNOLOGIES**

Nanotechnologies are the design, characterisation, production and application of structures, devices and systems by controlling shape and size at nanometre scale. A nanometre is  $10^{-9}$  m.

Standards Australia has convened a new committee to monitor and contribute to emerging nanotechnology standardisation work programs in ISO, IEC and the IEEE. The scope of the new committee NT-001 Nanotechnologies is:

Standardisation in the field of nanotechnologies that includes either or both of the following:

- Understanding and control of matter and processes at the nanoscale, typically, but not exclusively, below 100 nanometres in one or more dimensions where the onset of size dependent phenomena usually enables novel applications;
- Utilizing the properties of nanoscale materials that differ from the properties of individual atoms, molecules, and bulk matter, to create improved materials, devices, and systems that exploit these new properties.

Specific tasks include developing and identifying standards for: terminology and nomenclature; metrology and instrumentation, including specifications for reference materials; test methodologies; modelling and simulation; and science-based health, safety, and environmental practices.

NT-001 is formed from representatives of national nominating organisations as diverse as CSIRO, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, the National Measurement Institute, the Plastics and Chemicals Association, the Australian Industry Group and the ACTU.

If you are interested in contributing to the development of Australian and international standards in the field of nanotechnologies, we have set up a sub-committee to enlist expert contributors to support the main committee. Please contact:

Alistair Tegart - Group Manager

Communications, IT and e-Commerce,

alistair.tegart@standards.org.au or visit the committee website at: <https://committees.standards.org.au/COMMITTEES/NT-001>

## **IRRIGATION WATER METERING**

The Australian Government has commenced the National Water Initiative (NWI) under Clause 88 of the NWI all irrigation water is to be metered.

Standards Australia has entered into an agreement to develop the Standards for metering irrigation water. This agreement is for an accelerated program to develop these standards including metering water on closed pipes, open channels, rivers and dams.

Standards Australia will be working closely with the National Measurement Institute whose role is to develop the metrological requirements for the metering.

The project involves reviewing some 200 International and European Standards on the methods for measuring flows of water in order to decide which technologies are capable of delivering the required accuracy.

The new Standards will be required to:

- Specify the requirements for the devices to convert water velocity and area measurement into flow rates that can be recorded continuously to meter the water consumption;
- To facilitate the correct installation of the equipment so that it maintains its accuracy and is tamper evident;
- To maintain and operate water meters;
- To verify the flow accuracies in service; and
- Collect the flow data so that it can be aggregated on a national basis.

This project has very tight deadlines in order to meet government initiatives and are required to be published in the last quarter of 2006.

**Committee:** CE-024 Measurement of water flow in open channel and closed conduits.

**Project Manager:** Ian Chalmers [ian.chalmers@standards.org.au](mailto:ian.chalmers@standards.org.au)

## drafts

### **DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

An important stage in the development of an Australian Standard® is the Public Comment period. Here is a selection of Draft Standards currently up for comment. View the full list of Draft Standards that are up for public comment at [www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au).

**DR 06236 CP : - 21 June 2006**

Methods of test for single sided and double sided pressure-sensitive adhesive tape  
- Adhesion - Resistance to dynamic shear load at ambient temperature

**DR 06214 : - 26 June 2006**

Performance of refrigerated beverage vending machines - Part 1: Test methods  
- Energy performance

**DR 06232 : - 26 June 2006**

Earth-moving machinery - Off-the-road wheels, rims and tyres - Maintenance and repair - Part 1: Wheel assemblies and rim assemblies

**DR 06226 : - 26 June 2006**

Medicine measures - Part 1: Glass

**DR 06248 : - 28 June 2006**

Steel cylinders for compressed gases - Welded - 150 kg to 500 kg

**DR 06248 : - 28 June 2006**

Steel cylinders for compressed gases - Welded - 150 kg to 500 kg

**DR 06234 : - 28 June 2006**

Electricity metering - Data exchange for meter reading, tariff and load control - Part 21: Direct local data exchange (IEC 62056-21, Ed.1.0 (2002))

**DR 06262 : - 7 July 2006**

Qualification of welders for fusion welding of steels

**DR 06271 : - 10 July 2006**

Valves for compressed gas cylinders - Part 2: Outlet connections (threaded) and stem (inlet) threads

Here is a selection of New Projects that Standards Australia is embarking on. View the full list of new projects visit [click here](#).

**Building, Utilities & Business**

**National low voltage electricity network electrical protection guideline**

Committee: ZZ-003

Project Number: 7656

Project Manager: Alan Ly

Objective: Provides protection considerations in relation to designing, constructing, operating and maintaining a LV Electricity Network.

**Guidelines for live line barehand work**

Committee: ZZ-003

Project Number: 7568

Project Manager: Alan Ly

Product Type: Miscellaneous Products - Other

Objective: To specify the minimum industry standards for live line barehand work and ensuring the safety of electrical workers and the general public.

**Revision of AS/NZS 1841.1 Portable fire extinguishers,**

**Part 1: General Requirements**

Committee: FP-003

Project Number: 7622

Project Manager: Helen Noonan

Revision of: AS/NZS 1841.1:1997

Product Type: Australian Standard

Objective: To facilitate the production and use of safe and functional fire extinguishers, excepting the aerosol type

**Paints for steel structures. Part 7 Aluminium paint**

Committee: CH-003

Project Number: 7689

Project Manager: Boris Krastev

Revision of: AS/NZS 3750.7

Product Type: Joint Standard Amendment SA/SNZ

Objective: Revise AS/NZS 3750.7 in order to reflect advancements in product development

**Community, Materials & IT Standards**

**Hygienic production of crocodile meat for human consumption**

Committee: FT-021

Project Number: 7607

Project Manager: Numani Weerasuriya

Revision of: AS 4467:1998 to be AS 4467:200Y

Product Type: Australian Standard

Objective: To reconfirm the Australian Standard for the construction and equipment and procedures of all premises where crocodiles are slaughtered and processed for the production of crocodile meat for human consumption.

**Information technology - Security techniques - Hash-functions**

**- Part 1:General (AS ISO 10118-1)**

Committee: IT-012

Project Number: 7734

Project Manager: Andrew Caswell

Product Type: Australian/International Standard

Objective: To make available the newer generation (ie stronger) hashing algorithms to IT security specialist, notably within the finance sector, to facilitate Australian changeover prior to 2009, specifically ISO 10118-1 - Information technology - Security techniques - Hashing functions - Part 1 : General.

**Maritime Survivor Locating Systems (MSLS)**

Committee: RC-004

Project Number: 7645

Project Manager: Johit Dass

Revision of: AS/NZS 4869.1

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To provide the minimum requirements for Maritime Survivor Locating Systems (MSLSs) intended for very short-range crew retrieval applications operating on 121.5 MHz commonly referred to as man-overboard systems.

Clothing for protection against liquid chemicals -  
Determination of the resistance of protective  
clothing materials to penetration by liquids under pressure

Committee: SF-004

Project Number: 7509

Project Manager: Olga Pitt

Product Type: Joint/International Standard

Objective: Specifies methods of test for protective clothing materials to penetration  
by liquids under pressure