

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**MECHANICAL AIDS FOR  
PATIENT LIFTING AND  
MOVING—  
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/21, Human Factors. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 August 1988 and published on 3 October 1988.

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Human Factors under the supervision of the Safety Standards Board. It contains specific requirements for the safe design and construction of mechanical aids for patient lifting and moving and has been developed to supplement the published Standards for lifting and moving of patients, aimed at reducing the risks of disabilities and costs in human and economic terms.

Application of the lifting devices covered by this Standard is not restricted to the lifting and moving of patients only (see AS 2569.1, Clause 1.4.5 therein), but may include other persons, having temporary or permanent disabilities.

The Standard is primarily based on BS 5827 —1979, *Mobile, manually operated patient-lifting devices*, and is, where appropriate, aligned with the international developments undertaken by ISO and IEC. Acknowledgement is made of the assistance received from these sources.

This Standard does not provide methods for safe lifting and moving of patients for which reference should be made to the following Standards:

- AS 2569 Guide to the lifting and moving of patients
  - Part 1: Safe manual lifting and moving of patients (AS 2569.1)
  - Part 2: Selection and use of mechanical aids for patient lifting and moving (AS 2569.2)

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

**MECHANICAL AIDS FOR PATIENT LIFTING AND MOVING—  
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

## SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This Standard specifies safety requirements for mechanical devices used in patient lifting and moving. It includes requirements for design and construction of such equipment and accessories, in particular, where these are related to the safety of the operator of the equipment and of the person being lifted and moved.

**1.2 PURPOSE.** The purpose of the Standard is to—

- (a) provide manufacturers and suppliers with relevant details for lifting equipment so as to reduce the possible risk of back injury to persons involved in lifting and moving of patients; and
- (b) ensure the safe functioning of the equipment.

The requirements specified in this Standard ensure that lifting devices are provided with practical and adequate safety features for safe operation.

Where relevant, Occupational Health and Safety Acts and Ordinances and the associated legislation, e.g. Construction Safety Acts, instituted by the Regulatory Authority, should be observed. It should be noted that variations in legislation may exist in each State and Territory.

**1.3 NEW DESIGNS AND INNOVATIONS.** Lifting devices and accessories using materials or having a form of construction different from those detailed in this Standard may be acceptable where an equivalent degree of safety can be demonstrated.

**1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The documents below are referred to in this Standard.

AS	
1192	Electroplated coatings— Nickel and chromium
1418	SAA Crane Code Part 2: Serial hoists (AS 1418.2)
1428	Design for access and mobility Part 1: General requirements for access — Buildings (AS 1428.1)
1554	SAA Structural Steel Welding Code Part 1: Welding of steel structures (AS 1554.1)
1961	Industrial wheels and castors (dimensions and capacities) (based on ISO recommendations)
2019	Fluid power—Hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders—Bore and rod dimensions
2312	Guide to the protection of iron and steel against exterior atmospheric corrosion
2569	Guide to the lifting and moving of patients Part 1: Safe manual lifting and moving of patients (AS 2569.1) Part 2: Selection and use of mechanical aids for patient lifting and moving (AS 2569.2)
3000	SAA Wiring Rules

**1.5 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS 2569.1 and AS 2569.2 and those below apply.

**1.5.1 Accompanying documents**—documents accompanying lifting devices or accessories, containing all important information for the user including operating instructions, parts lists, and maintenance directions.

**1.5.2 Accessories**—those parts or devices necessary to complement the equipment used in a lifting and moving process, e.g. harnesses, seats, slings, spreader bars, straps.

**1.5.3 Instruction documents**—those parts of accompanying documents giving the necessary detailed information on the equipment to enable the user to operate the equipment properly and safely.

**1.5.4 Hazard**—situation of potential risk of injury arising out of a lifting and moving process.

**1.5.5 Lifting devices.**

**1.5.5.1 Mobile hoists with slings**—mobile equipment on wheels for lifting, transferring, and freely moving persons in the seated, semi-seated, and supine positions. The body support unit consists of a fabric sling.

**1.5.5.2 Mobile hoists with rigid seats**—mobile equipment on wheels for lifting, transferring, and moving persons in the sitting position. The body support unit consists of a rigid seat, e.g. one-piece moulded fibreglass or plastics seat, and retaining straps or bars.

**1.5.5.3 Overhead lifting devices**—overhead hoists for lifting, transferring, and moving persons along fixed paths. Track for the hoist trolley can be mounted from the ceiling or supported by a free-standing gantry.

**1.5.5.4 Wall-mounted and floor-mounted hoists**—fixed hoists for lifting, transferring, and moving persons in bathrooms and other areas where limited movement only is necessary.

**1.5.6 Prescribed procedure**—written instructions prepared by manufacturers or suppliers for the purpose of ensuring that any installation, operation, or process is carried out in a safe and efficient manner.

**1.5.7 Regulatory Authority**—Minister of the Crown, a government department, or commission, or other public authority having power to issue regulations, orders, or other instructions having the force of law in respect of any subject covered by this Standard.

**1.5.8 Shall**—indicates that a requirement is mandatory.

**1.5.9 Should**—indicates a recommendation.