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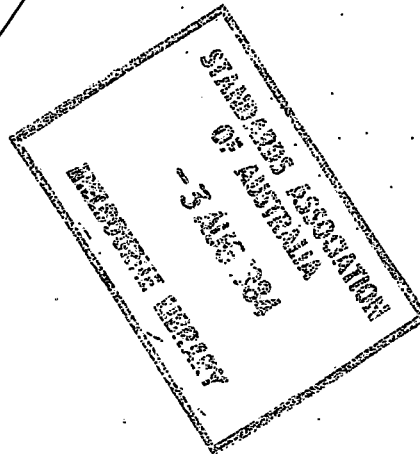
# Australian Standard 1020—1984

## THE CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE STATIC ELECTRICITY

AS/NZS 1020:1995  
The control of undesirable static electricity  
(In Professional Packages 24A, 40A, 57A) 74pp //

Provides recommendations relating to safe control of electrostatic charges generated incidentally by processes or activities. Its purpose is to assist in reducing fire, explosion and nuisance aspects associated with static electricity. It outlines conditions under which the presence of static causes a hazard and recommends methods for its safe dissipation or mitigation. Appendices provide information about the hazards caused by static electricity in the vicinity of flammable mixtures, on minimum ignition energies for a range of chemicals and give examples of solving problems resulting from static electricity.

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Australian Chemical Industry Council  
Australian Institute of Petroleum Limited  
Australian Institute of Physics  
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Department of Defence Support  
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This standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 82198.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**THE CONTROL OF  
UNDESIRABLE STATIC  
ELECTRICITY**

**AS 1020—1984**

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on the Control of Undesirable Static Charges and supersedes AS 1020—1970, Code of Recommended Practice for the Control of Undesirable Static Electricity (known as the SAA Static Electricity Code).

Static is generated by relative movement or separation between two dissimilar surfaces in intimate contact. It is of common occurrence in daily life but often causes danger, discomfort or inconvenience. Under some conditions electrostatic voltages can reach a value in excess of the dielectric strength of air (or other medium) and a spark discharge then occurs. Hazardous conditions exist where such a discharge is liable to occur in areas containing flammable materials. In other instances, static does not present a danger but can cause operational problems during manufacturing or handling processes. Articles sticking to each other or neighbouring objects, and the attraction of dust and foreign material are common examples.

The purpose of this standard is to outline recommendations for the safe control of electrostatic charges generated incidentally by processes or activities. It is emphasized that the standard comprises recommendations and is not intended to become a set of mandatory rules. The standard details the principal methods for safely controlling static generated by solid objects, persons, liquids, dusts and also gases which contain entrained solid or liquid particles (transfer of pure gas does not generate static). Recommendations are included for some specific processes in which the generation of static is a major hazard or inconvenience, but because of the multitude of processes in which static causes operating problems it is not possible that specific recommendations can be included for each case. In particular cases, however, the standard includes a comprehensive introduction on factors involved in the generation of static and the danger it can present in a given environment. Together with the principal control methods these introductions are intended to promote an understanding of the problems and control methods in general and therefore provide a sound basis on which judgement can be applied for solving problems not specifically mentioned.

To further facilitate application of the standard, Appendix D gives examples of how practical problems resulting from static have been solved.

In instances where static charges are liable to accumulate in hazardous locations, it is often necessary that the removal of flammable materials take precedence over, or at least be undertaken in conjunction with, the control of static. Appendix A, therefore, discusses the factors associated with determining the flammable limits of air and vapour mixtures and also outlines recommendations for the removal of flammable mixtures of all types.

For proper application of the control methods, the necessity for measurement of electrostatic parameters is often of fundamental importance. Electric potential and electric field strength detectors and methods for using them are therefore described. Similarly, equipment and methods are described for measuring the actual magnitude of an electric potential and electric field strength. Step-by-step procedures are also detailed for electric potential and electric field strength measurements in hazardous locations. The likelihood of a high-intensity static spark emanating from any object is, among other considerations, dependent on the electrical capacitance of the object, and methods and equipment are therefore described for measuring capacitance. Techniques and instruments for measuring liquid conductivity and the resistance of persons, earthing circuits, materials and products are also included.

Static control methods depend to a large extent on the resistance of the material under consideration. In most cases resistance is measured in terms of 'resistivity', but in the case of liquids it has been found more practicable to measure in terms of 'conductivity'. This standard has therefore adopted the use of volume resistivity (ohm metre) units for all products except liquids which have been measured in terms of conductivity (siemens per metre—see Clauses 1.4.4.5 and 1.4.5.3).

Two new sections have been added to the standard: Section 9, Powdered or Granular Solids, and Section 18, Handling of Electrostatic Sensitive Devices (ESD). Section 18 was added because of the large proportion of public comment requesting that ESD be included. The committee preparing the standard recognizes that Section 18 is incomplete, but because of the long delay that would be introduced in forming another subcommittee to draft an appropriate section, it was decided to mention the problems of ESD in this edition and expand on them when the standard is next revised.

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL</b>	
1.1 Scope .....	6
1.2 Purpose .....	6
1.3 Referenced Documents .....	6
1.4 Definitions .....	7
<b>SECTION 2. GENERATION, INDUCTION AND DANGERS—BASIC CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
2.1 Generation of Static .....	8
2.2 Induction of Static .....	8
2.3 Common Sources of Generation .....	8
2.4 Fire and Explosion Dangers .....	8
2.5 Removal of Fire and Explosion Dangers .....	8
2.6 Working Surfaces and Floor Surface Coverings .....	9
<b>SECTION 3. STATIC DISCHARGES</b>	
3.1 Nature of Static Discharges .....	10
3.2 Energy of a Static Discharge .....	10
<b>SECTION 4. SOLID OBJECTS</b>	
4.1 Selection of an Appropriate Control Method .....	11
4.2 Conducting Objects .....	11
4.3 Non-conducting Objects .....	12
<b>SECTION 5. PERSONS</b>	
5.1 General .....	14
5.2 Wearing Apparel (Other than Footwear) .....	14
5.3 Earthing of Persons by Footwear .....	14
5.4 Other Means of Earthing Persons .....	14
<b>SECTION 6. LIQUIDS</b>	
6.1 Introduction .....	15
6.2 Selection and Application of an Appropriate Control Method .....	16
6.3 Dissipating Charge from Installations .....	16
6.4 Dissipating Charge from Liquids .....	16
6.5 Conductivity Improvers (Antistatic Additives) .....	16
6.6 Reducing the Likelihood of Static Discharges Above a Liquid Surface .....	17
6.7 Avoidance of Turbulence .....	17
6.8 Avoidance of Contaminants .....	17
6.9 Avoidance of High Flow Velocities .....	17
6.10 Use of Relaxation Sections .....	17
6.11 Static Charge Reducers .....	18
6.12 Metallic Piping .....	19
6.13 Hoses and Couplings .....	19
6.14 Filling of Vessels .....	19
6.15 Non-conducting Vessels .....	19
6.16 Transfer of Small Quantities (less than 25 L) .....	19
6.17 Blending and Mixing .....	19
6.18 Sampling from High Pressure Sources .....	19
6.19 Pneumatic Transfer of Liquids .....	19
6.20 Spraying .....	19
6.21 Switch Loading .....	20

	<i>Page</i>
<b>SECTION 7. GASES</b>	
7.1 Introduction	21
7.2 Minimizing Static Generation	21
7.3 Prevention of Static Accumulation	21
7.4 Removal of Ignitable Materials and Mixtures	21
<b>SECTION 8. DUSTS</b>	
8.1 Introduction	22
8.2 Minimizing Static Generation	22
8.3 Dissipating Charge from Equipment	22
<b>SECTION 9. POWDERED OR GRANULAR SOLIDS</b>	
9.1 Introduction	23
9.2 Handling	23
9.3 Control of Static	23
<b>SECTION 10. DRIVE AND CONVEYOR BELTS</b>	
10.1 Generation of Static	24
10.2 Control of Static	24
<b>SECTION 11. EXPLOSIVES</b>	
11.1 Introduction	26
11.2 Assessing the Hazard	26
11.3 Minimizing the Hazard	26
<b>SECTION 12. PRINTING PROCESSES</b>	
12.1 Introduction	27
12.2 Minimizing Static Generation	27
12.3 Prevention of Static Accumulation	27
12.4 Removal of Ignitable Mixtures	27
<b>SECTION 13. COATING, SPREADING AND IMPREGNATING</b>	
13.1 Introduction	28
13.2 Control of Static and Removal of Ignitable Mixtures	28
<b>SECTION 14. PROCESSING AND CONVERSION OF PLASTICS AND RUBBER MATERIALS</b>	
14.1 Introduction	29
14.2 Generation of Static	29
14.3 Control of Static	29
14.4 Solution Casting of Film	29
14.5 End-use Applications	30
<b>SECTION 15. DRYCLEANING</b>	
15.1 Introduction	31
15.2 Control of Static	31
<b>SECTION 16. SUNDRY PROCESSES INVOLVING FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS</b>	
16.1 Loading and Unloading Road Tankers	32
16.2 Rail Tank Wagons	32
16.3 Fuelling and Defuelling Aircraft	32
16.4 Loading and Unloading Tankers and Barges	32
16.5 Fuelling Motor Vehicles	32
16.6 Transfer of Ether and Carbon Disulphide	32
<b>SECTION 17. SUNDRY PROCESSES INVOLVING PRESSURIZED GAS</b>	
17.1 Discharge of Carbon Dioxide	33
17.2 Mixtures of Hydrogen or Acetylene with Air	33
17.3 Transfer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	33
17.4 Steam Jets	33
17.5 Spray Painting	33

SECTION 18. HANDLING OF ELECTROSTATIC SENSITIVE DEVICES		<i>Page</i>
18.1	Introduction .....	34
18.2	Basic Protection Principles .....	34
18.3	Labelling .....	34
18.4	Types of Packages Available .....	34
SECTION 19. DETECTION OF ELECTRIC POTENTIAL OR ELECTRIC FIELD STRENGTH		
19.1	General .....	35
19.2	Neon Lamps .....	35
19.3	Electroscopes .....	35
19.4	Other Methods .....	35
SECTION 20. MEASUREMENT OF ELECTRIC POTENTIAL OR ELECTRIC FIELD STRENGTH		
20.1	Measurement of Electric Potential with Contacting Instrument .....	36
20.2	Measurement of Electric Potential and Electric Field Strength with Non-contacting Instruments .....	36
20.3	Calibration of Non-contacting Electronic Instruments .....	41
20.4	Measurements in Hazardous Areas .....	41
SECTION 21. DETERMINATION OF CAPACITANCE		
21.1	Calculation of Capacitance .....	43
21.2	Capacitance Measurement .....	43
SECTION 22. MEASUREMENT OF CHARGES		
22.1	Measurement of Static Charge .....	44
SECTION 23. MEASUREMENT OF RESISTANCE OR CONDUCTANCE		
23.1	General .....	45
23.2	Resistance of Earthing Circuits .....	45
23.3	Resistance of Materials and Products .....	45
23.4	Personnel Resistance Tester .....	45
23.5	Liquid Conductivity .....	45
APPENDICES		
A	Flammable and Combustible Liquids .....	47
B	Approximate Minimum Ignition Energies .....	50
C	Conducting Coatings for Drive and Conveyor Belts .....	51
D	Examples of Solving Practical Problems Resulting From Static .....	52
E	Method for Laying and Earthing Conducting Flooring .....	56

## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

for

## THE CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE STATIC ELECTRICITY

## SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This standard sets out recommendations for controlling static electricity (hereinafter referred to as 'static') which may be generated incidentally by processes or activities and which may present hazards, damage or inconvenience.

Considerations relating to the generation of static and the problems it presents in a given environment are given, together with a description of methods and equipment for measuring electric potential, charge, capacitance and resistance parameters associated with electrostatically charged objects. Specific control methods are given for some industries.

The provisions of the standard should not be regarded as overriding statutory requirements, but may be construed as working recommendations to be used in conjunction with such requirements.

Methods for minimizing the risk of static causing a fire or explosion arising from the use of flammable medical agents are not included, as they are given in AS 1169. Similarly, methods for affording protection from lightning are not included, as these are given in AS 1768, nor does this standard include the earthing systems of patient treatment areas in hospitals and the like.

NOTE: Examples of the solving of some practical problems resulting from static are given in Appendix D.

**1.2 PURPOSE.** Static often causes the inadvertent ignition of flammable mixtures. In other instances it can result in inconvenience or operating problems in industrial and commercial processes.

The purpose of this standard is therefore to assist in reducing the fire, explosion, damage and nuisance value associated with static, by promoting a better understanding of the principles relating to its generation, outlining conditions under which its presence causes these problems, and recommending methods for its safe dissipation or mitigation.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.**

**1.3.1 Standards.** The following standards are referred to in this standard:

AS 1000	The International System of Units (SI) and Its Application
AS 1169	SAA Medical Agents and Gases Safety Code
AS 1596	SAA LP Gas Code
AS 1768	Lightning Protection
AS 1847	Carbon Dioxide Type Portable Fire Extinguishers
AS 1852	International Electrotechnical Vocabulary
AS 2017	Rules for Safety Procedures Affecting the Operation, Maintenance and Repair of Road Tank Vehicles for Flammable Liquids

AS 2106	Methods for the Determination of the Flashpoint of Flammable Liquids (Closed Cup)
AS 2187	SAA Explosives Code Part 1—Storage and Land Transport of Explosives Part 2—Use of Explosives
AS 2210	Safety Footwear
AS 2430	Classification of Hazardous Areas Part 1—Explosive Gas Atmospheres
AS 3000	SAA Wiring Rules
AS B282	Industrial Castors
SAA MP30	Report on Effects of Current Passing Through the Human Body
IEC 417	Graphical Symbols for Use on Equipment
BS 2050	Electrical Resistance of Conducting and Antistatic Products Made from Flexible Polymeric Material
BS 2782	Methods of Testing Plastics Part 2—Electrical Properties: Method 250A—Antistatic Behaviour of Film. Charge Decay Method Part 2—Electrical Properties: Method 250B—Antistatic Behaviour of Film. Electrostatic Method Part 2—Electrical Properties: Method 250C—Antistatic Behaviour of Film. Field Window Method
BS 3187	Specification for Electrically Conducting Rubber Flooring
BS 5451	Specification for Electrically Conducting and Antistatic Rubber Footwear
BS 5783	Code of Practice for the Handling of Electrostatic Sensitive Devices
BS CP102	Protection of Buildings Against Water from the Ground.

**1.3.2 Other publications.** The following other publications are referred to in this standard:

IP	The Institute of Petroleum (UK) Model Code of Safe Practice Part 1—Electrical Safety Code Part 2—Marketing Safety Code Part 7—Airfield Safety Code Part 9—Liquefied Petroleum Gas
AIP CP8	Australian Institute of Petroleum Ltd Code of Practice for Precautions Against Electrostatic Ignition During Tank Vehicle Loading
API RP2003	American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice for Protection Against Ignitions Arising Out of Static, Lightning and Stray Currents