

Australian Standard™

Hard-wired patient alarm systems

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TE/16, Personal Alarm Systems. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 30 December 1997 and published on 5 May 1998.

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Australian Association of Occupational Therapists
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
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Australian Council on Health care Standards
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee TE/16, Personal Alarm Systems.

This is the first Standard in a possible series of Standards which deals with the requirements for nurse call systems.

Patient alarm systems are a vital means of communication between patients and nurses in health care facilities. It is essential that a patient alarm system is reliable and easy to use by patients and staff who activate the alarm, and staff who respond to each alarm.

This Standard has been prepared at the request of suppliers, manufacturers and users of hard-wired patient alarm systems who have identified a number of substandard systems currently being marketed in Australia. Its application is intended to raise the quality of such systems to a level commensurate with their life-supporting function.

This Standard is intended for conventional hard-wired patient alarm systems. Other systems, such as telecommunications-based systems using telephone diallers or PABX equipment, or radio-based systems, are not covered.

This Standard is intended for use in establishments such as hospitals and nursing homes. It is recognized that some health care facilities may require more specialized specifications, but these are not precluded from adopting this Standard if they wish to specify the requirements of the systems described herein, and an appendix provides guidance on variations from this Standard, which may be applicable to low dependency care facilities.

To cater for other technologies and different establishments, a series of Standards to cover the requirements of the different types of patient alarm systems is under consideration. Standards being considered for the series include—

- (a) non-hard-wired patient alarm systems; and
- (b) patient alarm systems applicable to specialist health care facilities.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an informative appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
Hard-wired patient alarm systems

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard specifies the minimum performance requirements for conventional hard-wired patient alarm systems. It does not apply to telecommunications-based systems using telephone diallers or PABX equipment or to non-hard-wired systems. Appendix A provides requirements for additional features.

NOTE: The requirements for telecommunications-based 24 h monitored systems are given in AS 2999.

1.2 APPLICATION This Standard applies to patient alarm systems installed in high dependency health care establishments as defined in Clause 1.5. It may also apply to specialist establishments such as aged-care facilities and hostels.

NOTE: Variations from this Standard, which may apply to low dependency care facilities, are given in Appendix B.

1.3 INNOVATION It is not intended that this Standard impose unnecessary restrictions on the use of new or unusual materials or methods, providing that all of the performance requirements of this Standard are maintained.

1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1102	Graphical symbols for electrotechnology (all parts)
1125	Conductors in insulated electric cables and flexible cords
1828	Electrical equipment for explosive atmospheres—Cable glands
1939	Degrees of protection provided by enclosures for electrical equipment (IP Code)
2380	Electrical equipment for explosive atmospheres—Explosion protection techniques (all parts)
2999	Alarm systems for the elderly and other persons at risk
3000	Electrical installations—Buildings, structures and premises (known as the SAA Wiring Rules)
3003	Electrical installations—Patient treatment areas of hospitals and medical and dental practices
3147	Approval and test specification—Electric cables—Thermoplastic insulated—For working voltages up to and including 0.6/1 kV

AS/NZS

2176	Primary batteries
2176.1	Part 1: General
2176.2	Part 2: Specification sheets
3009	Electrical installations—Emergency power supplies in hospitals