

Australian Standard™

**User-applied identification labels for use
on fluid bags, syringes and drug
administration lines**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee HE-019, Anaesthetic and Breathing Equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 August 2002 and published on 23 October 2002.

The following are represented on Committee HE-019:

Australasian Society of Anaesthesia Technicians
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian College of Operating Room Nurses
Australian Industry Group
Australian Society of Anaesthetists
College of Biomedical Engineering, Institution of Engineers Australia
Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Health Department, W.A.
Ministry of Economic Development, New Zealand
N.S.W. Health Department

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee HE-019, Anaesthetic and Breathing Equipment, following a request made by the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (January 2003). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The object of this Standard is to reduce drug administration errors. The advent of new techniques in pain management, in peri-operative and in intensive care has resulted in an increase in the number of infusion and monitoring lines which may be attached to a patient.

The use of colour-coded check alert borders is intended as an aid to identifying the target tissue to which an infusion is directed and thus reduce the hazard of multiple routes of administration. The central area of the label is intended to provide additional written or printed information. Although some examples of the type of information which may be placed in the central area are given, these are not mandatory and should be determined by the requirements of the health care facility.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

User-applied identification labels for use on fluid bags, syringes and drug administration lines

1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out requirements for labels which the user attaches to fluid bags, syringes and their administration lines, and adjacent to the injection ports of administration lines, to designate the target tissue that is being treated. It covers colour, pattern and adhesive qualities of the label as well as some dimensions.

The content in the individual label is not covered in this Standard. Health care facilities vary in the information they require. Some may require patient details, preparation specifications and/or starting times while others do not. These requirements are not covered in this Standard.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

2666 Pressure-sensitive adhesive label stock—Paper

2700 Colour standards for general purposes

AS/NZS

4375 User-applied labels for use on syringes containing drugs used during anaesthesia
Pantone Matching System (PMS)

3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The label for fluid bags, syringes and the associated administration lines shall conform to the colour specified in Table 1 for the target tissue. The layout for labels on administration lines shall be as specified in Clause 4 and the layout for fluid bags and syringes shall be as specified in Clause 5.

NOTE: Appropriate alternative labels may more specifically describe the target tissue, e.g. epidural, intrathecal or regional instead of neural, central venous instead of intravenous, radial artery instead of intra-arterial, ophthalmic irrigation or intra-articular irrigation instead of miscellaneous.

Border labelling may be either black or reverse printing with the colour name on a black background. The labelling shall be a plain sans-serif font, such as Helvetica, and shall be in upper and lower case. The colour of the border on the label shall be as specified by the target tissue in Table 1. All printing within the label shall be black. Printing shall be in a plain serif or sans-serif font such as Times Roman or Helvetica.

The border pattern of the label shall be composed of squares of not less than 4 mm sides of alternating black and colour square pattern in a single row.

Unless designed to be easily removed, the adhesive strength of the label shall be at least 8 N/25 mm width as determined in accordance with AS 2666.

NOTE: Appendix A gives examples of labels for administration lines, syringes and fluid bags.