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CHILD-RESISTANT MEDICINE AND POISON CUPBOARDS FOR DOMESTIC USE



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Incorporated by Royal Charter



THE FOLLOWING SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL, CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL organizations and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia
Australian Council of Furniture Manufacturers
Australian Department of Health
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations
Australian Retailers Association
Bureau of Consumer Affairs, Western Australia
Department of Health, Victoria
Health Commission of New South Wales
Industrial Design Council of Australia
National Safety Council of Australia
National Safety Council of South Australia
Parent Centres Australia
Plastics Institute of Australia Incorporated
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

This standard, prepared by Committee CS/19, Child Resistant Medicine Cupboards, was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 12 September 1977, and was published on 1 December 1977.

To keep abreast of progress in industry Australian standards are regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvements to published standards, addressed to the head office of the Association, are welcomed.

This standard was issued in draft form for public review as DR 76019.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD SPECIFICATION

**CHILD-RESISTANT
MEDICINE AND POISON
CUPBOARDS
FOR DOMESTIC USE**

AS 2100—1977

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Child-resistant Medicine Cupboards at the request of the Consumer Standards Advisory Committee, following a request from the Child and Home Safety Advisory Committee of the South Australian Division of the National Safety Council of Australia.

The intention of this standard is to encourage the keeping of medicines in the home in cupboards which are resistant to being opened by children thereby reducing the risk of child access to medicines and the consequence of accidental poisoning. Records indicate that children up to 5 years of age are most at risk in this respect. Nevertheless, it is emphasized that the use of a cupboard complying with this standard in no way eliminates the need for constant care in the storage of medicines used in the home and for parental supervision and education of children in this regard.

Because children in the home are also at risk to accidental access to poisons, hazardous substances, dangerous products and tools, the standard also covers child-resistant cupboards for use in locations such as kitchens, laundries, garages and sheds. Hence, for a medicine cupboard, a maximum capacity has been specified as it is considered that medicines should be stored separately from all other poisonous or hazardous household chemicals.

The standard does not specify materials or otherwise restrict design but it does specify tests to establish that while the fastening device will be difficult for a child to open, an adult will be able to operate it after reading the manufacturer's instructions. These tests, which are based on those developed in Canada and the United States of America, use panels of children and adults. It is recognized that this makes the tests more difficult to administer than mechanical tests and it is therefore proposed that research be undertaken to establish the physical capabilities of children up to 5 years of age. The aim of this research would be to replace the panel methods of test with mechanical tests based on the research data gathered.

In addition to being tested by children and adults, the cupboard door and fastening devices are tested for strength and durability.

It is strongly recommended that in view of the nature of this standard, both purchasers and manufacturers should make use of the scheme operated by the Standards Association of Australia whereby the product may bear the certification mark of the Association (see Clause 3.1).

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 1. SCOPE, APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS	
1.1 Scope	4
1.2 Application	4
1.3 Definitions	4
SECTION 2. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION	
2.1 Materials	5
2.2 Cupboard Capacity	5
2.3 Fastening Device	5
2.4 Bottom Hinged Door	5
2.5 Wall Fixing	5
2.6 Durability	5
SECTION 3. MARKING AND INSTRUCTIONS	
3.1 Marking	6
3.2 Instructions for Installation and Use	7
APPENDICES	
A Test Method for Child-resistant Fastening Device or Mechanism	8
B Notes for the Guidance of Persons Supervising Tests with Children	11
C Durability Test	12

STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard Specification for CHILD-RESISTANT MEDICINE AND POISON CUPBOARDS FOR DOMESTIC USE

SECTION 1. SCOPE, APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 SCOPE. This specification sets out the essential requirements for domestic medicine and poison cupboards, which incorporate a fastening device designed to minimize the possibility of the cupboard's being opened by children up to the age of 5 years.

1.2 APPLICATION. The specification applies to cupboards sold as complete units for the safe storage of medicines, poisons, solvents, detergents, pesticides and any products that could be a danger to the safety, health and welfare of children.

1.3 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this specification the following definitions apply:

Medicine cupboard—a wall cupboard intended solely for the safe storage of medicines.

Poison cupboard—a cupboard intended for the safe storage of poisonous substances and dangerous products for use in the kitchen, laundry, garage, garden shed, etc.