

Australian Standard™

**Pressure equipment—Operation and
maintenance**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME-001, Pressure Equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 30 December 2000 and published on 6 March 2001.

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maintenance**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee ME-001, Pressure Equipment to supersede AS 3873—1995, *Pressure equipment—Operation and maintenance*.

The Joint Committee agreed to produce this document as an Australian only Standard.

This Standard is a result of a consensus among members of Committee ME-001. Consensus means general agreement by all interested parties. Consensus includes an attempt to remove all objections and implies much more than the concept of a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. It is consistent with this meaning that a member may be included in the Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.

It was recognized that there was a need to specify requirements and give guidance to the parties concerned with the operation and maintenance of pressure equipment. Existing Standards specify requirements for design, manufacture and installation of pressure equipment systems, but do not provide information for their operation or maintenance.

This Standard attempts to provide minimum requirements for a method of ensuring safe and reliable operation of pressure equipment and for safety during maintenance, inspection, alteration, storage and disposal. In some circumstances, additional requirements may be necessary for adequate performance or safety. This Standard may be used as a guide for training.

The main changes in this revision are as follows:

- (a) Alignment with Standardization Guide No. 17.1, *Drafting of Standards that may be referenced under occupational health and safety legislation*.
- (b) A new appendix to give guidance on assessment of competency.
- (c) Revised requirements and guidance on risk assessment to align with AS/NZS 4360, *Risk assessment*.
- (d) Revised Section 4, Safety management system, to become Appendix C.
- (e) Incorporation of former Appendix J, Typical example of a generic risk assessment for automotive fuel pressure vessels, into Appendix D.

The principal object of this Standard is to provide uniform, safe and economic requirements and guidance for operation and maintenance of pressure equipment.

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

Pressure equipment—Operation and maintenance

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies the minimum requirements and gives guidance on the operation and maintenance of boilers, pressure vessels, associated control and safety equipment, piping and auxiliaries, (e.g. boiler fuel handling and firing equipment, heaters, fans, pumps, feedwater treatment and the like) and gives guidance in the execution of such work. It also covers actions required from initial receipt of the equipment on-site until final disposal.

This Standard applies to commissioning, operation, maintenance, alterations, routine inspection, dismantling storage and disposal. It includes specific requirements for safety management systems, including, where appropriate, risk assessment.

Requirements cannot be written in sufficient detail to cover all aspects of the above. Necessary action is required to ensure the continued safe operation of the pressure equipment. This may require outside expert advice, which may typically include the use of risk assessment or other appropriate methods.

This Standard generally applies to pressure equipment covered by AS/NZS 1200. The extent of the application of the requirements is dependent on the hazard levels of the equipment and service conditions.

NOTES:

- 1 'Duty of care' is now prescribed on employers and employees regardless of regulation or standards. This Standard does not supersede 'duty of care'.
- 2 Users of this Standard are reminded that it has no legal authority in its own right, but may acquire legal standing when adopted by government or an authority having jurisdiction, or if specified as part of a commercial contract.

1.2 APPLICATION AND OBJECTIVE

1.2.1 Application

This Standard is intended for use by owners or users of pressure equipment. The user may also be the owner. The owner may have purchased, leased or hired the equipment.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this Standard specify general requirements applicable to all pressure equipment, while subsequent Sections provide additional requirements and guidance for specific types of equipment.

1.2.2 Objective

This Standard is intended to provide owners and users with clear minimum requirements for operation of pressure equipment and maintenance of its integrity to ensure safe economic performance and protection of persons, equipment and the environment.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The documents referred to in this Standard are listed in Appendix A.