

Australian Standard[®]

**WATER-RESISTANCE OF
WRISTWATCHES**

[NATO Supply Classification: 6645]

The following scientific, industrial, consumer and governmental organization and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Australian Consumers Association
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations
Consumer Affairs Bureau, Queensland
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Horological Guild of Australasia
Sydney Technical College
Trade Practices Commission

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Water-resistance of Watches, under the direction of the Consumer Standards Advisory Committee, in response to requests from both the Trade Practices Commission and the Consumer Affairs Bureau, Queensland.

It is hoped that this standard will overcome the confusion that exists concerning the use of terms such as 'water protected', 'water-resistant' and 'waterproof'. These and other terms have been used synonymously to describe varying degrees of water-resistance. The term 'water-resistant' is preferred and has been internationally adopted because it is necessary, both for the horological industries and for the consumer, to use a single, readily understood term which lends itself to technical definition in terms of testing.

The term 'waterproof' is strongly deprecated and is strictly defined as being impenetrable or permanently impervious to the ingress of water. This term has been widely used to describe watches of varying degrees of water-resistance ranging from exposure to mild rain showers to submersion to a depth of 300 m. All that can be claimed for any watch is that it will be water-resistant to a degree determined by its design and construction.

Consequently, the committee believes that the requirements specified in international standard ISO 2281, Part 1*, are appropriate for adoption in Australia and have based this standard on the ISO document without technical deviation.

It should be appreciated that a watch that is designed and manufactured so as to comply with the requirements of this standard may become less water-resistant over a period of time due to the effect of wear resulting from normal use. Consequently, the sealing washer on the winding button, the winding button itself or other parts, such as the watch glass or watch glass gasket, will need periodic replacement. At times, the entire watch case may need replacement, particularly if damage or pitting corrosion has occurred.

If the watch case is opened for any reason such as repair, it will often be necessary to replace the seals to maintain the water-resistant properties of the case.

In some instances, a maintenance program will be specified for a watch, which includes the regular replacement of seals.

* ISO 2281, Water-resistant watches—Part 1: Wristwatches—Water resistance for general use.

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