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FIRE—GLOSSARY OF TERMS— FIRE PROTECTION AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
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Australia Post
Commonwealth Fire Board
Electricity Supply Association of Australia
Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia Ltd
Insurance Council of Australia Ltd
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Melbourne
National Building Technology Centre

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

FIRE—GLOSSARY OF TERMS— FIRE PROTECTION AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Terms and Definitions relating to fire protection and firefighting equipment. It constitutes one of two standards which form a glossary of terms. During the preparation of this standard, reference was made to terms and definitions already in existing Australian standards for fire protection and firefighting equipment.

Wherever possible the committee has endeavoured to align terms and definitions with the recommendations of ISO/TC 21/SC1, Terminology, Symbols, Signs and Classification of Fire.

A number of commonly used terms were considered by the committee, but were rejected as being unnecessary for inclusion in the standard. The primary reasons in this regard are as follows:

- (a) The term is self-evident and does not need defining.
- (b) The dictionary meaning is sufficient.
- (c) The term represents a grammatical extension or alternative to an included term.
- (d) The term is not used in Australia.

The aim of this standard is to provide a glossary of simple basic definitions each of which is capable of extension for specific purposes for use by the specialist.

The existing AS 2484—1981 Glossary of Terms Relating to Fire Tests will eventually be reissued as AS 2484.1 Fire—Glossary of Terms—Fire Tests. A continuing review of terms not already included in this standard is proposed by the committee and accordingly the published standard will be expanded in the future.

In preparation of this glossary, reference was made to the following standards:

- AS 1221 Fire Hose Reels
- AS 1530 Methods for Fire Tests on Building Materials and Structures
 - Part 1—Combustibility Test for Materials
 - Part 3—Test for Early Fire Hazard Properties of Materials
 - Part 4—Fire-resistance Test of Structures
- AS 1603 Thermal Detectors for Automatic Fire Alarm Installations
- AS 1603 Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm Systems
 - Part 4—Control and Indicating Equipment
- AS 1670 SAA Code for Automatic Fire Alarm Installations
- AS 1687 Knapsack Spray Pumps for Firefighting
- AS 1735 SAA Lift Code
 - Part 11—Fire-rated Landing Doors
- AS 1841 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Water (gas container) Type
- AS 1842 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Water (stored pressure) Type
- AS 1843 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Foam (chemical) Type
- AS 1844 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Foam (gas container) Type
- AS 1845 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Foam (stored pressure) Type
- AS 1846 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Dry Chemical Type
- AS 1847 Carbon Dioxide Type Portable Fire Extinguishers
- AS 1848 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Halogenated Hydrocarbon Type
- AS 1849 Identification Colours for Portable Fire Extinguishers
- AS 1850 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Classification, Rating and Fire Testing
- AS 1905 SAA Fire Door Code
 - Part 1—Fire-resistant Doorsets
- AS 2036 Manually Operated Fire Alarm Call Points
- AS 2106 Methods for the Determination of the Flashpoint of Flammable Liquids (Closed Cup)
- AS 2118 SAA Code for Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems
- AS 2220 Rules for Emergency Warning and Intercommunication Systems for Buildings
- AS 2419 Installation of Fire Hydrants
- AS 2441 Installation of Fire Hose Reels
- AS 2444 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Selection and Location

AS 2484 Glossary of Terms Relating to Fire Tests*
 ISO 3941 Classification of Fires

* AS 2484—1981 will be subsequently reissued as AS 2484.1, Fire—Glossary of Terms—Fire Tests.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

for

FIRE—GLOSSARY OF TERMS—FIRE PROTECTION AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1. GENERAL TERMS AND PHENOMENA
OF FIRE

No	Term	Definition
1.001	fire authority	The Authority responsible for fire prevention and extinction in the area concerned.
1.002	combustible	(a) When applied to a material, means combustible when tested in accordance with AS 1530, Part 1. (b) When applied to construction or a part of a building, means constructed wholly or in part of materials that are combustible.
1.003	fire point (chemical)	The lowest temperature at which a substance gives off sufficient flammable vapour in air to produce sustained combustion after the removal of the ignition source.
1.004	lower flammability limit (LFL)	The lowest percentage concentration by volume of flammable vapour (gas) in air which will burn with a flame under specified conditions.
1.005	upper flammability limit (UFL)	The highest percentage concentration by volume of flammable vapour (gas) in air which will burn with a flame under specified conditions.
1.006	flammability range	The range of percentage of vapour (gas) concentration by volume in air between the upper and lower limits of flammability.
1.007	chimney effect	The upward thrust of hot gases in a vertical enclosure, due to the buoyancy of the confined gases.
1.008	mushroom effect	A horizontal spread of hot gases at ceiling or roof level due to the vertical restriction of upward currents.
1.009	fire load	The total amount of combustible material expressed in heat units.
1.010	fire load density	The fire load per unit area.
1.011	surface spread of flame classification	The classification of combustible building materials according to index numbers which indicate the rate at which flame spreads over their surfaces, as determined in accordance with AS 1530, Part 3.
1.012	inhibition	A process of fire extinguishment by the use of an agent which interrupts the chemical reactions in the flame.
1.013	inhibitory factor	The minimum percentage in air of a gaseous extinguishing agent that will achieve extinction by inhibiting combustion.