

Australian Standard™

**Pyrotechnic marine distress flares and  
signals for pleasure craft**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS-080, Marine Distress Flares. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 1 April 2004 and published on 10 May 2004.

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The following are represented on Committee CS-080:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
Australian Yachting Federation  
Marine Safety Victoria  
NSW Police Service  
Waterways Authority, NSW

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**Pyrotechnic marine distress flares and  
signals for pleasure craft**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee CS-080, Marine Distress Flares, to supersede AS 2092—1988.

The main changes in this edition are as follows:

- (a) Alignment of requirements for red star parachute distress rockets, red hand-held distress flares and orange smoke buoyant distress signals with those in the 1997 edition of the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code) published by the International Maritime Organization. The test procedures for these requirements have been drawn from the International Maritime Organization's Marine Safety Committee Resolution MSC.81(70) adopted on 11 December 1998. Additional detail for the test methods and evaluation procedures has been incorporated from Marine Safety Committee Circular 980, *Standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms*. Particular changes are as follows:
  - (i) Removal of the option for the means of ignition to be permanently attached, rather than integral to the flare or signal.
  - (ii) Revision of luminous intensity requirements to average figures over the listed duration times, rather than minimum intensities.
  - (iii) Addition of a salt-spray test for corrosion resistance.
- (b) Deletion of red star distress projectiles as they were no longer required to be carried on pleasure craft by any Australian regulatory authority or recreational boating or sailing body.

This edition is generally consistent with the requirements specified in the 1984 edition of the Australian Transport Advisory Council's Uniform Shipping Laws (USL) Code. However, it covers some types of stores which are not covered by the USL Code but were considered by the Committee to be of use on pleasure boats. Also, some requirements in the USL Code which are rather subjective have been tightened by inclusion of test methods in this Standard.

The user's attention is drawn to regulations which exist in each State requiring certain stores to be carried aboard various types of boats. The local marine regulatory authority can supply details of these regulations.

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

## Pyrotechnic marine distress flares and signals for pleasure craft

### 1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for construction, performance and packaging of pyrotechnic marine distress flares and signals intended for use in pleasure craft.

NOTE: Guidance on the use of flares and signals is given in Appendix A.

### 2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide regulators with construction, performance and packaging requirements which can be used to ensure appropriate flares and signals are specified for pleasure craft and to provide manufacturers with methods to assess conformance with the requirements.

### 3 APPLICATION

This Standard is applicable to the following types of flares and signals:

- (a) Red hand-held distress flare.
- (b) Red star parachute distress rocket.
- (c) Orange smoke hand-held distress signal.
- (d) Orange smoke buoyant distress signal.
- (e) White hand-held collision warning flare.

### 4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

#### 4.1 Red hand-held distress flare

A flare, capable of being hand-held, and giving a brilliant red light.

#### 4.2 Red star parachute distress rocket

A rocket, capable of being fired from a hand-held position, and conveying a red star to a minimum specified height at which the star is deployed and descends by parachute.

#### 4.3 Orange smoke hand-held distress signal

A smoke signal, capable of being hand-held, and emitting a vivid and expanding cloud of dense orange-coloured smoke.

#### 4.4 Orange smoke buoyant distress signal

A smoke signal capable of emitting a vivid and expanding cloud of dense orange-coloured smoke while floating on water.

#### 4.5 White hand-held collision warning flare

A flare, capable of being hand-held, and giving a brilliant white light.

#### 4.6 Store

A general term for pyrotechnic marine flares, rockets and signals.