

Australian Standard™

**Personal emergency medical
information devices**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee HE-024, Personal Medical Information Devices. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 25 February 2003 and published on 29 April 2003.

The following are represented on Committee HE-024:

Australian College for Emergency Medicine
Consumers' Federation of Australia
Health Information Management Association of Australia
South Australian Health Commission

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Personal emergency medical information devices

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee HE-024, Personal Medical Information Devices, to supersede AS 2811—1985.

The objective of this Standard is to specify requirements for the type and amount of personal medical information contained in the device, or to which it may facilitate access, for use in an emergency.

The Standard provides for a number of choices of systems. The Committee has been conscious of these existing systems and has attempted to provide the flexibility for each to comply with the Standard, which is primarily concerned with patient safety. Systems are preferred in which the issuing organization maintains a central information registry to supplement information on or in the device. If the issuing organization does not maintain a central registry, the facility should be available to augment information on or in the device from other sources. The Committee considered that both the authenticity and availability of medical data in a central registry system can be superior to those in a system without a back-up register.

The matter of authentication, i.e. the endorsement by a medical practitioner of the validity of medical information concerning patients, remains non-compulsory. However, endorsement of clinical data by a medical practitioner would enhance the protective properties of portable medical information devices, and is strongly recommended.

Any method of distribution by which medical authentication can reasonably be assumed, will meet the requirements of this Standard.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1 SCOPE	4
2 REFERENCED DOCUMENT	4
3 PURPOSE	4
4 EASE OF RECOGNITION	4
5 MATERIALS	4
6 CONSTRUCTION	5
7 INFORMATION AND CONTROL.....	5
8 AUTHENTICITY OF DATA	6
9 APPLICATION FOR, OR ACQUISITION OF, THE DEVICE	6
10 PACKAGING AND MARKING.....	6
APPENDIX A METHOD OF TESTING DEVICES FOR RESISTANCE TO CORROSION ..	7

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Personal emergency medical information devices

1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the properties and nature of portable emergency medical information devices which are worn on the person, and the minimum amount and type of personal medical information which they contain, or to which they may facilitate access by means of a supporting system.

NOTE: AS 4718 specifies requirements for the construction, content and design of machine readable identity cards (smartcards).

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENT

The document below is referred to in this Standard.

AS
4718 Machine readable identity cards

3 PURPOSE

The purpose of the device is to provide information to persons offering medical assistance to the wearer in an emergency, particularly where the wearer is unable to communicate.

4 EASE OF RECOGNITION

The device shall be designed to be worn separately and be of clear intent and recognizable so that it is not mistaken or overlooked. It shall be designed to be worn around the neck or wrist. It may contain the relevant or critical information (or both), either on its surface or within it.

5 MATERIALS

5.1 General

In all tests of physical properties, the overriding criterion shall be the availability, after testing, of all information within or on the device.

5.2 Hypoallergenicity

The device shall be made of materials generally regarded as hypoallergenic and shall not be affected by body secretions in a manner which would render the information contained within or on it illegible or inaccessible (or both).

5.3 Resistance to corrosion

The device shall be made of corrosion-resistant material, and when tested in accordance with Appendix A, it shall not show signs of corrosion.

5.4 Resistance to heat and physical force

The device shall be made of heat-resistant material and shall not be easily deformed permanently. When subjected to a temperature of $80 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 min, a representative sample of the device shall not melt or sustain permanent deformation, nor shall the information contained within or on it be destroyed.

NOTE: The material should be stainless steel, but other materials which comply with the requirements of the Standard are also acceptable.