

Australian Standard[®]

**PORTABLE FIRST AID KITS FOR
USE BY CONSUMERS**

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Australian Automobile Association
Australian Consumers Association
Australian Red Cross Society
Australian Society of Anaesthetists
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Health, N.S.W.
National Safety Council of Australia (N.S.W. Division)
Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
St John Ambulance Association

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on First Aid Kits under the direction of the Consumer Standards Advisory Committee and in response to requests from the St John Ambulance Association and the Consumers Association of Victoria.

The standard specifies the contents, packaging and marking of portable first aid kits normally intended for consumer use; i.e. this standard does not apply to first aid kits and cabinets intended for use in factories and the like, or to special purpose first aid kits. The standard specifies the contents of three sizes of first aid kit and provides a brief description of use or function in respect of each item of contents specified. A number of optional contents is also included.

This standard requires that one of the following publications be included in any of the first aid kits specified:

'First Aid Notes', published by the Australian Red Cross Society.

'A Guide to First Aid', published by the St John Ambulance Association.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

for

PORTABLE FIRST AID KITS FOR USE BY CONSUMERS

1 SCOPE. This standard specifies the contents (see Note), packaging and marking of portable first aid kits intended for providing immediate and effective first aid treatment of common injuries.

NOTE: Clause 5 of this standard specifies contents for three sizes of first aid kit. Although the quantities of contents specified are minimum quantities only, the actual contents specified are absolute.

2 APPLICATION. The first aid kits specified by this standard are applicable to consumer requirements. Although some industrial and commercial first aid requirements may be met by this standard, the standard is generally not applicable to providing for specialized first aid treatment.

3 REFERENCED DOCUMENT. The following standard is referred to in this standard:

AS 1319 Rules for the Design and Use of Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment.

AS 2835.1 Absorbent Woven Cause
Part 1—Cotton

AS 2835.2 Absorbent Woven Gauze
Part 2—Cotton-viscose Blends.

4 CLASSIFICATION. First aid kits are classified according to size as follows:

4.1 Size A—a first aid kit having limited contents and intended for use as a hiker's or personal kit.

4.2 Size B—a first aid kit having contents less limited than a size A kit and intended for general purpose use.

4.3 Size C—a first aid kit having contents less limited than a size A or a size B kit and intended for household use.

5 FIRST AID KIT CONTENTS.

5.1 Size A kit. Subject to the other requirements of this standard, a Size A first aid kit shall contain not more and not less than each item of contents shown in Table 1, in a quantity not less than the corresponding quantity shown in Column A of Table 1. The kit may also include one or more of the items of contents shown in Table 2, in quantities not less than the corresponding quantities shown in Column A of Table 2.

5.2 Size B kit. Subject to the other requirements of this standard, a Size B first aid kit shall contain not more and not less than each item of contents shown in Table 1, in a quantity not less than the corresponding quantity shown in Column B of Table 1. The kit may also include one or more of the items of contents shown in Table 2, in quantities not less than the corresponding quantities shown in Column B of Table 2.

5.3 Size C kit. Subject to the other requirements of this standard, a Size C first aid kit shall contain not more and not less than each item of contents shown in Table 1, in a quantity not less than the corresponding quantity shown in Column C of Table 1. The kit may also include one or more of the items of contents

shown in Table 2, in quantities not less than the corresponding quantities shown in Column C of Table 2.

6 INFORMATION. In addition to the contents specified in Clause 5, each first aid kit shall contain the following:

- (a) A list of contents providing as a minimum, all the information set out in Tables 1 and 2 (as appropriate to the actual contents of the kit), and a clearly printed instruction to immediately replace expended contents.
- (b) A copy of either
 - (i) 'First Aid Notes', published by the Australian Red Cross Society; or
 - (ii) 'A Guide to First Aid', published by the St John Ambulance Association.

7 QUALITY. Bandages, dressings, strappings, and swabs shall comply with the appropriate monograph in the British Pharmacopoeia as amended from time to time or with the appropriate Australian standard. In addition, gauze products contained in the pack shall be made of complying with AS 2835.1 or AS 2835.2, as appropriate.

NOTES:

1. Bandages, dressings, strappings, and swabs are subject to approval under the provisions of the Commonwealth Department of Health Import Controls Applied to Bandages, Dressings and Allied Products.
2. All adhesives used in adhesive dressings and strappings should be hypoallergenic.

8 LABELLING. Each item of first aid kit contents excluding safety pins, scissors, splinter forceps, pencils and note pads, shall be clearly labelled with information fully identifying the item. To facilitate correct item replacement, each expendable item of contents shall be clearly labelled with the name of the manufacturer or distributor of the item and the batch code for the item.

9 PACKAGING. Each first aid kit shall be packaged in a durable container such that rapid access to each item of contents is made possible. Care shall be taken to ensure that the material from which the container is fabricated is suitable for the environment for which the kit is intended with respect to the possible effect of ambient temperature and humidity on the deterioration of any of the contents.

10 MARKING. Each first aid kit shall be marked clearly and indelibly on the outside of its package with the first aid symbol specified in AS 1319. In addition, the outside of the package shall be marked, clearly and indelibly in at least one place, with the words 'FIRST AID KIT' in lettering not less than 20 mm in height.

NOTE: Manufacturers who place the number of this Australian standard on first aid kits, on packaging or on literature related thereto, should ensure that the kits are manufactured to comply with the standard.