

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Design for installation of buried  
concrete pipes**



**AS/NZS 3725:2007**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee WS-006, Concrete Pipes. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 07 September 2006 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 15 December 2006.

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The following are represented on Committee WS-006:

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Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Brisbane City Council  
Business New Zealand  
Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand  
Engineers Australia  
Main Roads Department, QLD  
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Originated as AS CA33—1962.  
Revised and designated AS 3725—1989.  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee WS-006, Concrete Pipes, to supersede AS 3725—1989, *Loads on buried concrete pipes* by a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard that incorporates current best practice.

The objective of the Standard is to enable an appropriate class of concrete pipe, manufactured in accordance with AS 4058, *Precast concrete pipes—pressure and non-pressure* or AS 4139, *Fibre reinforced concrete pipes*, to be selected for use in below-ground installations.

NOTE: At the time of publication of this Standard, AS 4058 is under review by the Committee and intended to be replaced by a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard in due course (to become AS/NZS 4058). In the meantime, for New Zealand applications, all references to AS 4058 throughout this Standard should be deemed to include references to NZS 3107, *Specification for precast concrete drainage and pressure pipes*, as appropriate and applicable.

The Standard provides rules for calculating the working loads on concrete pipes due to fill and superimposed loads and a range of installation options. It relates these to the test loads applied to sample pipes in accordance with the methods of test set out in the product standards.

Where a choice is given between an Australian Standard and a New Zealand Standard (for example AS 1289, *Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes* and the equivalent NZS 4402, *Methods of testing soils for civil engineering purposes*), the Australian Standard will apply in Australia and the New Zealand Standard will apply in New Zealand.

The procedures in the Standard also apply to the calculation of external working loads on concrete pressure pipes. In this case, however, the loads due to internal pressures need to be considered in conjunction with the external loads. The method of assessing the required strength of a pipe under this combination of loads is included in the Standard.

AS/NZS 3725 Supp 1 is a Commentary on this Standard. The Commentary contains additional information and explanations of particular technical aspects of the Standard. It includes, as an appendix, examples of calculations in accordance with this Standard, particularly with reference to the selection of a pipe class from AS 4058, *Precast concrete pipes—Pressure and non-pressure* and AS 4139, *Fibre reinforced concrete pipes*. The Commentary is an informative document and does not form part of the Standard.

Statement expressed in mandatory terms in notes to tables are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

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**1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out methods and provides data for the following:

- (a) Calculating the vertical working loads on buried concrete pipes due to—
  - (i) the materials covering the pipes; and
  - (ii) superimposed loads.
- (b) Relating the minimum proof test load to the selection of appropriate pipes made in accordance with either AS 4058 or AS 4139, to the calculated vertical working loads on concrete pipes installed under particular conditions, including that of combined vertical load plus internal pressure.

In addition, the Standard classifies types of pipe installation and types of bedding and sets minimum requirements for the soil materials around the pipes and compaction of these materials.

NOTE: AS/NZS 3724 Supp 1 is a Commentary on this Standard. It provides further information relevant to many Clauses in this Standard. The Supplement, while bound with the Standard, is 'informative' and does not form an integral part of the Standard.

**2 APPLICATION****2.1 General**

This Standard applies to concrete pipes complying with AS 4058 or AS 4139, where they are laid or intended to be laid in one or other of the specified installation conditions.

This Standard does not apply to flexible buried pipes.

**2.2 Use of other materials or methods**

This Standard shall not be interpreted so as to prevent the use of materials or methods of design or construction not specifically referred to herein, provided that such materials or methods can be shown to meet the intent of this Standard.

**2.3 Existing structures**

Where the strength or serviceability of an existing structure is to be evaluated, the general principles of this Standard may be applied. The actual properties of the materials in the structure shall be used.

**3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- 1289 Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes
- 1289.3.4.1 Method 3.4.1: Soil classification tests—Determination of the linear shrinkage of a soil—Standard method
- 1289.3.6.1 Method 3.6.1: Soil classification tests—Determination of the particle size distribution of a soil—Standard method of analysis by sieving