

AS 2476—1981

Australian Standard[®]

**GENERAL FUMIGATION
PROCEDURES**

[Title allocated by Defence Cataloguing Authority:
GENERAL FUMIGATION PROCEDURES]

The following scientific, industrial and governmental organizations and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association of Australia
Australian Chemical Industry Council
Australian Institute of Agricultural Science
Australian Institute of Petroleum Limited
Australian Veterinary Association
Australian Wheat Board
Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited
Council of Australian Pest and Weed Control Associations
CSIRO, Divisions of Entomology and Building Research
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, S.A.
Department of Agriculture, N.S.W.
Department of Agriculture, Victoria
Department of Health
Department of Primary Industries, Queensland
Department of Primary Industry
Health Commission of New South Wales
Health Commission of Victoria
Health Services Department, Tasmania
Public Health Department, W.A.
National Farmers Federation

This standard, prepared by Committee CH/5, Pesticides, was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 4 May 1981, and was published on 15 July 1981.

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This Standard was issued in draft form for public review as DR 76076 and as DR 79134.

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PROCEDURES**

First published 1981

PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Pesticides, at the request of the Chemical Standards Board, and following a submission by the Council of Australian Pest and Weed Control Associations for Australian standards on fumigation.

The standard refers to general principles of fumigation involving good commercial practice leading to safe and economical use of fumigants and control of the infesting organism. Detailed safety instructions are given in specific codes of practice published by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the various publications of departments such as State Departments of Agriculture or Health. Those codes listed in Appendix D to this standard are available from the Secretary, National Health and Medical Research Council, P.O. Box 100, Woden, A.C.T. 2606, Australia, and other Acts and Regulations are available from the relevant departmental address.

It should be noted that fumigant chemicals, while invariably toxic and requiring considerable care in application, are also chemically reactive and in some cases may drastically affect the odour and flavour of the materials being fumigated. Materials known to be affected by fumigants should not be exposed to those fumigants.

This standard was originally circulated for public review in July 1976. As a result of comment received and developments, numerous significant changes in content were made, the section dealing with fumigation procedure being enlarged and the subject set out in a more logical way, with operational sections being presented in the correct chronological sequence. The standard was later recirculated for public review in August 1979, following which further suggestions were incorporated.

This standard makes reference to the following Australian standards:

AS 1216	Classification, Hazard Identification and Information Systems for Dangerous Goods Part 1 – Classification and Class Labels for Dangerous Goods
AS 1715	Respiratory Protection
AS 1716	Respiratory Protective Devices
AS 1829	Intrinsically Safe Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Atmospheres
AS 1891	Industrial Safety Belts and Harnesses
AS 2161	Industrial Safety Gloves and Mittens (Excluding Electrical and Medical Gloves)
AS 3000	SAA Wiring Rules

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

for

GENERAL FUMIGATION PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. SCOPE, APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 SCOPE. This standard sets out general procedures and precautions to be adopted when chemical fumigation for the eradication of pests is being carried out.

1.2 APPLICATION. The standard recommends the general principles for the use of gases and vapours for the fumigation of buildings, ships' holds, shipping containers, silos, materials under sheeting, and soil. Fumigations carried out on farms for agricultural purposes are not covered by this standard. The standard should, however, be used in conjunction with a specific code of instructions or State requirements, applicable to the particular fumigation being carried out, where this is available.

1.3 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

1.3.1 Fumigant - a chemical which at a particular temperature and pressure can exist in a gaseous state in sufficient concentration and for sufficient time to be lethal to insects or other animals, weeds or other pests.

1.3.2 Fumigation - the application of a fumigant to a fumigation enclosure for the eradication of pests.

1.3.3 Fumigation enclosure - any space which has been or is intended to be made sufficiently gas tight to contain the fumigant.

1.3.4 Risk area - the area surrounding the fumigation enclosure into which there is any reason to suspect that the fumigant may escape in concentrations hazardous to man, and including, at least, any area which is less than 6 m from the nearest boundary of any fumigation enclosure, unless it is separated from the fumigation enclosure by a yard, street or other open space not less than 3 m in width.

1.3.5 Authorized fumigator - that person who is licensed to carry out fumigation, or in areas where no licensing arrangements exist, a qualified and experienced person who is in charge of the fumigation.

NOTE: For the purpose of this standard, the term 'fumigator' is taken to mean an authorized fumigator, as defined above.