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# Australian Standard 2443—1981

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR NETWORK PLANNING IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

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THE FOLLOWING SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Association of Consulting Engineers, Australia  
Australian Federation of Construction Contractors  
Australian Society for Operations Research  
Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia  
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia  
CSIRO, Division of Building Research  
Department of Public Works, New South Wales  
Department of Public Works, Victoria  
Master Builders Federation of Australia  
Project Management Forum  
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology  
University of New South Wales

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**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD**

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR  
NETWORK PLANNING IN THE  
BUILDING AND  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

**AS 2443—1981**

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Project Network Planning to resolve ambiguity in Australia regarding terms used in project network planning.

The following source documents were taken into account in the preparation of this standard:

Submission by Division of Building Research, CSIRO

BS 4335:1972 Glossary of Terms Used in Project Network Techniques.

The committee was aware of occurrence of a number of alternative terms in common usage, with essentially similar meanings. Such similar terms have been listed, with cross-reference to the preferred term.

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR NETWORK PLANNING IN THE BUILDING AND  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Term	Definition
activity	A distinct part of the project taking time to accomplish with an identifiable start and finish. Resources may be required for its execution.
activity description	A brief description of the work involved in the activity, containing an action word and preferably an object. The style should be consistent, and the vocabulary familiar to those who will use the network. NOTE: An example of an activity description would be 'Compact subgrade to carpark'.
activity duration	The time to execute an activity. It is derived by estimating in the case of activities yet to be started or in progress or by work measurement in the case of those already completed. It may include delays and any extra work required owing to amendments.
activity number	A unique number or code to identify an activity. In a precedence diagram it is the node number. In an arrow diagram it may incorporate the activity start and finish node numbers.
activity-on-arrow network	See arrow diagram
activity-on-node network	See precedence diagram
arrow	The symbol for depicting the sequence and flow of work.
arrow diagram (activity-on-arrow network)	A network diagram in which arrows represent the activities and nodes represent events.
ascending float schedule	A schedule to show activities in the sequence of ascending order of magnitude of float. It may include all activities, or list those having float up to a certain level.
backward pass	The procedure whereby the latest finish and latest start times for activities of a network are calculated.
bar chart (Gantt chart)	A simple time-scaled diagram showing the time frame for activities or areas of work, usually as horizontal lines of length scaled to activity duration. Dependencies and logic restraints are not usually shown. (See also linked bar chart)
calendar (working calendar)	A calendar made up to display days (or weeks and months) which are to be worked. The purpose is to provide conversion of time to start and finish dates.
constraint	A limitation on the performance of an activity, which may take the form of an imposed date or duration or another resource requirement or limit. (See also restraint)
cost code	A code used to identify a cost activity or a cost group.
cost slope	The ratio of cost to time.
CPA	Critical path analysis. (See also critical path method)
CPM	See critical path method
crashed cost	The total cost after reducing the duration of an activity (or a project).
crashed time	A shortened activity duration (or project duration).
critical activity	An activity (or dummy) on a critical path.
critical event	An event on a critical path.
critical path	The path or paths with least float.
critical path analysis (CPA)	See critical path method
critical path method (CPM) (critical path analysis) (CPA)	A method of network analysis which is characterized by the assignment of a single duration to each activity and which identifies the critical activities. NOTE: The term 'critical path method' (CPM) refers to a particular technique and should not be used as a synonym for project network technique in general.
dangle	See hole
decision event	A state in the progress of a project, when a decision is made before the start of any succeeding activity.
dummy (dummy activity)	A logical link used in arrow diagrams which does not consume either time or any other resource. It is usually represented by a broken arrow.
dummy activity	See dummy
duration	See activity duration and project duration