

Australian Standard
1615 — 1980

**SINGLE-USE NEEDLES (STERILE)
FOR INSULIN INJECTION**



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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Australian Dental Standards Laboratory
Australian Diabetes Society
Australian Medical Association
Commonwealth and State Departments of Health
Confederation of Australian Industry
Diabetes Federation of Australia
Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia
Hospitals and Hospital Associations
New South Wales Government Stores Department

This standard, prepared by Committee MD 2, Hypodermic Equipment for Insulin Injection, was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 21 April 1980, and was published on 1 June 1980.

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This standard was issued in draft form for public review as DR 77101.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**SINGLE-USE NEEDLES (STERILE)
FOR INSULIN INJECTION**

AS 1615—1980

First published	1974
Second edition	1980

**PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR STREET, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.**



ISBN 0 7262 1941 X

PREFACE

This standard was prepared under the direction of the Medical Materials and Equipment Standards Committee, to supersede AS 1615—1974.

Unlike the 1974 edition, this standard specifies only one size of needle, 0.45 mm × 13 mm (SWG 26 × $\frac{1}{2}$ in). New appendices deal with tests for particulate contamination, extractable metals, pyrogens, toxicity and sterility.

Facilities for testing for compliance with this standard are available at the Australian Dental Standards Laboratory, 240 Langridge Street, Abbotsford, Victoria, 3067.

This standard makes reference to the following standards:

- AS 1077 Single-use 1 mL Syringes (Sterile) for the Injection of 100 Units per Millilitre Insulin (U - 100)
 - AS 1094 Single-use Syringes (Sterile) for General Medical Use
 - AS 1157 Methods of Testing Materials for Resistance to Fungal Growth
Part 7 — Resistance of Papers and Paper Products to Surface Fungal Growth
 - AS 1386 Cleanrooms and Work-stations
 - AS 1444 Wrought Alloy Steels of the AISI-SAE H and Standard Steel Types
 - AS 1600 Conical Fittings with 6 percent (Luer) Taper for Hypodermic and Other Surgical Equipment
 - AS 2134 Code of Practice for the Chemical Analysis of Materials by Flame Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy
 - AS G18 Wrought Alloy Steels of the BS 970 F Series Type
- and to the European Pharmacopoeia, the British Pharmacopoeia, and the United States Pharmacopoeia.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
for
SINGLE-USE NEEDLES (STERILE) FOR INSULIN INJECTION

1 SCOPE. This standard specifies requirements for sterilized individually packed hypodermic needles intended for use once only solely for the injection of insulin. The needle tubes are 0.45 mm in nominal external diameter and 13 mm in length.* The needles have the 6 percent (Luer) fitting.

NOTE: Advisory information on sampling and assessing for compliance with this standard is given in Appendix O.

2 DESCRIPTION OF NEEDLE. The essential components of the needle are the needle tube and the hub. One end of the needle tube is bonded in the hub; the other end of the needle tube is bevelled and sharpened to form the point. The hub is hollow, forming a socket into which the nozzle of a syringe can be fitted. The space enclosed by the wall of the needle tube is termed the lumen.

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

3.1 Unit—a needle with any sheath attached in accordance with Clause 14.1 and any attached hub cover, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

3.2 Unit pack—a pack containing a single unit.

3.3 Multiple pack—a pack, not being a store pack, containing two or more unit packs.

3.4 Store pack—a pack containing one or more multiple packs.

3.5 Water—purified water of the British Pharmacopoeia.

3.6 Needle sheath—the removable protective cover.

4 REQUIREMENTS FOR NEEDLE TUBE.

4.1 Composition. The needle tube shall be made of stainless steel which is either—

(a) one of the martensitic steels specified for the En 56 series in AS G18 or one of the steels specified in Table 1.3 of AS 1444; or

(b) one of the austenitic steels specified for the En 58 series in AS G18 or one of the steels specified in Table 1.2 of AS 1444.

4.2 Appearance. When the needle is examined without magnification and with magnification of about $10\times$ —

- (a) the needle tube shall appear straight, cylindrical, and of uniform wall thickness;
- (b) the outside surface of the needle shall appear smooth and clean and shall exhibit no corrosion, pitting, tool marks, sinks, voids, or stress marks;

- (c) the inside surface of the needle tube shall exhibit no corrosion, no extraneous matter other than a film of lubricant, and no obstruction to the flow of liquid; and
- (d) the pointed end of the needle tube shall appear sharp and strong and shall exhibit smooth sharpened surfaces on at least three aspects, and shall exhibit no barbs, hooks, feathered edges or other defects.

4.3 Resistance to corrosion. When the needle is tested in accordance with Appendix A, the needle tube shall not show signs of corrosion.

4.4 Dimensions.

(a) The length of the needle tube (dimension A in Fig. 1) shall be not less than 12 mm and not more than 14 mm.

(b) The external diameter of the needle tube shall be not less than 0.43 mm and not more than 0.47 mm.

(c) The internal diameter of the needle tube shall be not less than 0.25 mm.

(d) The angle of the point (angle θ in Fig. 2) shall be not greater than 15 degrees and not less than 9 degrees.

4.5 Mechanical Properties.

4.5.1 Stiffness. When the needle is tested in accordance with Appendix B, the deflection of the needle tube shall not exceed 0.20 mm.

4.5.2 Resistance to bending. When the needle is tested in accordance with Appendix C, the needle tube shall not fracture.

4.5.3 Elastic recovery. When the needle is tested in accordance with Appendix D, the angle of permanent set of the needle tube shall not exceed 1 degree.

5 REQUIREMENTS FOR HUB.

5.1 Composition. The hub of the needle shall be made of material which does not affect the therapeutic activity of insulin when the needle is used to inject any preparation of insulin.

5.2 Appearance. When the needle is examined with a magnification of about $10\times$ —

(a) the surfaces of the hub shall exhibit no sinks, voids or stress marks, no detached or detachable material, no extraneous matter and no obstruction to the flow of liquid through the needle;

(b) the socket shall appear coaxial with the needle tube; and

(c) any projection of the needle tube into the socket shall not exceed 1.5 mm in length.

* Formerly 26 SWG \times $\frac{1}{2}$ in.