

# Australian Standard 2171—1978

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## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PLASTICS ITEMS FOR FOOD CONTACT APPLICATIONS



**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
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THE FOLLOWING SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL, CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL organizations and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations  
Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
Council of Australian Food Technology Associations Incorporated  
CSIRO, Division of Food Research  
Department of Science  
Departments of Health  
Health Commission of N.S.W.  
Medical Department, Western Australia  
National Packaging Association of Australia  
Plastics Institute of Australia Incorporated  
University of New South Wales

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This standard, prepared by Committee CS/13, Plastics for Food Contact, was approved for publication on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 22 March 1978, and was published on 1 June 1978.

To keep abreast of progress in industry, Australian standards are regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvements to published standards, addressed to the head office of the Association, are welcomed.

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*This standard was issued in draft form for public review as DR 77001.*

**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD**

**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR  
THE MANUFACTURE OF  
PLASTICS ITEMS FOR  
FOOD CONTACT  
APPLICATIONS**

**AS 2171—1978**

First published ..... 1978

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

**ISBN 0 7262 1476 0**

## PREFACE

This standard was prepared at the request of the Australian Government by the Association's Committee on Plastics for Food Contact under the direction of the Consumer Standards Advisory Committee.

It describes the procedures to be followed by manufacturers of plastics items for food contact during the various stages of processing.

Various parts of a series of standards, i.e. AS 2070, that specify the requirements of plastics materials (usually in the form of granules or powder) for food contact use are in the course of preparation. In addition, a standard for colourants and test methods for the migration of compounds from plastics materials into food simulants are being prepared. It is emphasized that these standards, in combination with this standard, provide a system of control for the migration of substances from plastics materials into food.

This standard may require reference to the following Australian standards:

- AS 1886 Glossary of Terms Relating to Plastics
- AS 2070 Plastics Materials for Food Contact Use.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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**Australian Standard**

**CODE OF PRACTICE**

**FOR**

**THE MANUFACTURE OF PLASTICS ITEMS FOR**

**FOOD CONTACT APPLICATIONS**

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**1 SCOPE.** This code describes the procedures that should be followed during the various stages of production, coating and printing of plastics items for food contact, such as packages, domestic containers, wrapping, utensils or any other plastics items intended for food contact applications.

**2 APPLICATION.** This code provides for the correct segregation and identification of raw materials received from suppliers, the control of additives, the correct use of raw materials (including rework materials) and processing aids, the prevention of contamination within the machinery being used, factory hygiene and the identification of finished plastics items.

NOTE: This code is not intended to apply to the manufacture of plastics materials (virgin resin) or colourants for food contact use. These materials are specified in the appropriate Parts of AS 2070, Plastics Materials for Food Contact Use.

**3 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this code, the terms in AS 1886\* and the following definitions apply:

*Authorized person*—a person who has been formally delegated with sufficient responsibility and authority by senior management of the manufacturer concerned to ensure compliance with the requirements of this code.

*Manufacturer*—an organization that carries out any number of the processes required to make plastics items for food contact use.

*Rework material*—plastics materials intended for reprocessing.

**4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PLASTICS MATERIALS AND REWORK MATERIALS.**

**4.1 New Plastics Materials.** New plastics materials used in the manufacture of plastics items for food contact use should comply with the relevant Parts of AS 2070.

**4.2 Rework Materials.**

**4.2.1 Source.** Rework materials used in the manufacture of plastics items for food contact use should be prepared from plastics items that have not been used or printed and have been manufactured in compliance with this code from plastics materials prescribed in Rule 4.1.

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\*AS 1886, Glossary of Terms Relating to Plastics.