

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Timber—Poles for overhead lines**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TM/3, Timber Grading. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 2 February 1994 and published on 18 April 1994.

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The following interests are represented on Committee TM/3:

CSIRO, Division of Building Construction and Engineering  
Housing Industry Association  
Master Builders Australia  
National Association of Forest Industries, Australia  
New Zealand Forest Research Institute  
New Zealand Timber Industry Federation  
New Zealand Timber Suppliers Group  
University of Technology, Sydney

Additional interests participating in preparation of standard:

Local Government Electricity Association of New South Wales

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**Timber—Poles for overhead lines**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee TM/3 on Timber Grading to supersede AS 2209—1979, *Timber poles for overhead lines*. It was developed from a document prepared by a working group with representation from New South Wales timber pole purchaser and supplier interests which was organized by the Local Government Electricity Association of New South Wales.

The revision was undertaken because the existing document did not meet the present needs of timber pole purchasers and suppliers. In particular, its preservative treatment requirements and quality provisions did not relate to current practices.

In preparing this Standard, reference was made to AS 1604 *Timber—Preservative-treated—Sawn and round*. The procedures that it uses for specifying minimum preservative retention were adopted. The actual retentions nominated may, however, be higher for Copper Chrome Arsenic (CCA) preservatives as a consequence of the established preferences of the New South Wales electricity supply industry.

The principal changes are:

- (a) Addition of a 'purchasing guidelines' appendix.
- (b) Inclusion of a quality requirements clause and related appendices which provide a range of optional means for complying with its provisions.
- (c) Inclusion of clauses giving purchasers the option of asking for formal confirmation of compliance with the Standard.
- (d) Spiral grain requirements for hardwood poles.
- (e) Measurement of spiral grain by the 'gradient' method used for other timber products.
- (f) Reference to pentachlorophenol (PCP) has been deleted.
- (g) Emulsified form of creosote recognized.
- (h) Preservative retention specified—
  - (i) on a per pole instead of charge lot basis;
  - (ii) on both a mass/mass and mass/vol. basis with the former nominated as the 'legal' requirement; and
  - (iii) as active elements as well as total preservative formulation in the case of CCA.
- (i) A substantial increase in CCA retentions specified.

In addition, changes have been made to style, format and expression to accommodate current Standards Australia practice.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

### Australian Standard

### Timber Poles for overhead lines

#### SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

**1.1 SCOPE** This Standard sets out requirements for timber poles intended primarily for use in overhead lines for electrical distribution and telecommunications purposes with or without full-length preservative treatment.

This Standard does not cover requirements for strength and dimensions and these should be separately specified.

**1.2 APPLICATION** Hardwood poles intended for use without full-length preservative treatment shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1 and 2.

Hardwood poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1 and 3.

Softwood poles intended for use after full-length preservative treatment shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1 and 4.

Any poles to be supplied after full-length preservative treatment shall also comply with all the relevant requirements of Section 5.

This Standard is intended to have general application throughout Australia but in New South Wales the Timber Marketing Act 1977, and in Queensland the Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act 1987, require prior approval of a preservative treatment and the registration and application of a brand before timber offered for sale in either of these States can be described as preservative-treated. Detailed information about the requirements of such legislation may be obtained from the State government department concerned.

This Standard requires purchasers to nominate some options and allows them to negotiate others. It also includes other guidelines for purchasers obtaining supply according to this document.

NOTE: Purchasing guidelines are given in Appendix A.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS** The following documents are referred to in this Standard.

AS	
1080	Methods of testing timber
1080.1	Method 1: Moisture content
143	High temperature creosote for the preservation of timber
1199	Sampling procedures and tables for inspection by attributes
1399	Guide to AS 1199—Sampling procedures and tables for inspection by attributes
1604	Timber—Preservative-treated—Sawn and round
1605	Methods for the sampling and analysis of wood preservatives and preservative-treated wood