

Australian Standard™

**Cranes, hoists and winches—Safe use**

**Part 1: General requirements**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME-005, Cranes. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 January 2002 and published on 24 May 2002.

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The following are represented on Committee ME-005:

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Australian Elevator Association  
Australian Industry Group  
Australian Institute for Non-destructive Testing  
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia  
Construction and Mining Equipment Association of Australia  
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Australian Standard™

**Cranes, hoists and winches—Safe use**

**Part 1: General requirements**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee ME-005, Cranes, to cover general requirements for the safe use of cranes. After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

*This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (May 2004). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.*

Because this Standard contains requirements that apply to two or more types of cranes, some requirements will not apply to all types of cranes.

Standards Australia uses the term ‘shall’ to indicate those requirements that have to be met to be in compliance with the objectives and intent of the Standard in question. The requirements of this Australian Standard are not required by law in any Australian jurisdiction, unless the Standard has been specifically incorporated by an Act of regulation in the jurisdiction.

The Commonwealth, State and Territory governments may choose to incorporate this Australian Standard into their occupational health and safety law. The exact manner of incorporation will determine whether the whole document is incorporated or whether specific sections or provisions of the Australian Standard are incorporated. The manner of incorporation will determine which of the Standard’s requirements (‘shall’ statements) have been made a legal requirement in a jurisdiction. As a general principle, where an Australian Standard is incorporated by a regulation, the legal status of the Standard’s requirements and recommendations is made clear by the incorporation provisions of the regulation.

Jurisdictions may also choose to incorporate this Australian Standard (either in whole or in part) in an Approved Code of Practice made under OH&S law. The purpose of the Approved Code of Practice is to provide practical guidance to persons on how to comply with their obligations under the enabling OH&S Act, or regulations made under the Act.

Readers will need to refer to their jurisdiction’s Approved Codes of Practice to determine which parts of this Australian Standard (if any) have been incorporated into Codes of Practice and the manner of incorporation.

This Standard covers the general requirements for the safe use of cranes, hoists and winches. It differs from the previous edition in the following ways:

- (a) The content has been rationalized and the requirements for specific types of cranes have been removed to their dedicated Standard.
- (b) The content has been amended to reflect the changing role of the Regulatory authorities in the country.
- (c) Editorial changes.

Published Standards in the series are:

AS	
2550	Cranes—Safe use
2550.1	Part 1: General requirements
2550.3	Part 3: Bridge, gantry, portal (including container cranes) and jib cranes
2550.4	Part 4: Tower cranes
2550.5	Part 5: Mobile cranes
2550.6	Part 6: Guided storing and retrieving appliances
2550.7	Part 7: Builders’ hoists and associated equipment

AS

- 2550.9 Part 9: Vehicle hoists
- 2550.10 Part 10: Elevating work platforms
- 2550.13 Part 13: Building maintenance units
- 2550.15 Part 15: Concrete placing equipment
- 2550.16 Part 16: Mast climbing work platforms

It is intended to publish the following part:

Special purpose appliances

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**Cranes, hoists and winches—Safe use**

**Part 1: General requirements**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard specifies general requirements for the safe use of cranes, hoists and winches.

Where this Standard uses the word ‘crane’ it shall be taken to mean ‘hoist’, ‘winch’ or components as defined in AS 2549.

**1.2 APPLICATION**

Requirements that are common to two or more types of cranes are contained in this Standard. Therefore some requirements contained herein do not apply to all types of cranes.

Requirements applicable to particular types of cranes are specified in the specific parts of AS 2550.

Where earthmoving equipment is to be used as a crane, the requirements in Appendix I shall apply.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1318	Use of colour for the marking of physical hazards and the identification of certain equipment in industry (known as the SAA Colour Code)
1418	Cranes (including hoists and winches)
1418.1	Part 1: General requirements
1418.5	Part 5: Mobile cranes
1418.8	Part 8: Special purpose appliances
1418.17	Part 17: Workboxes
2076	Wire rope grips for non-lifting applications
2549	Cranes (including hoists and winches)—Glossary of terms
2550	Cranes—Safe use
2550.3	Part 3: Bridge, gantry, portal (including container cranes) and jib cranes
2550.4	Part 4: Tower cranes
2550.5	Part 5: Mobile cranes
2550.6	Part 6: Guided storing and retrieving appliances
2550.7	Part 7: Builders’ hoists and associated equipment
2550.9	Part 9: Vehicle hoists
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2550.15	Part 15: Concrete placing equipment
2550.16	Part 16: Mast climbing work platforms