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To supersede AS C109-1964  
on 4 Nov 1985 - date changed  
see note after para 1 in Preface.

AS 3109-1983

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→ Ran concurrently with AS C109-1964 until superseded. AS C109  
to be superseded by AS 3109.1-1987 on 1 Jan. 1988 (see  
Preface AS 3109.1-1987)

# Australian Standard

## 3109—1983

### APPROVAL AND TEST SPECIFICATION FOR APPLIANCE COUPLERS FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR GENERAL PURPOSES

[Title Allocated by Defence Cataloguing Authority:  
CONNECTOR SETS, CABLE AND CORD ASSEMBLIES, ELECTRICAL  
(Appliances, Household and Similar Purposes)]



**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
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This Australian standard was prepared by Committee EL/4, Electrical Accessories. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 21 July 1983 and published on 4 November 1983.

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Association of Consulting Engineers Australia  
Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association  
Confederation of Australian Industries  
Department of Defence Support  
Department of Housing and Construction  
Department of Public Works, N.S.W.  
Electrical Contractors Associations of Australia  
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This standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 82140.

**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
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**AMENDMENT No 1**

to

**AS 3109—1983**

**APPROVAL AND TEST SPECIFICATION FOR  
APPLIANCE COUPLERS FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR GENERAL PURPOSES**

**REVISED TEXT**

**SUMMARY:** The following section of this standard is covered by this amendment: Preface.

Published on 4 October 1985.

**Page 2. Preface.**

**Add a new Note to the first paragraph as follows:**

**NOTE:** At the request of the Regulatory Authorities (Electrical), AS C109—1964 will not be withdrawn on 4 November 1985. Currently, AS 3109 is being comprehensively revised with an anticipated publication date of mid 1986. In this revised edition, further information will be provided on the actual withdrawal date of AS C109—1964. Until AS C109 is withdrawn, it is expected that Regulatory Authorities will approve accessories to either standard.

**This amendment forms part of the specification on publication.**

8 OCT 1985

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**APPROVAL AND TEST SPECIFICATION  
FOR  
APPLIANCE COUPLERS FOR  
HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR  
GENERAL PURPOSES**

**AS 3109—1983**

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Electrical Accessories and will supersede AS C109—1964 two years after the date of publication. During this 2-year period, it is expected that regulatory authorities will approve equipment to either standard.

~~NOTE: SEE AMENDMENTS No 1~~  
This standard follows closely IEC 320, Appliance Couplers for Household and Similar General Purposes, and contains requirements for design, construction and testing of appliance couplers and covers only safety matters and conditions closely allied thereto.

Some of the requirements of IEC 320 have been varied to take account of local conditions. Where this standard deviates technically by way of additional or different requirements, the deviation is indicated by a rule in the margin against the clause, or the part thereof, affected. An annex to the standard lists the variations from IEC 320.

Appliance couplers in the standard have been separated into three classifications, Group 1, 2 and 3. Requirements for Group 1 are included in the main body of the standard while additional requirements for Groups 2 and 3 are included in Annex A.

Group 1 includes all the IEC appliance couplers except the Class 0 type. Some Group 1 connectors have been recommended as 'not preferred'. This was done in an attempt to rationalize the number of types which are expected to be in common use (see Note 1 to Clause 8.1(a)).

Group 2 refers to those appliance couplers known as Type C in AS C109—1964 and covers all appliance couplers that do not fit within Group 1 or 3. This classification is generally intended for special purpose applications.

Group 3 refers to those appliance couplers known as Types A and B in AS C109—1964. Since these are in common use in Australia, it is expected that for many years Types A and B connections will be manufactured for replacement purposes but that their associated appliance inlets will be gradually phased out.

In this standard the requirements proper appear in 'normal' type and the test requirements appear in 'italic' type. Explanatory notes are contained in notes to the clauses, in a small size 'normal' type.

This specification requires reference to the following Australian standards:

- |                |                                                                                                           |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AS 1100 Part 2 | Drawing Practice, Abbreviations and Symbols                                                               |
| AS 1654        | Limits and Fits for Engineering                                                                           |
| AS 1931        | High Voltage Testing Techniques                                                                           |
| AS 1939        | Classification of Degrees of Protection Provided by Enclosures for Electrical Equipment                   |
| AS 2420        | Fire Test Methods for Solid Insulating Materials and Non-metallic Enclosures Used in Electrical Equipment |
- and the following Australian standard approval and test specifications
- |         |                                                                             |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AS 3100 | Definitions and General Requirements for Electrical Materials and Equipment |
| AS 3105 | Plugs and Plug Sockets                                                      |
| AS 3120 | Cord Extension Sockets                                                      |
| AS 3135 | Air Break Switches                                                          |
| AS 3161 | Thermostats and Energy Regulators                                           |
| AS 3191 | Electric Flexible Cords                                                     |
| AS 3300 | General Requirements for Household and Similar Electrical Appliances.       |

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>SPECIFICATION</b>	
1 Scope .....	4
2 Definitions .....	4
3 General Requirements .....	4
4 General Notes on Tests .....	4
5 Standard Ratings .....	5
6 Classification .....	5
7 Marking .....	5
8 Dimensions and Compatibility .....	6
9 Protection Against Electric Shock .....	7
10 Provision for Earthing .....	8
11 Terminals and Terminations .....	8
12 Construction .....	8
13 Moisture Resistance .....	8
14 Insulation Resistance and Electric Strength .....	8
15 Forces Necessary to Insert and Withdraw Connector .....	10
16 Operation of Contact and Circuit Resistance .....	11
17 Resistance to Heating of Appliance Couplers for Hot or Very Hot Conditions .....	11
18 Current-breaking Capacity Test .....	11
19 Normal Operation .....	12
20 Temperature Rise of Current-carrying Parts .....	12
21 Flexible Cords and Their Connection .....	12
22 Mechanical Strength .....	15
23 Resistance to Heat and Ageing .....	16
24 Screws, Current-carrying Parts and Connectors .....	16
25 Creepage Distance, Clearances and Distances Through Insulation .....	17
26 Resistance of Insulating Material to Heat, Fire and Tracking .....	18
27 Resistance to Rusting .....	18
<b>APPENDIX A. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUP 2 AND GROUP 3 APPLIANCE COUPLERS .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>ANNEX. LIST OF VARIATIONS BETWEEN THIS SPECIFICATION AND IEC 320 .....</b>	<b>87</b>

## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## APPLIANCE COUPLERS FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR GENERAL PURPOSES

**1 SCOPE.** This specification applies to the following:

- (a) Single-phase multi-pole appliance couplers for a.c. only, with a rated voltage not exceeding 250 V and a rated current not exceeding 16 A for household and similar purposes and intended for the connection of a supply flexible cord to electrical appliances or other electric equipment for 50 Hz supply.
- (b) Cord sets incorporating connectors of such appliance couplers.

**NOTES:**

1. Appliance inlets incorporated in or fixed to appliances or other equipment are within the scope of this specification. The dimensional and general requirements of this specification apply to such inlets, but certain tests may not be relevant.
2. The requirements for connectors are based on the assumption that the temperature of the pins of the corresponding appliance inlets does not exceed the following temperatures:
  - (a) For connectors for cold conditions ..... 65°C
  - (b) For connectors for hot conditions ..... 120°C
  - (c) For connectors for very hot conditions ..... 155°C
3. Appliance couplers complying with this specification are suitable for use at ambient temperatures not normally exceeding 25°C, but occasionally reaching 35°C.
4. Appliance couplers complying with the standard sheets in this specification are intended for the connection of equipment having no special protection against moisture; for the connection of other equipment and of equipment which is subject to spillage of liquid in normal use, additional requirements are necessary.
5. Special constructions may be required—
  - (a) in locations where special conditions prevail, e.g. ships, vehicles; or
  - (b) in hazardous locations, e.g. where explosions are liable to occur.
6. Appendix A specifies additional requirements for Group 2 and Group 3 appliance couplers, which in AS 3109—1964 are known as Type C (Group 2) and Types A and B (Group 3).

**2 DEFINITIONS.**

**2.1 General.** Where the terms voltage and current are used, they imply the r.m.s. values, unless otherwise specified.

**2.2 Specific definitions.** For the purpose of this specification the following definitions apply:

**2.2.1 Appliance coupler** denotes a means enabling the connection and disconnection at will, of a flexible cord to an appliance or other equipment. It consists of two parts—

- (a) a *connector*, which is the part integral with, or intended to be attached to, the flexible cord connected to the supply; and
- (b) an *appliance inlet*, which is the part incorporated in or fixed to the equipment, or intended to be fixed to it.

**2.2.2 Rewirable connector** denotes an accessory so constructed that the flexible cord can be replaced.

**2.2.3 Non-rewirable connector or non-rewirable plug** denotes an accessory so constructed that it forms a constructional unit with the flexible cord which is assembled by the manufacturer. This unit shall be such that:

- (a) the flexible cord cannot be separated from the accessory without making the accessory permanently useless; and
- (b) the accessory cannot be opened by hand or by using a general purpose tool.

**NOTE:** An accessory is considered to be permanently useless when for re-assembling the accessory, parts or materials other than the original are to be used.

**2.2.4 Cord set** denotes an assembly consisting of a flexible cord complete with a plug and a connector.

**2.2.5 Rated voltage** denotes the voltage assigned to the connector or the appliance inlet by the manufacturer.

**2.2.6 Rated current** denotes the current assigned to the connector or the appliance inlet by the manufacturer.

**2.2.7 Terminal** denotes the part to which a conductor is attached providing a re-usable connection.

**2.2.8 Termination** denotes the part to which a conductor is permanently attached.

**2.2.9** VOID.

**2.2.10** VOID.

**2.2.11** VOID.

**2.2.12** VOID.

**2.2.13** VOID.

**2.2.14** VOID.

**2.2.101 Plug** denotes a plug conforming to Fig. 2.1 (a) or (c) of AS 3112.

**2.3 Use of the term 'accessory'.** The term 'accessory' is used as a general term covering connectors and/or appliance inlets (and, in some cases, plugs as well).

**3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.** Appliance couplers shall be so designed and constructed that in normal use their performance is reliable and without danger to user or surroundings.

In general, compliance is checked by carrying out all the tests specified.

**4 GENERAL NOTES ON TESTS.**

**4.1 Type of tests.** Tests according to this specification are type tests.

**4.2 Sampling.** Unless otherwise specified, the samples are tested as delivered and under normal conditions of use, at an ambient temperature of  $20 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ ; they are tested with a.c. at 50 Hz.

Non-rewirable connectors, other than those forming part of a cord set, must be submitted with a flexible cord at least 1 m long.

**4.3 Order of tests.** Unless otherwise specified, the tests are carried out in the order of the clauses in this specification.