

AS 3778.1—1990  
ISO 772: 1988

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Measurement of water flow in  
open channels**

**Part 1: Vocabulary and symbols**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CE/24, Measurement of Water Flow in Open Channels and Closed Conduits. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 May 1990 and published on 10 December 1990.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CE/24:

Association of Consulting Engineers of Australia  
Australian Water and Wastewater Association  
Board of Works, Melbourne  
Department of Water Resources, NSW  
Engineering and Water Supply Department of South Australia  
Forestry Commission, NSW  
Institute of Instrumentation and Control  
Monash University  
Public Works Department, NSW  
Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation  
University of New South Wales  
University of Queensland  
Water Authority of Western Australia  
Water Board, Sydney  
Water Resources Commission, Queensland

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Measurement of Water Flow in Open Channels and Closed Conduits. It is identical with and has been reproduced from ISO 772—1988, *Liquid flow measurement in open channels—Vocabulary and symbols*.

This Standard is one of a series which deals with methods of measurement of water flow in open channels. The series when complete will consist of the following parts:

- Part 1: Vocabulary and symbols (this Standard)
- Part 2.1: General—Guidelines for the selection of methods of measurement
- Part 2.2: General—Establishment and operation of a gauging station
- Part 2.3: General—Determination of the stage-discharge relation
- Part 2.4: General—Estimation of uncertainty of a flow-rate measurement
- Part 2.5: General—Guidelines for the selection of flow gauging structures
- Part 3: Velocity-area methods—
  - Method 3.1: Measurement by current-meters and floats
  - Method 3.2: Measurement by moving-boat method
  - Method 3.3: Measurement by slope-area method
  - Method 3.4: Collection and processing of data for determination of error in measurement
  - Method 3.5: Investigation of total error
  - Method 3.6: Measurement of flow in tidal channels
  - Method 3.7: Measurement by ultrasonic (acoustic) method
  - Method 3.8: Electromagnetic method using a full-channel-width coil
- Part 4: Measurement using flow gauging structures—
  - Method 4.1: Thin-plate weirs
  - Method 4.2: Rectangular broad-crested weirs
  - Method 4.3: Round-nose horizontal broad-crested weirs
  - Method 4A: V-shaped broad-crested weirs
  - Method 4.5: Triangular profile weirs
  - Method 4.6: Flat-V weirs
  - Method 4.7: Rectangular; trapezoidal and U-shaped flumes
  - Method 4.8: Trapezoidal profile weirs
  - Method 4.9: Parshall and Saniiri flumes
  - Method 4.10: End-depth method for estimation of flow in rectangular channels with a free overfall
  - Method 4.11: End-depth method for estimation of flow in non-rectangular channels with a free overfall (approximate method)
- Part 5: Dilution methods—
  - Method 5.1: Constant-rate injection method for the measurement of steady flow
  - Method 5.2: Integration method for the measurement of steady flow
- Part 6.1: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Rotating element current-meters
- Part 6.2: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Direct depth sounding and suspension equipment
- Part 6.3: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Calibration of rotating element current-meters in straight open tanks
- Part 6.4: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Echo sounders for water depth measurements
- Part 6.5: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Water level measuring devices
- Part 6.6: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Cableway system for stream gauging
- Part 6.7: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Ultrasonic (acoustic) velocity meters
- Part 6.8: Measuring devices, instruments and equipment—Position fixing equipment for hydrometric boats

For the purposes of this Australian Standard, the ISO text should be modified as follows:

- (a) Wherever the words 'International Standard' appear; referring to this Standard, they should be read as 'Australian Standard'.
- (b) Wherever the word 'fluid' appears, it should be read as 'water'.

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# Measurement of water flow in open channels— Vocabulary and symbols

## 0 Introduction

When preparing this International Standard, the following three principles were adopted wherever possible:

- a) to standardize suitable terms and symbols without perpetuating unsuitable ones;
- b) to discard any term or symbol which has been used with different meanings in different countries, or by different people, or by the same person at different times, and to replace that term or symbol by one which has an unequivocal meaning;
- c) to exclude terms which are self-evident.

However, it is recognized that it is not possible to produce a complete set of definitions which will be universally acceptable, but it is hoped that the definitions provided and the symbols used will find widespread acceptance and that their use will lead to better understanding among practitioners of the measurement of liquid flow in open channels.

Throughout this International Standard there are instances of synonymous terms and of preferred terms or alternative spellings. Translations of terms which have no exact equivalent are given in parentheses.