

Australian Standard™

**Non-reusable personal use containers
for the collection and disposal of
hypodermic needles and syringes**



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee HE-001, Medical, Diagnostic and Surgical Products. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 June 2001 and published on 6 August 2001.

The following interests are represented on Committee HE-001:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian College of Operating Room Nurses
Australian Dental Association
Australian Dental Industry Association
Australian Medical Association
Australian Nursing Federation
Australian Society for Microbiology
Consumers Federation of Australia
Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, S.A.
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N.S.W. Supply Department of Public Works and Services
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Additional interests participating in the preparation of this Standard:

Manufacturers of custom moulding

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Subcommittee HE-001-03, Safe Disposal of Sharps and Clinical Wastes, under the responsibility of Committee HE-001, Medical, Diagnostic and Surgical Products, in response to a request from ASP Plastics Pty Ltd.

In the preparation of this Standard, cognizance has been taken of an internal specification applicable to the manufacture of personal sharps containers developed by ASP Plastics Pty Ltd, and AS 4031—1992, *Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas*.

Reusable containers are not dealt with in this Standard, nor are non-reusable sharps containers used in health care areas.

A rupture test has been included as these personal use containers are likely to be disposed of in the general waste stream.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Non-reusable personal use containers for the collection and disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes

1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out requirements for non-reusable personal use containers intended for the safe collection and disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes. The containers are disposed of with their contents.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

AS

1319 Safety signs for the occupational environment

1946 Hypodermic equipment — Single-use needles (sterile) for general medical use

AS/NZS

1301 Methods of test for pulp and paper

1301.426s Method 426s: Determination of thickness and apparent bulk density or apparent sheet density

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

3.1 Container

A receptacle of up to 250 mL capacity, intended for the collection and disposal of up to a total of ten 1 mL syringes and needles, or equivalent, and which may have the ability to store sterile syringes.

NOTE: The receptacle may have the capacity to separately store sterile and used syringes.

3.2 Sharps

Objects or devices having sharp points or protuberances or cutting edges, capable of causing a penetrating injury to humans.

4 MATERIALS

The container should be made of material which complies with the limits for emissions and residues when disposed of in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

5 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

5.1 Mouth of container

The container shall have a mouth or opening for the introduction of needles and syringes. The mouth should be such that the ability to remove used contents from the container is minimized by the action of some form of no-return feature. The container should retain its integrity and there should be no leakage of the contents. The container shall be capable of being capped with a closure device between uses and when full or ready for disposal.