

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Powder-actuated (PA) hand-held  
fastening tools**

**Part 1: Selection, operation and  
maintenance**

### **AS/NZS 1873.1:2003**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-029, Explosive Powered Tools, Fasteners and Charges. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 February 2003 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 24 January 2003. It was published on 5 March 2003.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-029:

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Australian/New Zealand Standard<sup>TM</sup>

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**Part 1: Selection, operation and  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-029, Explosive Powered Tools, Fasteners and Charges, to supersede AS/NZS 1873.1:1994, *Powder-actuated (PA) hand-held fastening tools, Part 1: Selection, operation and maintenance*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide users of powder-actuated (PA) hand-held fastening tools with guidance on their selection, safe operation and maintenance.

This Standard is Part 1 of a series as follows:

AS/NZS

- 1873 Powder-actuated (PA) hand-held fastening tools
- 1873.1 Part 1: Selection, operation and maintenance
- 1873.2 Part 2: Design and construction
- 1873.3 Part 3: Charges
- 1873.4 Part 4: Fasteners

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/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

**Australian/New Zealand Standard  
Powder-actuated (PA) hand-held fastening tools****Part 1: Selection, operation and maintenance**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard provides guidance on the selection, safe operation and maintenance of powder-actuated hand-held fixing tools.

**1.2 APPLICATION**

This Standard is intended as a reference for persons using or concerned with the correct use of powder-actuated hand-held fastening tools.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard.

AS

1319 Safety signs for the occupational environment

AS/NZS

1270 Acoustics—Hearing protectors

1337 Eye protectors for industrial applications

1873 Powder-actuated (PA) hand-held fastening tools

1873.2 Part 2: Design and construction

4360 Risk management

**1.4 DEFINITIONS**

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

**1.4.1 Base material**

The material into which the fastener shank is driven and from which the holding power is obtained.

**1.4.2 Charge**

A cased cartridge or a caseless pellet of explosive, designed specifically for a powder-actuated hand-held fastening tool.

NOTE: A charge may also be referred to as an 'explosive charge' or 'power load'.

**1.4.3 Competent person**

A person who has acquired through training, qualification, or experience, or a combination of these, the knowledge and skills enabling that person to perform the task required.

NOTE: Persons using PA tools who exhibit colour blindness need to be able to demonstrate they are capable to identify different charges.