

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Safety of machinery

**Part 3610: Conveyors—General
requirements**



AS/NZS 4024.3610:2015

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-041, Safety of Machinery. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 10 August 2015 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 2 July 2015.

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Australian Industry Group
Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
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Engineers Australia
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-041, Safety of Machinery, to supersede (in part) AS 1755—2000, *Conveyors—Safety requirements*.

The objective of this Standard is to apply the principles articulated in the AS 4024.1 series of Standards to conveyors and to protect workers and other persons against harm to their health, safety and welfare through the elimination or minimization of lifecycle risks associated with conveyor systems.

This Standard comprises the safety measures to be implemented for the lifecycle of conveyors and conveyor systems, both above ground and underground and the necessary risk controls against hazards experienced by operators of such plant.

The revision of this Standard covers the general safety requirements for large and small conveyors and conveyor systems. Technical and editorial revisions have been incorporated in line with available ISO documentation for mechanical handling equipment.

Major changes include—

- (a) the inclusion of risk management concepts;
- (b) the inclusion of hazards relating to conveyors;
- (c) contemporizing guarding requirements and providing clarity;
- (d) alignment with the AS 4024 series of Standards;
- (e) lifecycle management of conveyors; and
- (f) contemporizing of electrical requirements and conveyor control/protection.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard whereas an 'informative' appendix is provided for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

The publishing of the AS 4024.1—2006 series of Standards for Safety of Machinery, based on international Standards published by the International Standards Organization for Standardization (ISO), paved the way for the continued alignment of Australian Standards with international Standards. It also began the development of a set of Standards that would be internally consistent, therefore removing various anomalies and inconsistencies that had previously developed over time between individual Standards.

The resulting suite of Standards consists of a three-tiered structure for the AS 4024 series:

- (a) Part 1: Series of foundation Standards for all machinery.
- (b) Part 2: Series of supportive technical Standards.
- (c) Part 3: Series of application Standards.

This publication is an application Standard.

Conveyors represent wide-ranging and varied applications from simple conveyors carrying light loads, e.g. as found in the retailing and pharmaceutical industries, to large conveyors carrying tonnes of material as seen, in mining and extractive industries and heavy industrial applications.

Conveyors present wide variation in design and operating environments so they demand equally wide-ranging safety strategies. The safety requirements for some conveyors can be addressed by applying the principles set out in the AS 4024.1 series without the need for further guidance.

However, potential uncertainty, interpretation and ambiguity can result in a lower standard of safety than would be the case if application guidance of the principles set out in AS 4024.1 were not provided. Specific application guidance on applying AS 4024.1 to conveyors is addressed in this Standard. The revision will address these issues and result in uniformity across the suite of machinery Standards.

During its work, the committee reviewed a number of International Standards to see if there were any that related specifically to the types of conveyors covered under AS 1755. This did not prove to be the case, so the committee decided to set out the safety requirements for conveyors in a number of new parts of the AS 4024.3 series, drawing on the existing Standard (AS 1755), the AS 4024.1 series and the expertise of personnel representing those industries using conveyor systems.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard
Safety of machinery**Part 3610: Conveyors—General requirements**

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out the minimum lifecycle safety requirements for conveyor systems. This Standard is intended to be used in conjunction with other conveyor Standards in the AS 4024 series (i.e. AS/NZS 4024.3611, AS/NZS 4024.3612 and AS/NZS 4024.3614) by all persons that design/modify, manufacture, supply, install, commission, operate, maintain or dismantle conveyor systems.

The conveyor Standards are not intended to apply to platform elevators, moving stairways or conveyors specifically designed for the conveyance of people. They do not apply to materials hoists, conveying material by fluids (e.g. slurries). This Standard does not cover disposal.

NOTES:

- 1 The conveyor Standards (AS/NZS 4024.3610, AS/NZS 4024.3611, AS/NZS 4024.3612 and AS/NZS 4024.3614) apply the principles set out in the AS 4024.1 series of Standards to conveyor systems.
- 2 Alternative risk controls based on risk assessment may be used, provided that the risk reduction achieved by the alternatives is at least equivalent to that provided by the requirements given in this Standard.
- 3 The committee intends to add a standard to this series that will address screw conveyors.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the conveyor Standards (AS/NZS 4024.3610, AS/NZS 4024.3611, AS/NZS 4024.3612 and AS/NZS 4024.3614) is to protect workers and other persons against harm to their health, safety and welfare through the elimination or minimization of lifecycle risks associated with conveyor systems.

1.3 APPLICATION

This Standard provides general requirements that apply to all conveyors as defined in this Standard. These requirements shall be applied in conjunction with the relevant particular requirements of AS/NZS 4024.3611, AS/NZS 4024.3612 and AS/NZS 4024.3614.

1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

A list of the documents referred to in this Standard is given in Appendix A.

1.5 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.