

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Insulating covers for electrical  
purposes**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee EL/4, Electrical Accessories. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 April 1994 and published on 11 July 1994.

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The following interests are represented on Committee EL/4:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association  
Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association, Australia  
Electricity Supply Association of Australia  
Ministry of Commerce, New Zealand  
National Electrical Contractors Association of Australia  
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Railways of Australia Committee  
Regulatory authorities (electrical), Australia  
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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 89180.*

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EL/4 on Electrical Accessories.

It is issued as an Australian Standard. The preparation of a Joint Standard will be considered during the next revision.

Preparation of this Standard was undertaken at the request of the various supply authorities to provide requirements for a suitable insulating cover to prevent inadvertent contact by personnel or equipment with live electrical conductors.

The objective of this Standard is to provide for two classes of flexible insulating covers (i.e. pipe and drape) for both indoor and outdoor use. Both classes are to be used to cover live conductors, apparatus, surfaces or pipes, and the like, whose nominal voltage does not exceed 650 V, whether a.c. r.m.s. or d.c., between conductors or between conductors and earth. Storage and inspection guidance is also provided.

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 only for information and guidance.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard****Insulating covers for electrical purposes**

**1 SCOPE** This Standard specifies the requirements for two classes of flexible insulating covers for indoor and outdoor use. The covers are intended to be used to cover live conductors, apparatus, surfaces or pipes, and the like, whose nominal voltage does not exceed 650 V, whether a.c. r.m.s. or d.c., between conductors or between conductors and earth, in order to prevent inadvertent contact by personnel or equipment working in the vicinity.

This Standard does not apply to—

- (a) insulating covers rated at voltages greater than 650 V; and
- (b) insulating mats (see AS 2978).

NOTE: Attention is drawn to Appendix A which provides storage and inspection guidance.

**2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS** The following documents are referred to in this Standard.

## STANDARDS

## AS

- 1683 Methods of test for elastomers
- 1683.12 Method 12: Rubber, vulcanized—Determination of tear strength (trouser, angle and crescent test pieces)
- 1931 High voltage testing techniques
- 1931.1 Part 1: General definitions, test requirements, test procedures and measuring devices
- 2978 Insulating mats for electrical purposes

## BS

- 903 Methods of testing vulcanized rubber
  - Part A2: Determination of tensile stress-strain properties
  - Part A19: Heat resistance and accelerated ageing tests

**3 DEFINITION** For the purpose of this Standard, the definition below applies.

**3.1 Insulating cover**—a pipe or tube drape, blanket, cover or wrapping of insulating, non-hygroscopic material applied on or around conducting mains, apparatus, surfaces, and pipes so as to prevent inadvertent contact and provide an electrically safe barrier for personnel or equipment working in the vicinity; and hereinafter referred to as a ‘cover’.

**4 CLASSIFICATION** Covers are classified according to their intended application as follows:

- (a) *Class I*—pipe (tube) type.

NOTE: This type is generally flexible tubing which has been split longitudinally, with or without an interlocking facility.

- (b) *Class II*—drape type.

NOTE: This type is generally laid or draped over the mains or equipment.