

Australian Standard[®]

**Textiles for health care facilities
and institutions**

Part 2: Theatre linen and pre-packs

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TX/15, Hospital Textiles and Textile Products. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 24 August 1990 and published on 15 April 1991.

The following interests are represented on Committee TX/15:

Australian Chamber of Commerce
Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers
Australian Hospital Association
Australian Nursing Federation
Australian Wool Corporation
AWTA Textile Testing
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Corrective Services, N.S.W.
Department of Defence
Department of Health and Community Services, N.T.
Department of Health, N.S.W.
Department of Health, Qld.
Government Supply Department, N.S.W.
Health Department, W.A.
Hospital Laundry Managers Association of Australia
South Australian Health Commission
Textile Clothing and Footwear Council of Australia
Textile Rental and Laundry Association
The Australian Chamber of Commerce
Towel Manufacturers Association of Australia

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

Australian Confederation of Operating Room Nurses (representatives from N.S.W., Vic, S.A., and W.A.)

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Part 2: Theatre linen and pre-packs

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Hospital Textiles and Textile Products as a result of requests from the health and laundry sectors of the community for a safe standard of quality and to facilitate standardization of these items across Australia. Agreement has been reached as to the best materials, shapes, sizes and colour of the drapes, and the composition and layout of theatre pre-packs.

In order to minimize the risks of cross-infection, emphasis has been placed on linen quality and the criteria for inspection and acceptability of defects.

This Standard is the second part of a series of Standards for health care facilities and institutions. The other parts in this series are as follows:

- Part 1: *Textiles for health care facilities and institutions—General ward linen* (published as AS 3789.1—1991)
- Part 3: *Textiles for health care facilities and institutions—Apparel for operating theatre staff* (in course of preparation).
- Part 4: *Textiles for health care facilities and institutions —General ward apparel* (in course of preparation).

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FOREWORD

This Standard for theatre linen pre-packs encompasses the use of single thickness drapes in the operating room. This allows for savings in both the laundry processing area and the pre-pack preparation and sterilization process. When draping the patient, the linen is folded to provide a double layer at the operative site. Research has shown that single and double layers of linen behave similarly as bacterial barriers under dry and wet conditions and that an impermeable draping material should be used in conjunction with the linen drapes to give optimum protection. There is also provision for feeder packs of individual drapes for use as required.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Textiles for health care facilities and institutions

Part 2: Theatre linen and pre-packs

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard specifies requirements for the following items of theatre linen for health care facilities and institutional uses: drapes, fenestrated drapes, theatre gowns, hand towels, leggings (mayo table covers), and wrappers. Requirements for the inspection and repair of used theatre linen and for the assembly of theatre linen pre-packs are also provided. This Standard applies to theatre linen for use in all areas of health care facilities and institutions where surgical procedures are performed.

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1169 Minimizing of combustion hazards arising from the medical use of flammable anaesthetic agents

2700 Colour standards for general purposes

2892 Textiles for hospitals and institutions—Fabric specifications

1.3 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard, the definition given below applies.

1.3.1 Hole—a break in the yarn in either the warp or weft direction.

1.4 FABRIC DESIGNATION For the purpose of this Standard, fabrics are designated in accordance with AS 2892.

1.5 WASHING All items of linen shall be washed in accordance with accepted laundry practices before being put into service.

1.6 MARKING New theatre linen, supplied in compliance with Section 2 of this Standard, shall be clearly marked with the following information:

(a) Fabric identification code as provided in AS 2892.

NOTE: Manufacturers making a statement of compliance with this Australian Standard on a product, or on packaging or promotional material related to that product, are advised to ensure that such compliance is capable of being verified.

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Further information on product certification and the suitability of this Standard for certification is available from Standards Australia's Quality Assurance Services, 1 The Crescent, Homebush, N.S.W., 2140.



1.7 MANUFACTURING CONSIDERATIONS The manufacturing tolerances shall be as follows:

- (a) ± 3 mm when measurement is < 30 cm.
- (b) ± 6 mm when measurement is > 30 cm and < 60 cm.
- (c) ± 12.5 mm when measurement is > 60 cm.