

Australian Standard®

**Glossary of terms relating to
plastics**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee PL/10, Methods of Testing Plastics. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 January 1991 and published on 15 April 1991.

The following interests are represented on Committee PL/10:

CSIRO, Division of Building, Construction and Engineering
National Association of Testing Authorities
Plastics Industry Association
The Royal Australian Chemical Institute
Telecom Australia

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**Glossary of terms relating to
plastics**

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PREFACE

This Standard was produced by the Standards Australia Committee on Methods of Testing Plastics under the direction of the Plastics Standards Board, to supersede AS 1886 — 1976, *Terms relating to plastics*. It is identical with and has been reproduced from the English language portion of International Standard ISO 472:1988, *Plastics— Vocabulary*.

For the purpose of this Australian Standard, the ISO text should be modified as follows:

- (a) The noun, plastic, should be read as plastics.
- (b) References in Clause 1 to French text, and French-English, English-Russian and Russian-English indexes should be disregarded.
- (c) The term fire-resistance should only be used in conjunction with AS 1530.4—1985, *Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures, Part 4: Fire-resistance tests of elements of construction*.
- (d) The English language portion of the annex is redesignated Annex A.

The Standard provides a glossary of standardized terms which may be referred to when producing reports, specifications or Standards intended for use in Australia.

This Standard is complemented by the following documents:

AS

1179	Glossary of terms for rubber hose
1309	Glossary of terms used in the adhesives industry
1355	Glossary of terms used in connection with water and sanitary plumbing and drainage installations
2310	Glossary of paint and painting terms
2400	SAA Packaging Code
2400.1	Part 1: Glossary of packaging terms
2450	Textiles—Natural and man-made fibres—Generic names
2454	Textile floor coverings—Definitions, terminology and structure classification
2484	Fire—Glossary of terms
2484.1	Part 1: Fire tests
	National Committee on Rationalized Building, Glossary of Australian Building Terms, 1985.

Australian Appendix B of this Standard defines additional terms used in the plastics industry in Australia. The following terms that appear in Clause 2 are redefined in Appendix B as the Australian usage is significantly different from that of the ISO definitions:

- (i) Acrylic plastics.
- (ii) Atactic polymer.
- (iii) Bag moulding.
- (iv) Blow-up ratio.
- (v) Creep.
- (vi) Compatibility.
- (vii) Crosslinking.
- (viii) Dry blend.
- (ix) Epoxy (epoxide) resins.
- (x) Exudation.
- (xi) Gel (noun).
- (xii) Gel time.
- (xiii) Inhibition.
- (xiv) Latex.
- (xv) Monomer.
- (xvi) Phenolic plastics.
- (xvii) Pinhole.
- (xviii) Polyethylene plastics.
- (xix) Polyurethane plastics.
- (xx) Pot life.
- (xxi) Sheet.
- (xxii) Shrinkage.

- (xxiii) Skin.
(xxiv) Softening range.

Australian Appendix C provides a listing of standard acronyms for plastics materials based largely on ISO 1043, *Plastics—Symbols*, and ISO/TC 61 N4595, *Standard practice for generic working of plastics products*.

Users of this Standard are directed to the *Index of English synonyms and explanatory terms* (p.56) in Annex A, for alternative terms which may not be identified in the body of the document.

This edition omits specific terminology and designation of dimensions for polyethylene film which are included in AS 1326, *Polyethylene (polythene) film for packaging and allied purposes*, and definitions of terms relating to fire which are now included in AS 2484.1, *Fire—Glossary of terms*, Part 1: *Fire tests*, which were included as appendices in the previous edition of AS 1886.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Glossary of terms relating to plastics

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard defines terms used in the plastics industry, in English or French. The terms are listed alphabetically in English.

When a term has one or more synonyms, the synonymous terms follow the preferred term. Deprecated synonymous terms are indicated by “(deprecated)”. The expression “See also...” is used after the definition (or note) to refer to another term (not a synonym) whose definition or note contains information related to the term preceding the expression.

All terms are listed alphabetically in French-English, English-Russian and Russian-English indexes in normal word order; some terms are also listed in reverse word order. Some definitions and/or notes have significant explanatory terms (not synonyms) in their text. These explanatory terms are also listed in the indexes, followed by the expression “*cf.*...” to refer the reader to the defined preferred term. The synonyms are also listed in indexes,

followed by a reference to the preferred term, as indicated by “*see.*...”.

NOTES

1 Symbols for certain polymers and copolymers are indicated in square brackets, for example *polycarbonate* [PC]. For terms involving olefins, the name approved by IUPAC is given in square brackets following the name commonly used in the plastics industry, for example *polyethylene* [*polyethene*] [PE].

2 IUPAC rules for source-based names of polymers specify that when “poly” is followed by more than one word, enclosing marks are used. The IUPAC practice is followed in this International Standard. In common use, the enclosing marks are often omitted.

3 Some terms in this International Standard have parenthetical information added to indicate a specific limitation of the term to a particular field.

4 In the English text, defined verb terms are indicated by “(verb)”.

5 The numbers in parentheses following definitions refer to the Bibliography.