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**Etch primers (single pack and two-pack) for pretreating metal surfaces**

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**STANDARDS AUSTRALIA**



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CH/3, Paints and Related Materials. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 6 February 1991 and published on 15 April 1991.

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Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation  
Australian Retailers Association  
Austroads  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
Department of Defence  
Government Paint Committee  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Paints and Related Materials under the direction of the Chemical Standards Board. It forms part of a series of product Standards for paints that are referred to in AS 2312, *Guide to the protection of iron and steel against exterior atmospheric corrosion*.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## Etch primers (single pack and two-pack) for pretreating metal surfaces

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE** This Standard specifies requirements for single pack etch primers (Type 1) and two-pack etch primers (Type 2) intended for pretreating metal surfaces to improve the adhesion of paint systems applied to them.

This Standard is applicable to etch primers used to pretreat blast-cleaned steel, stainless steel, and cleaned non-ferrous surfaces (e.g. galvanized steel, zinc, aluminium, zinc aluminium alloy, brass, copper, cadmium and nickel) which have been degreased in accordance with AS 1627.1.

## NOTES:

- 1 Etch primers are intended to be applied by conventional spraying. Type 2 etch primers as described in this Standard comply with the requirement of Paint Type 10 in accordance with AS 2312.
- 2 Etch primers are used in systems GZ LP-A, GZ VLP-B and MSA LP-A as described in AS 2312.
- 3 Appendix A provides recommendations on information which should be provided by the purchaser at the time of enquiry or order.
- 4 Additional information on the history, development and use of etch primers is given in Appendix B.
- 5 Alternative means for determining compliance with this Standard are given in Appendix C.

**1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS** A list of the documents referred to in this Standard is contained in Appendix D.

**1.3 DEFINITIONS** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS 2310 and those below apply.

**1.3.1 Component**—term used specifically in relation to Type 2 primers, describes each of the two parts of the primer which, when mixed in appropriate proportions, produce the designated product in a form suitable for application.

**1.3.2 Etch primer (wash primer)**—a material used to pretreat metals to improve the adhesion properties of subsequent paint systems. It typically consists of chromate pigment, vinyl butyral resin, alcohols and phosphoric acid. Alternative compositions are also embraced provided they meet the performance requirements of this Standard.

## NOTES:

- 1 Etch primers react with the metal surface and coat it with a protective vinyl film containing an inhibitive pigment.
- 2 A Type 1 etch primer consists of a single component product whereas a Type 2 etch primer is provided as two separate components which are blended together before application.

**1.4 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS** Etch primers are corrosive and therefore protective clothing, including safety glasses/goggles, should be worn to prevent skin and eye contact whenever the product is handled. Additional hazards are presented by compositions containing chromates which may cause cancer.

NOTE: Appendix B provides information on safety precautions.