

Australian Standard[®]

Cathodic protection of metals

Part 2: Compact buried structures

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee MT/14, Corrosion of Metals. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 20 December 1990 and published on 13 May 1991.

The following interests are represented on Committee MT/14:

- Aluminium Development Council
- Australasian Corrosion Association
- Australian Gas Association
- Australian Institute of Steel Construction
- Australian Zinc Development Association
- Austroads
- Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
- Confederation of Australian Industry
- Department of Defence
- Electricity Supply Association of Australia
- Engineering and Water Supply Department, South Australia
- Railways of Australia Committee
- States Electrolysis Committees
- Telecom Australia
- University of New South Wales

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

- Corrosion consultants
- Department of Minerals and Energy, N.S.W.
- Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria
- Hunter Water Board
- Petroleum refineries
- State Electricity Commission of Victoria
- Water Resources Commission, Queensland

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Part 2: Compact buried structures

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on the Corrosion of Metals under the direction of the Metals Standards Board, at the request of industry, to provide a Standard for the guidance of owners of underground structures which are to be cathodically protected. It is not intended to be a complete cathodic protection design manual and those requiring further information should refer to the other Standards mentioned, to text books on the subject or to appropriate corrosion prevention specialists.

During preparation of this Standard, account was taken of the regulations of the various State Authorities, which differ in their approach to cathodic protection.

This Standard forms one of a proposed series of Standards which cover the cathodic protection of metals. The first in the series is AS 2832.1, *Pipes, cables and ducts*.

Other Standards which are in the course of preparation and provide guidelines on cathodic protection cover compact immersed structures such as offshore platforms and jetties, internal surfaces of items such as water storage tanks, and the design of cathodic protection systems for boats.

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD	5
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE	6
1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS	6
1.3 DEFINITIONS	7
SECTION 2 DESIGN OF STRUCTURES FOR CATHODIC PROTECTION	
2.1 GENERAL	8
2.2 STRUCTURE COATING	8
2.3 STRAY CURRENTS	8
2.4 TEST POINTS	8
2.5 INSULATING JOINTS	9
2.6 ROAD AND RAIL CROSSINGS	10
2.7 ELECTRICAL ISOLATION	10
2.8 EARTH POTENTIAL RISE CAUSED BY HIGH VOLTAGE POWER SYSTEM FAULTS	10
2.9 ELECTRICAL CONTINUITY	11
2.10 GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS	11
SECTION 3 COATINGS FOR USE WITH CATHODIC PROTECTION	
3.1 GENERAL	12
3.2 COATING PROPERTIES	12
3.3 COATING CHOICE	12
SECTION 4 CRITERIA FOR CATHODIC PROTECTION	
4.1 GENERAL	14
4.2 FERROUS STRUCTURES	14
4.3 COPPER/COPPER ALLOY STRUCTURES	14
4.4 LEAD STRUCTURES	14
4.5 MIXED METALLIC STRUCTURES	14
4.6 STRUCTURES SUBJECT TO STRAY DIRECT CURRENT	14
4.7 MEASUREMENT OF POTENTIAL	14
4.8 OVERPROTECTION	15
SECTION 5 DESIGN OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS	
5.1 GENERAL	16
5.2 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS	16
5.3 CHOICE OF SYSTEM—IMPRESSED CURRENT OF GALVANIC ANODES	16
5.4 CONTROL OF INTERFERENCE CURRENTS	17
5.5 CABLES	17
5.6 CHECK LIST FOR INITIAL SURVEYS	18
5.7 DETERMINATION OF CATHODIC PROTECTION CURRENT REQUIRE- MENTS	18
5.8 ANODE ARRANGEMENTS	19
5.9 ANODE MATERIALS, APPLICATIONS AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS	21
5.10 CALCULATION OF GALVANIC ANODE MASS	21
5.11 CALCULATION OF GALVANIC ANODE OUTPUT CURRENT	22
5.12 POWER SUPPLY FOR IMPRESSED CURRENT SYSTEMS	22
5.13 BACKFILL	23
5.14 PROVISION FOR STRAY CURRENTS	23
5.15 SYSTEM DESIGN DOCUMENTATION	23

SECTION 6 INSTALLATION OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS

6.1	GENERAL	25
6.2	MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT ACCEPTANCE TESTS	25
6.3	INSTALLATION OF GALVANIC ANODE SYSTEMS	26
6.4	INSTALLATION OF IMPRESSED CURRENT ANODE SYSTEMS	26
6.5	INSTALLATION OF REFERENCE ELECTRODES	26
6.6	INSTALLATION OF INSULATING FLANGES, JOINTS AND COUPLINGS	27

SECTION 7 CONTROL OF INTERFERENCE CURRENTS FROM CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS TO MINIMIZE THEIR EFFECT ON FOREIGN STRUCTURES

7.1	GENERAL	28
7.2	REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS	28
7.3	MINIMIZATION OF INTERFERENCE CURRENT	28

SECTION 8 CATHODIC PROTECTION OF STRUCTURES SUBJECT TO STRAY DIRECT CURRENT

8.1	GENERAL	31
8.2	MINIMIZATION OF STRAY CURRENT EFFECTS	31

SECTION 9 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS

9.1	GENERAL	32
9.2	MEASURING TECHNIQUES	32
9.3	COMMISSIONING SURVEY	33
9.4	CATHODIC PROTECTION POTENTIAL SURVEYS	33
9.5	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE CHECKS	33
9.6	STRUCTURE INSPECTIONS	33
9.7	RECORDS	33

APPENDICES

A	GUIDANCE ON THE GENERAL USE OF CATHODIC PROTECTION	35
B	LIST OF DEFINITIONS	38
C	CONTROL OF INTERFERENCE CURRENTS—LIST OF ELECTROLYSIS COMMITTEES	40

FOREWORD

Corrosion of a metal is an electrochemical reaction between the metal and its environment which results in wastage of the metal. Thus corrosion is a combination of chemical effects with an associated flow of electrical energy (corrosion current).

In many practical situations where it is impossible to change the nature of the environment, corrosion may be prevented by employing cathodic protection. This is achieved by applying an appropriate direct current flowing in opposition to the original corrosion current, thus stopping the natural tendency of the metal to react with its environment. In practice, the electrical potential of the metal at risk is used to judge whether its protection is being adequately achieved.

To employ cathodic protection, a circuit is established by connecting a suitable source of direct current to the structure to be protected.

Two types of cathodic protection system are available:

- (a) Galvanic anode systems, which employ buried metallic anodes which sacrifice themselves to provide the source of direct current for protection of the structure.
- (b) Impressed current systems, which employ an external electrical power source of direct current for the protection of the structure.

Corrosion control for a structure should be considered at the conceptual design stage. Factors which affect the corrosion of buried or partially buried metallic structures are listed in Paragraph A3 of Appendix A. The practices recommended in this Standard relate to steps that need to be taken following a decision to apply cathodic protection to a structure. These steps are as follows:

- (i) Decide whether the structure should be coated. If the decision is to coat, then decide what particular coating system should be employed. If the structure is already installed, a determination should then be made as to whether the nature and quality of the coating are compatible with cathodic protection.
- (ii) Design the structure to be compatible with cathodic protection and to include cathodic protection facilities during construction. If the structure is already installed, determine the measures to be taken to apply cathodic protection effectively, and the facilities necessary for cathodic protection monitoring.
- (iii) If necessary, design the cathodic protection system to include provisions for the mitigation of stray current effects. If the structure is already installed, the design parameters may be measured and an optimum design provided for the mitigation of stray current effects. If the structure is not installed, a number of assumptions will be required for the estimation of design parameters, and an adequate design for the mitigation of stray current effects may not be possible to achieve.

During the cathodic protection design stage, consideration should be given to the possibility that interference with foreign structures in the area may occur. In some circumstances this interference may only be resolved by field testing subsequent to installation.

- (iv) Install the cathodic protection system.

NOTE: Legislation in some States requires that a permit be obtained prior to the installation of a cathodic protection system.

- (v) Commission the cathodic protection system after achieving a balance of cathodic protection current, to enable the entire structure to be protected with minimum current, and with as uniform a potential over its surface as is practicable. Equipment installed for the mitigation of stray current effects should be balanced for optimum performance.

Carry out interference testing and satisfy all parties involved that any interference problems have been resolved, giving attention to regulatory requirements (if any) of the State in which the system is installed.

- (vi) Monitor cathodic protection at regular intervals, adjusting the conditions of operation as necessary, and maintain complete records of its operation.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
Cathodic protection of metals

Part 2: Compact buried structures

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard provides guidelines for the cathodic protection of external surfaces of compact buried structures, including tank farms, service station tanks, tower footings, steel pilings (in soil), short well casings, compressor and pump stations and associated pipework.

The Standard specifically covers the following subjects which relate to cathodic protection:

- (a) The design of structures requiring cathodic protection.
- (b) Coatings for use on buried metal structures.
- (c) Criteria for choice of cathodic protection potential.
- (d) The design of cathodic protection systems.
- (e) The installation of cathodic protection systems.
- (f) The control of interference currents on foreign structures.
- (g) The cathodic protection of structures subject to stray direct current.
- (h) The operation and maintenance of cathodic protection systems.

NOTES:

- 1 A different approach is required to achieve satisfactory protection of mounded installations to that for installations buried below ground.
- 2 Guidance on the general use and design of cathodic protection systems, and factors affecting the corrosion of buried metallic structures, are given in Appendix A.
- 3 This Standard employs positive current flow, and uses the potential sign conventions specified in AS 1852.

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

AS

- 1020 The control of undesirable static electricity
- 1076 Code of practice for selection, installation and maintenance of electrical apparatus and associated equipment for use in explosive atmospheres (other than mining applications)
- 1076.1 Part 1: Basic requirements
- 1100 Technical drawing
- 1100.401 Part 401: Engineering survey and engineering survey design drawing
- 1518 Extruded high density polyethylene protective coating for pipes
- 1627 Metal finishing—Preparation and pretreatment of surfaces
- 1627.4 Part 4: Abrasive blast cleaning
- 1627.7 Part 7: Hand tool cleaning of metal surfaces
- 1768 Lightning protection
- 1852 International electrotechnical vocabulary
- 2043 Coal-tar and synthetic (fast dry) primers for steel pipes
- 2044 Coal-tar enamel for steel pipes
- 2045 Materials associated with the coating and lining of steel pipes with coal-tar primer/enamel systems
- 2046 Code of practice for the coating and lining of steel pipes with coal-tar primer/enamel systems
- 2239 Galvanic (sacrificial) anodes for cathodic protection
- 2430 Classification of hazardous areas
- 2430.1 Part 1: Explosive gas atmospheres
- 2518 Fusion-bonded low-density polyethylene coating for pipes and fittings
- 3000 SAA Wiring Rules
- 3100 Approval and test specification—Definitions and general requirements for electrical materials and equipment