

Australian Standard®

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**Cranes—Safe use**

**Part 16: Mast climbing work  
platforms**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME/5, Safe Use of Mast Climbing Work Platforms. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 5 September 1997 and published on 5 December 1997.

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The following interests are represented on Committee ME/5:

Association of Consulting Engineers, Australia  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Elevator Association  
Australian Institute for Non-destructive testing  
Australian Institute of Building  
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia  
Construction and Mining Equipment Association of Australia  
Crane Industry Council of Australia  
Department for Industrial Affairs, S.A.  
Department of Defence (Commonwealth)  
Department of Training and Industrial Relations, Qld  
Institution of Engineers, Australia  
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia  
State Chamber of Commerce  
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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 96520.*

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First published as AS 2550.16—1997.

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee ME/5—Cranes to cover specific requirements for the safe use of mast climbing work platforms. It is intended for use in conjunction with AS 2550—1993, *Cranes—Safe use Part 1: General requirements*.

It is the result of a consensus among representatives on the Joint Committee to produce it as an Australian Standard.

The AS 2550 series of Standards is intended to provide uniform requirements and guidance for the safe use of cranes, including mast climbing work platforms, hoists and winches.

The documents have no legal authority in their own right but may be—

- (a) adopted in legislation;
- (b) called up in legislation as Codes of Practice;
- (c) referenced as a contract requirement; and
- (d) recognized as ‘available information’ or as the ‘State of Knowledge’ of the industry.

Current legislation is adopting the principles of hazard identification, risk assessment and control. These principles or the philosophy should form the basis of all modern work practices or procedures.

This process cannot be successfully applied unless—

- (i) all of the relevant criteria are available; and
- (ii) the identification and assessment is based on all the information and experience necessary to arrive at the correct conclusion.

The work practices adopted should incorporate a sufficient factor of safety and should carry no more than an acceptable degree of risk. Acceptable risk factors should reflect the community’s values and expectations. The object of this series of Standards is to provide the necessary information and guidance to allow the correct decisions to be made.

It is unlikely that any one person or organization will be in possession of all of the necessary information and experience to always arrive at the correct decision without having recourse to a reference such as this series of Standards.

Emphasis has been placed on those requirements considered imperative by using ‘shall’, fully recognizing that the requirements may not be mandatory if called up as a Code of Practice. It is also recognized that there may be other ways of achieving risk elimination or control.

Published Standards in the series are:

### AS

2550	Cranes—Safe use
2550.1	Part 1: General requirements
2550.4	Part 4: Tower cranes
2550.5	Part 5: Mobile and vehicle-loading cranes
2550.6	Part 6: Guided storing and retrieving appliances
2550.7	Part 7: Builders’ hoists and associated equipment
2550.9	Part 9: Vehicle hoists
2550.10	Part 10: Elevating work platforms
2550.13	Part 13: Building maintenance units
2550.15	Part 15: Concrete placing equipment
2550.16	Part 16: Mast climbing work platforms (this Standard)

It is intended to publish the following parts:

- (1) Special purpose appliances.
- (2) Bridge, gantry and portal cranes.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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Australian Standard

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Cranes—Safe use

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Part 16: Mast climbing working platforms

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## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE** This Standard gives practical guidance for the selection, supply, erection, alteration, dismantling, commissioning, maintenance, inspection and safe use of mast climbing work platforms.

It is complementary to AS 2550.1, but the requirements given herein take precedence over the corresponding requirements of AS 2550.1.

**1.2 APPLICATION** This Standard shall apply to the safe use of MCWP as defined in AS 1418.16. The requirements in that Standard shall apply and no requirements given herein shall circumvent them.

**1.3 INNOVATIONS** This Standard does not prevent the use of materials, designs, methods of assembly, procedures and the like which do not comply with a specific requirement of the Standard, or not mentioned in it, but which can be shown to give equivalent or superior results to those specified.

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

## AS

- 1418     Cranes (including hoists and winches)
- 1418.7   Part 7: Builders' hoists and equipment
- 1418.16   Part 16: Mast climbing work platforms
- 2549     Cranes (including hoists and winches)—Glossary of terms
- 2550     Cranes—Safe use
- 2550.1   Part 1: General requirements
- 3998     Non-destructive testing—Qualification and certification of personnel—General engineering

**1.5 DEFINITIONS** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS 2549, AS 2550.1, AS 1418.16 and those below apply.

**1.5.1 Cladding**—weatherproof or other wind impervious attachments including shade cloth supported off the work platform.

**1.5.2 Site management**—the person or organization directly responsible for the selection, erection and safe use of the MCWP.

**1.5.3 Supporting structure**—a structure, structural member or foundation that supports a MCWP, or a structure to which mast ties are attached.

**1.5.4 Supplier**—the person or organization who owns, manages or is responsible for the integrity of the MCWP.