

Australian/New Zealand Standard®

**Recommended practice for the
colour coding of steel products**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee MT/1, Iron and Steel. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 1 August 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 4 August 1997. It was published on 5 November 1997.

The following interests are represented on Committee MT/1:

Australasian Railway Association
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Chamber of Manufactures
Australian Foundry Institute
Australian Institute of Steel Construction
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
Institute of Metals and Materials Australasia
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
Society of Automotive Engineers, Australasia

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

Steel suppliers

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

RECONFIRMATION

OF

AS/NZS 4496:1997

Recommended practice for the colour coding of steel products

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Technical Committee MT-001 has reviewed the content of this publication and in accordance with Standards Australia procedures for reconfirmation, it has been determined that the publication is still valid and does not require change.

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The following are represented on Technical Committee MT-001:

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Australian Building Codes Board
Australian Institute of Architects
Australian Steel Association
Australian Steel Institute
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
Employers and Manufacturers Association
Materials Australia
New Zealand Heavy Engineering Research Association
Society of Automotive Engineers—Australasia

NOTES

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee MT/1, Iron and Steel, at the request of the Australian steel industry. It is based on the document *Code of practice for colour coding of steel products*, prepared by The Steel Institute of Australia Inc.

The objective of this Standard is to assist in the identification of steel products by providing a standard system for colour coding which can be adopted by manufacturers, distributors and end users.

There are no known equivalent national or international Standards available on the colour coding of metals. In the past, colour coding systems have been prepared by individual organizations to suit their purposes.

Colour coding is a *secondary means of identification* of steel grades and should not replace primary means such as labelling, tagging and bar coding. Users should be aware of the implications which may result from the use of this Standard by persons affected by colour blindness.

Although colour coding is only a secondary means of identification, the system in this Standard is set out to assist in the quality management of steel products and for which purpose the following Standards apply:

AS/NZS

ISO 9000 Quality management and quality assurance standards

ISO 9000.1:1994 Part 1: Guidelines for selection and use

ISO 9004 Quality management and quality system elements

ISO 9004.1:1994 Part 1: Guidelines

The colours selected are limited to those having the greatest possible contrast and differentiation; they should be durable and fade-resistant.

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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FOREWORD

To enable this Standard to be as comprehensive as possible and to prevent any confusion that may arise with the production of an increased variety of steel, the colour coding system is often based on grade groupings rather than individual grade designations. As a result, in some cases, similar grades have been allocated the same colour code.

The purpose of this Standard is that this colour coding system not be mandatory but be adopted when specifically agreed between manufacturer and purchaser at the time of order.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

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Recommended practice for the colour coding of steel products

1 SCOPE This Standard provides a colour coding system to assist, by the application of one or more colours, in the identification of steel grades commonly used by Australian and New Zealand industry. It also includes a system of colour coding to indicate thickness of plate, hot-rolled bars and tubular steel products.

The system is applicable to the following steel products:

- (a) Carbon and low alloy steel bar and structural steel sections.
- (b) Alloy steel bar (high tensile and case hardening).
- (c) Stainless and heat-resisting steel bar, plate, tube and pipe.
- (d) Carbon steel plate (hot-rolled and quenched and tempered).
- (e) Carbon steel pipe, tube and other hollow sections.
- (f) Tool steels.
- (g) Miscellaneous industrial products (cylinder tube, hard chrome-plated steel bar, wear plate and tooling plate).

NOTE: The Standard does not cover carbon steel sheet and coil, 3 mm or less in thickness, or stainless steel sheet and coil.

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

AS

- 1074 Steel tubes and tubulars for ordinary service
- 1163 Structural steel hollow sections
- 1302 Steel reinforcing bars for concrete
- 1442 Carbon steels and carbon-manganese steels—Hot-rolled bars and semifinished products
- 1443 Carbon steels and carbon-manganese steels—Cold-finished bars
- 1444 Wrought alloy steels—Standard, and hardenability (H) series and hardened and tempered to designated mechanical properties.
- 1447 Hot-rolled spring steels
- 1449 Wrought alloy steels—Stainless and heat-resisting steel plate, sheet and strip
- 1548 Steel plates for pressure equipment
- 1594 Hot-rolled steel flat products
- 2700 Colour standards for general purposes
- 2837 Wrought alloy steels—Stainless steel bars and semi-finished products
- 3597 Structural and pressure vessel steel—Quenched and tempered plate