

Australian Standard®

Packaging

Part 1: Glossary of packaging terms

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee PK/25, Packaging Code. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 30 March 1995 and published on 5 July 1995.

The following interests are represented on Committee PK/25:

Ansett Airlines of Australia
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Institute of Packaging
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
Department of Defence
Glass Packaging Institute of Australia
Packaging Council of Australia
Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association Incorporated
Printing and Allied Trades Employers Federation of Australia
Railways of Australia

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

Consultants to the packaging industry
Manufacturers of packaging materials

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Packaging Code to supersede AS 2400.1—1981.

The principal changes from the previous edition are as follows:

- (a) Updating of the definitions of many terms to bring them into line with current industry usage.
- (b) A more comprehensive coverage of terms relating to self-adhesive materials.
- (c) Simplification of the wording of many definitions.
- (d) Avoidance of technological jargon.
- (e) Addition of a new Appendix A, which contains diagrams explaining some of the more complex materials, equipment and concepts defined.
- (f) Redesignation of other appendices.

The objective of this Standard is to provide the industry with a glossary that is not only practical and useful, but one that also concentrates on 'preferred' terms in order to discourage the use of alternative terms which may be incorrect or misleading. Accordingly the Committee resolved to provide—

- (i) a glossary of preferred terms;
- (ii) explanatory figures for the more difficult terms (see Appendix A);
- (iii) a list of non-preferred terms (see Appendix B), having cross-references to the associated preferred terms; and
- (iv) a list of acronyms and other abbreviations used in the packaging industry (see Appendix C).

If a particular term cannot be found in the glossary proper, reference should be made to Appendix B. Attention is also drawn to cross-references to other preferred terms associated with a preferred term, e.g. 'abrasion' and 'attrition'.

Descriptors and explanations differing from those in this Standard exist in the *Australian code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail* (ADG Code) and in Department of Defence terminology. Since this Standard is intended, *inter alia*, to help those who require to meet specifications from any source, it was decided to include the terminology from both of those sources, with cross-references to conventional terminology where appropriate. For example, in conventional terminology the word 'pack' is used as a verb, but in Department of Defence terminology it is often synonymous with 'package'.

To identify this unique usage of terms by the ADG Code and the Department of Defence, relevant terms are designated [ADG Code] and [DEF] respectively.

Common terms which have dictionary meanings consistent with their use in the packaging industry have been omitted from this glossary.

The format of this glossary is such that the terms are listed alphabetically except where a generic term is qualified by additional words, e.g. the generic term 'adhesive' is listed with its qualifiers following, indented, alphabetically.

Documents referenced in this Standard are listed in Appendix D.

This Standard is Part 1 of the series AS 2400, *Packaging*. Other Standards in the series are as follows:

- Part 2: Basic principles of packaging practice
- Part 3: Mechanical aids in package handling
- Part 4: Protection against spoilage of packages and their contents by microorganisms, insects, mites and rodents
- Part 5: Metal protection
- Part 6: Paper and paperboard
- Part 7: Timber boxes
- Part 8: Textile bags, sacks and wrappings
- Part 9.1: Metal containers—Metal cans and tubes
- Part 9.2: Metal containers—Steel drums
- Part 10: Protection against shock and vibration (cushioning)
- Part 11: Cordage
- Part 12: Adhesive closing and sealing tapes
- Part 13: Tensional strapping
- Part 14: Adhesives
- Part 15: Glass containers
- Part 16: Flexible packaging
- Part 17: Packaging in plastics containers
- Part 18: Use of desiccants in packaging
- Part 19: Packaging for airfreight
- Part 20: Handling of goods in freight containers
- Part 21: Packaging of dangerous goods
- Part 22: Closures
- Part 23.1: Shrink and stretch wrapping—Films for shrink wrapping
- Part 23.2: Shrink and stretch wrapping—Films for stretch wrapping

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
Packaging

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Term	Definition
A	
abrasion	Effect of scuffing, scraping or rubbing by friction between two surfaces. (<i>See also</i> attrition)
absorbency	That property of a material which causes it to take in liquids or vapours. (<i>See also</i> adsorbency)
absorbent	Material able to absorb (Term also used as an adjective). (<i>See also</i> absorbency)
accelerometer	An instrument for inclusion in packages or in shipments with packages to record shock and the vibration to which those packages are subjected. (<i>See also</i> G factor)
acceptable quality level (AQL)	The quality level which corresponds to a specified probability of acceptance; the maximum number of defects (expressed as a percentage) that are considered satisfactory as a process average. (<i>See also</i> AS 1199)
acceptance sampling plan	The procedure for accepting or rejecting supplies on the basis of acceptance quality level.
acceptance testing	Testing carried out to determine whether an individual batch of material is in accordance with a specification.
acid	A substance having a pH value less than 7, which turns litmus paper red and which may be corrosive. (<i>See also</i> pH, and Appendix A, Figure A3)
acid drum	<i>See</i> drum, acid.
acid-free paper	<i>See</i> paper, acid-free.
acid-resistant	Resistant to the action of acids under specified conditions.
active ingredient	The component that produces the specific effect for which the product is designed.