

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Colour standards for general purposes**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee CH-003, Paints and Related Materials. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 11 June 2010. This Standard was published on 11 May 2011.

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The following are represented on Committee CH-003:

- Australasian Corrosion Association
  - Australian Paint Approval Scheme
  - Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation
  - Australian Pipeline Industry Association
  - Austroads
  - Business New Zealand
  - Engineers Australia
  - Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand
  - Master Painters Australia
  - Master Painters New Zealand Association
  - National Association of Testing Authorities Australia
  - Water Corporation Western Australia
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 2700S.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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## Colour standards for general purposes

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CH-003, Paints and Related Materials to supersede AS 2700—1996. After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard. The objective of this Standard is to provide a reference for colours which are commonly specified within Australia for paints, plastics and related materials.

This edition has recognized the acceptance of this Standard within the broader community. The range of existing colours has not been changed. To reflect the maturity of these colours within the colour space of Australia, the references to overseas Standards have been removed. It was the view of the committee that users recognized the colour names as uniquely Australian and hence references to other, overseas colour systems was superfluous.

The significant contributions of committee members from Orica and PPG Industries Australia in the maintenance of colours standards and design layout is acknowledged by Standards Australia.

The table in this edition has been revised and references to other Standards have been deleted to give prominence to this Standard.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD.....	4
1 SCOPE.....	5
2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.....	5
3 DEFINITIONS.....	5
4 FORM OF STANDARD.....	5
5 STABILITY OF COLOUR STANDARDS—STORAGE.....	7

## FOREWORD

Prior to 1985, Australian colour standards for paints were traditionally endorsements of British Standards, including BS 381C:1964, *Colours for Specific Purposes*, and BS 4800:1972, *Paint Colours for Building Purposes*. In 1980, BS 381C was reissued after revision, with the notable absence of many colours which were in low demand since 1964. This proved to be a matter of concern to Australian users as the upturn of interest in the restoration of period buildings demanded that many of these colours remain available. Furthermore, the publication of BS 4800 in 1981 as a 5-page ‘overlay’ which could only be used in conjunction with the fully comprehensive colour Standard, BS 5252, generated further dissatisfaction among Australian users.

For several reasons, including the apparent multiplicity of colour standards referred to in Australian Standards and the lack of a definition which permanently defined a standard colour, it was felt necessary to produce AS 2700—1985 to cater to all Australian needs.

The selection of colours contained in this Standard represents established usage in the industrial, architectural and decorative areas as well as other anticipated requirements for opaque colours. Colour requirements for the printing industry, where transparent inks are used, are normally described by reference to proprietary colour systems such as the ‘Pantone® Matching System’ which nominates PMS colours. Colours produced by printing inks depend upon the colour and condition of the substrate and cannot readily be related to the ‘opaque’ colours of AS 2700. Nevertheless, several colours which have previously been defined in terms of printing ink specifications have been represented in this Standard. For example, the current Australian ‘national colours’ have been represented by Homebush Green and Homebush Gold.

# STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard Colour standards for general purposes

### 1 SCOPE

This Standard presents and specifies reference colours for use in choosing colour schemes in the industrial, architectural and decorative areas and for use in specifying those colours, with particular emphasis on paints and related materials. This Standard is composed of three forms—

- (a) tabulation;
- (b) folding colour chart; and
- (c) single-coloured reference cards, available as separate cards or in a fandeck (swatch-pack);

of which the first two are combined into one package.

It is intended that the Standard will confirm, replace or add to colour standards currently in use for paints, plastics and related materials at the level of manufacture, retail and consumption, including agencies such as corporate or government bodies, regulatory authorities, builders, architects, decorators, designers and consultants.

### 2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

#### AS/NZS

1580	Paints and related materials—Methods of test
1580.601.1	Method 601.1: Colour—Visual comparison
1580.601.2	Method 601.2: Colour—Principles of colour measurement
1580.601.3	Method 601.3: Colour—Methods of colour measurement
1580.602.2	Method 602.2: Measurement of specular gloss of non-metallic paint films at 20 degrees, 60 degrees and 85 degrees
2633	Guide to the specification of colours

### 3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard all colour measurement terms contained in this Standard are defined in AS 2633.

### 4 FORM OF STANDARD

#### 4.1 Tabulation

##### 4.1.1 General

Table 1 displays the colour code, colour name and colorimetric data for the 206 colours.

##### 4.1.2 Colour code

Each colour is assigned an identifying code to facilitate its location on the folding colour chart (see Clause 4.2) and comprises the letter assigned to the hue group followed by two digits. The first digit represents the position of the row and the second digit represents the position (left to right) of the colour within that row. For example, R34 indicates that the colour is positioned within the red (R) hue group, in the third row from the top and in the fourth place from the left within that row.