

AS/NZS 2982.1:1997

Australian/New Zealand Standard®

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**Laboratory design and construction**

**Part 1: General requirements**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee BD/46, Laboratory Design and Construction. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 24 January 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 24 January 1997. It was published on 5 March 1997.

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The following interests are represented on Committee BD/46:

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Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee BD/46, Laboratory Design and Construction, to supersede, in part, AS 2982—1987, *Laboratory construction*.

This Standard specifies requirements for the design and construction of laboratories based mainly on considerations for the safety of such environments. It complements the AS 2243 series\*.

In general, laboratories are potentially more hazardous than most other occupancies. Organizations responsible for commissioning and operating laboratories have an obligation to provide environments that are basically safe and each laboratory must therefore be designed, constructed, maintained and operated to remove potential hazards and reduce risks to an acceptable level.

Potential hazards represent risks not only to technicians in laboratories but also to other persons and non-technical staff (e.g. cleaners) who may enter such buildings.

While conformity to this Standard will enhance the safety of laboratory staff, a disregard for safe working practices can often negate the provisions for safety that are built into a workplace. It is therefore essential that workers follow safe working procedures. Persons with supervisory responsibility in a laboratory should ensure that staff under their control adhere to those practices.

This Standard should be used in conjunction with the various Australian building regulations and other regulations such as those on occupational health and safety, and the relevant referenced Standards.

The Committee does not suggest that any of the provisions of this Standard are retrospective; however, users are encouraged to critically reassess their laboratories and adopt and implement those parts of this Standard which are practicable and which can improve overall site safety.

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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* AS 2243	Safety in laboratories	
Part 1:	General	Part 6: Mechanical aspects
Part 2:	Chemical aspects	Part 7: Electrical aspects
Part 3:	Microbiology	Part 8: Fume cupboards
Part 4(Int):	Ionizing radiations	Part 9: Recirculating fume cabinets
Part 5:	Non-ionizing radiations	Part 10: Storage of chemicals

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD .....	6
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE .....	7
1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	7
1.3 DEFINITIONS .....	9
SECTION 2 GENERAL LABORATORY CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS	
2.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	12
2.2 PROTECTION AGAINST SUNLIGHT .....	12
2.3 FLOORS .....	12
2.4 WALLS .....	12
2.5 CEILINGS .....	12
2.6 WINDOWS .....	13
2.7 BENCHES .....	13
2.8 FIXTURES, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT .....	13
2.9 SHELVING .....	13
2.10 FUME CUPBOARDS .....	13
2.11 LUNCH AND REST ROOMS .....	13
2.12 RESTRICTED ACCESS .....	14
2.13 NOTICES AND SIGNS .....	14
2.14 WATER HEATERS .....	14
SECTION 3 RETICULATED SERVICES	
3.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	15
3.2 IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR CODING .....	15
3.3 ISOLATING DEVICE .....	15
3.4 EXPOSED SERVICE PIPES .....	15
3.5 RETICULATION FROM GAS CYLINDERS .....	15
3.6 VACUUM RETICULATION .....	15
3.7 HYDRAULIC SERVICES .....	16
SECTION 4 ELECTRICAL SERVICES	
4.1 STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS .....	17
4.2 LABORATORY POWER .....	17
4.3 LABORATORY LIGHTING .....	17
SECTION 5 VENTILATION AND AIR QUALITY	
5.1 GENERAL .....	18
5.2 VENTILATION FOR OCCUPANTS .....	18
5.3 NATURAL VENTILATION SYSTEMS .....	18
5.4 MECHANICAL VENTILATION SYSTEMS .....	18
5.5 AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS .....	18
5.6 LOCAL EXHAUST VENTILATION .....	19
5.7 VENTILATION OF STORES .....	19

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