

AS 2342—1992

Australian Standard[®]

**Development, testing and
implementation of information and
safety symbols and symbolic signs**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee MS/3, Public Information Symbols. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 1 July 1992 and published on 12 October 1992.

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Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
Communication Research Institute of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Public Information Symbols to supersede AS 2342.1—1980, *The design and use of graphic symbols and public information symbol signs*, Part 1: *General principles*, AS 2342.2—1980, Part 2: *Method for determining the need for a symbol and for establishing the design criteria*, AS 2342.3—1980, Part 3: *Test procedures for evaluating graphic symbols and symbol signs*, AS 2342.4—1981, Part 4: *Principles for the design of graphic symbols*, AS 2342.5—1980, Part 5: *Design of signs incorporating symbols*, and AS 2342.6—1985, Part 6: *Guidelines for the implementation of symbol sign systems*.

Apart from the incorporation of all six parts of the original Standard into a single Standard for the convenience of users, this edition contains a number of important changes, especially in relation to the procedures for testing the understanding of symbols and symbolic signs. The most profound change is the setting aside of the recall test as the main criterion of acceptance, and its substitution with a comprehension test which scores test symbols according to respondents' initial comprehension of the symbol or symbolic sign at first sighting. The recall test now assumes a secondary or back-up role, and is to be used under specified conditions when the initial comprehension test fails to yield a successful symbol.

The test methods have been revised to include an improved assessment procedure for short-listing test symbols at the outset of testing, a procedure which also incorporates a facility for screening out potentially very poor performers.

Other changes include a revised *Assessment of Need* form and procedure, revised and updated design criteria for symbols and signs, and revised and enhanced detail on the implementation of sign systems.

Some procedures in this Standard have similarities with the provisions for request application and appropriateness ranking of ISO 9186. There are however, significant differences in detail between the provisions of ISO 9168 and those of this Standard.

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