

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Code of practice for handling
combustible dusts**

AS/NZS 4745:2004

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee MS-011, Classification of Hazardous Areas. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 November 2003 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 27 November 2003. It was published on 27 January 2004.

The following are represented on Committee MS-011:

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Australian Association of Certification Bodies
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Gas Association
Australian Industry Group
Australian Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association
Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee MS-011, Classification of Hazardous Areas, with the assistance of the Joint Subcommittee MS-011-01, Combustible Dusts.

The objective is to produce a Code of Practice to assist those industries which may have risks associated with the presence of combustible dusts as part of their processes, in minimizing the risk of injury, death or loss of property to fire and/or explosion through the application of good design and management principles and practices in the construction, operation and maintenance of manufacturing and processing plants and associated transportation and storage systems.

The relevant background information for this Code is as follows:

- (a) During a Dusts conference held in February 1996, an interactive work session was included to facilitate discussion among the delegates of the various industries dealing with dusts.
- (b) As a result of this discussion there was consensus about the need for a Code of Practice. The attendees agreed that the best vehicle for producing an industry code was through the Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand framework, due to the openness and transparency of the process used in its development of technical Standards.
- (c) A formal proposal to initiate this project was sent to Standards Australia by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), and, through an industry survey, Standards Australia found a positive level of support for such project.
- (d) During another Dusts conference held in November 1998, the participation of experts from the different industries (textile, pharmaceutical, food, chemical, etc) was sought, as well as from the regulatory authorities, manufacturers of Ex equipment and testing laboratories, to guarantee a good coverage of all aspects to be included in the project and a proper balance of all interests involved.
- (e) In January 1999 the new Subcommittee MS-011-01, Combustible Dusts, was established to deal specifically with this project and the first Meeting was held in June 1999.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' are used 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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