

AS/NZS 1596:1997

Australian/New Zealand Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Storage and handling of LP Gas**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ME/15, Storage and Handling—Liquefied Petroleum Gases. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 4 July 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 11 August 1997. It was published on 5 September 1997.

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The following interests are represented on Committee ME/15:

A.C.T. Emergency Services Bureau  
Australasian Corrosion Association  
Australasian Fire Authorities Council  
Australian Gas Association  
Australian Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association  
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, N.S.W.  
Department for Industrial Affairs, S.A.  
Department of Mines and Energy, Qld  
Department of Minerals and Energy, W.A.  
Fire Protection Association Australia  
Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria  
Institution of Engineers, Australia  
Insurance Council of Australia  
LPG Association of New Zealand  
Victorian WorkCover Authority  
Work Health Authority, N.T.  
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Originated in Australia as AS CB20—1965.  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee ME/15, Storage and Handling—Liquefied Petroleum Gases, to supersede AS 1596—1989, *LP Gas—Storage and handling*, AS 1596 Supplement 1—1994, *LP Gas—Storage and handling—Siting of LP Gas automotive retail outlets* and NZS 5434:1986, *Code of practice for LPG vehicle refuelling stations*.

In 1973, AS CB20, which had been published in 1965 as the first Standard on the subject, was translated to metric units to become AS 1596, but was not comprehensively revised.

A later edition of 1979 contained only the more pressing adjustments, then a more comprehensive review resulted in a new edition in 1983.

The 1989 edition included a rewrite of the cylinder section and revision of the location requirements for cylinder filling and storage areas together with a total review of the fire safety section.

This 1997 edition continues the development process and incorporates the following changes:

- (a) The focus of the protected works definition has been modified to include, under the title of protected place, any open areas in which persons are accustomed to assemble in large numbers within and outside the property in addition to protected works.
- (b) The requirement of openable rain caps for safety valves has been removed.
- (c) A 3 mm limiting orifice is now required at hydrostatic relief valves.
- (d) Requirements for over-pressure protection and venting of regulators has been referred to the latest AG 601 and NFPA/UL requirements.
- (e) Tanker drive-away protection requirements have been deleted. The issue is addressed in [AS 2809.3](#), *Road tank vehicles for dangerous goods*, Part 3: *Tankers for compressed liquefiable gases*.
- (f) Requirements for unodourized gas have been included.
- (g) The level of odourant addition has been increased to address odourant fade.
- (h) Section 5 has been developed to address adjacent buried tanks, the relative levels of interconnected tanks and remote contents gauging.
- (i) The content of Section 6 has been adjusted to cover hardware and installation, and Sections 7 and 8 relate to filling sites.
- (j) Section 7 has been expanded to include a warning about pumping rates and expanded requirements for decanting, and to address transportable decanting.
- (k) Section 9 has undergone a major review caused by the incorporation of [AS 1596 Supplement 1—1994](#), and the work of Subcommittee ME/15/2.
- (l) Dispenser requirements have been reviewed and updated to align with the new styles.
- (m) Section 10 has been revised to include the philosophy of managerial responsibility for procedures which relate to the size and complexity of a specific installation.
- (n) The use of hazardous areas has been included, as defined in [AS 2430.1—1987](#), *Classification of hazardous areas*, Part 1, *Explosive gas atmospheres*; [AS 2430.3—1991](#), *Classification of hazardous areas*, Part 3, *Specific occupancies*; and NZS 6101.3:1991, *Classification of hazardous areas*, Part 3, *Specific occupancies (flammable gas and vapour atmospheres)*.

- (o) The wording of the Standard has been modified to delete approvals by the authority and the nomination of responsibility for various activities so as to align with the proposed National Standard for the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods. This has the effect of removing the approval requirements which existed for such issues as deodorized installations.
- (p) The Standard has been developed as a Joint Standard, with New Zealand requirements included.

Australian and New Zealand references are separated by a slash (/). Australian references apply in Australia, and New Zealand references apply in New Zealand. Joint Standards apply in both Australia and New Zealand.

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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