

AS/NZS 2243.3:2002  
(Incorporating Amendment No. 1)

AS/NZS 2243.3

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Safety in laboratories**

**Part 3: Microbiological aspects and  
containment facilities**

### **AS/NZS 2243.3:2002**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CH-026, Safety in Laboratories. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 December 2001 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 20 December 2001. It was published on 9 January 2002.

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The following are represented on Committee CH-026:

Agriculture Victoria  
Australian Industry Group  
Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists  
CSIRO Telecommunications and Industrial Physics  
Department of Labour New Zealand  
Ministry of Commerce, New Zealand  
National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia  
New Zealand Chemical Industry Council  
New Zealand Microbiological Society  
University of Melbourne  
Victorian WorkCover Authority  
WorkCover New South Wales

Additional interests participating in the preparation of this Standard:

Australian Government Analytical Laboratory  
Australian Society for Microbiology  
Containment consultants  
CSIRO, Division of Animal Health  
Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee  
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We also welcome suggestions for improvement in our Standards, and especially encourage readers to notify us immediately of any apparent inaccuracies or ambiguities. Please address your comments to the Chief Executive of either Standards Australia International or Standards New Zealand at the address shown on the back cover.

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## **Safety in laboratories**

### **Part 3: Microbiological aspects and containment facilities**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CH-026, Safety in Laboratories, to supersede AS/NZS 2243.3:1995, *Safety in laboratories*, Part 3: *Microbiology*.

*This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (April 2003). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.*

The objective of this Standard is to promote safety in laboratories and to deal specifically with microbiological aspects of laboratory work. It is intended to be used in conjunction with Parts 1 and 2 in the series, relating to general and chemical safety aspects of laboratory work.

This edition again revises the requirements for laboratories dealing with infectious diseases and the classifications of microorganisms into the four risk groups. It contains descriptions of the four levels of physical containment for microbiology laboratories and laboratories working with genetically modified organisms.

The parts of the series promoting safety in laboratories are as follows:

- Part 1: General
- Part 2: Chemical aspects
- Part 3: Microbiological aspects and containment facilities (this Part)
- Part 4: Ionizing radiations
- Part 5: Non-ionizing radiations
- Part 6: Mechanical aspects
- Part 7: Electrical aspects
- Part 8: Fume cupboards
- Part 9: Recirculating fume cabinets
- Part 10: Storage of chemicals

The term 'shall' is used by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand to indicate requirements that have to be met for compliance with this Standard. The term 'should' indicates a recommendation.

This Standard is intended to assist in addressing the obligations placed on employers and employees under occupational health and safety legislation to take care of both themselves and others in the workplace.

It should be noted that nothing in this Standard is required by law in any jurisdiction unless the Standard has been specifically incorporated by an Act or regulation in that jurisdiction. The exact manner of incorporation will determine whether the whole document, or specific sections or provisions, are made legal requirements or whether the Standard becomes an Approved Code of Practice. However, it should also be noted that this Standard is recognized in common law as defining current knowledge in microbiological safety practice. The provisions in a Code are not mandatory but give practical guidance on how to comply with the relevant provisions of the Act or regulation. Provided an alternative method also fulfils the requirements of the Act or regulation, it may be used. Users will need to consult the relevant authority to determine if this Standard has been incorporated and the manner of incorporation, if any.

In recognition of the changes made to this Standard during its revision, existing facilities should be assessed for risk and interim control measures should be implemented.

Current facilities and procedures should be updated to conform to this Standard. Compliance improvements should be made within a time frame that takes into consideration the cost of upgrading and the severity of the associated risk.

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 and contains requirements that have to be met for compliance with the objectives and intent of this Standard. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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