

AS 3873—1995

Australian Standard®

**Pressure equipment—
Operation and maintenance**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME/1, Pressure Equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 7 July 1995 and published on 5 September 1995.

The following interests are represented on Committee ME/1:

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Aluminium Development Council, Australia
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Institute of Energy
Australian Institute of Petroleum
Australian Institute of Pressure Equipment Engineers
Australian Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association
Boiler and Pressure Vessel Manufacturers Association of Australia
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations, Qld
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Department of Labour, New Zealand
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee ME/1 on Pressure Equipment to supersede AS 3873—1991, *Boilers and pressure vessels—Operation and maintenance*.

This Standard is the result of a consensus among representatives on the Joint Committee to produce it as an Australian Standard. Consensus means general agreement by all interested parties. Consensus includes an attempt to remove all objections and implies much more than the concept of a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. It is consistent with this meaning that a member may be included in the Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.

It was recognized that there was a need to specify requirements and give guidance to owners, users, operators, inspectors, inspection bodies and regulatory authorities on the operation and maintenance of pressure equipment. Existing Standards, although specifying requirements for the safe design, manufacture and installation of pressure equipment systems, do not provide information for their operation or maintenance.

This Standard is a primary applicable Standard of AS/NZS 1200 *Pressure equipment* and together with AS 3788, *Boilers and pressure vessels—In-service inspection* is required to be adopted by legislation in Australian States and Territories (via the Australian NOHSC *National Standard for Plant*).

This Standard provides the minimum operation and maintenance requirements to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of pressure equipment and for safety during maintenance, inspection, alteration, storage and disposal. In special circumstances, additional requirements may be necessary for adequate performance or safety. It is intended that this Standard should be used as a guide for training.

The main changes in this revision are as follows:

- (a) Provision of requirements and guidance on the risk assessment now being required by Australian Regulatory Authorities.
- (b) Expansion of requirements and details for safety management systems to meet the growing adoption of quality assurance and safety principles (and to comply with NZ regulations).
- (c) Clarification of terminology and editing to align with new regulations and Standards.
- (d) Additions to cover contractors, incident investigations and all types of pressure equipment.
- (e) Simplification of requirements for small operators.

Users of this Standard are reminded that it has no legal authority in its own right, but acquires legal standing when adopted by government or an authority having jurisdiction, or if specified as part of a commercial contract. This Standard recognises current world practice and may be used in litigation.

The principal object of this Standard is to provide uniform, safe and economic requirements and guidance for operation and maintenance of pressure equipment and for compliance by owner-users with Australian regulations and the New Zealand *Pressure Equipment, Cranes and Passenger Rope Ways Regulations*.

Acknowledgment is made for the assistance provided by Australian, NZ, USA and UK regulations in this revision.

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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