

AS 1744—1975

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**STANDARD ALPHABETS  
FOR ROAD SIGNS**

**METRIC UNITS**

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This standard, prepared under the direction of the Australian Committee on Road Devices, was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 20 January 1975.

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The following scientific, industrial and governmental organizations and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Australian and New Zealand Railways Conferences  
Australian Automobile Association  
Australian Road Research Board  
Country Roads Board, Victoria  
Department of Housing and Construction  
Department of Main Roads, N.S.W.  
Department of Motor Transport, N.S.W.  
Department of Transport  
Highways Department, S.A.  
Main Roads Department, Queensland  
Main Roads Department, W.A.  
National Capital Development Commission, A.C.T.  
Public Works Department, Tasmania  
Road Safety and Traffic Authority, Victoria  
Road Traffic Road, S.A.  
Traffic Control Equipment Manufacturers Association of Australia  
Transport Commission, Tasmania  
Manufacturers of road signs and road sign materials

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**FORMS OF LETTERS AND  
NUMERALS**

**known as**

**STANDARD ALPHABETS  
FOR ROAD SIGNS**

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Australian Committee on Road Devices. It is a revision of and supersedes AS E37—1960.

The standard alphabets have been adopted for the purpose of establishing uniformity in the forms and dimensions of letters and numerals to be used on road signs in Australia. The alphabets are intended specifically for use with the standard road signs specified in AS 1743.

The alphabets are based on those used by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads. The spacings are based on those used by the U.S. State of California, Department of Works, Division of Highways. The main differences are that the Australian standard retains the Series A alphabet, because of its occasional use where space is limited, and includes narrow and medium spacings in addition to the wide spacing used in the Californian Traffic Manual.

The revision differs from the AS E37—1960 in the following respects:

- (a) Two additional alphabets have been included, viz the Modified Series E alphabet, and the Lower Case alphabet.
- (b) Undimensioned outlines of each character are given. The only dimensions now included are tables of heights and widths.
- (c) Three standard spacings—narrow, medium and wide—have been included.
- (d) Letter spacings now vary according to the stroke width of the letter series used, as well as with letter size in each of the three standard spacings.

It is recommended that the new alphabets and spacings should be used on all new signs, and on all replacements of existing signs which have outlived their usefulness.

The Association wishes to acknowledge the assistance received from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Californian Department of Public Works in regard to the documents used as a basis for the standard, from the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities in regard to the drafting of the standard, and from the Department of Main Roads, N.S.W. in regard to the preparation of the drawings of character outlines and computation of the tables.

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