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AS 4068—1993

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Flat pallets for materials handling

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee PK/3, Pallets. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 August 1992 and published on 15 February 1993.

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Australian Associated Brewers

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Australian Chamber of Shipping

Australian Institute of Packaging

Australian National Maritime Association

Australian Road Transport Federation

CSIRO, Division of Building, Construction & Engineering

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Pallets under the supervision of the Multitechnics Standards Policy Board to supersede AS 1899—1976, *Flat pallets for materials handling (1100 mm × 1100 mm suitable for use in ISO Series 1 freight containers)* and AS 2068—1977, *Flat pallets for materials handling (1165 mm × 1165 mm general purpose, not intended for use in ISO Series 1 freight containers)*.

The general-purpose Australian pallet, nominally 1165 mm × 1165 mm, continues to be based on the 46 inch × 46 inch pallet, introduced into Australian industry in 1946 and subsequently specified in AS E41—1965. The introduction of the metric system and the ISO Series 1 freight containers necessitated the issue of new Australian Standards, AS 1899—1976 and AS 2068—1977. Basically the two standard pallets were intended to ultimately be the same in all respects, other than in their overall dimensions.

In preparing this edition, the Committee were of the opinion that the similarity of the two standard pallets was such that the requirements for them should now be published in one Australian Standard embracing:

(a) 1165 mm × 1165 mm general purpose flat pallets for materials handling, not intended for use in ISO Series 1 freight containers.

(b) 1100 mm × 1100 mm flat pallets for materials handling for use in ISO Series 1 freight containers.

Although timber is the material most commonly used for pallets, this Standard has been drafted on a performance basis to allow for the use of other materials of construction, e.g. metals, plastics and composites.

Cognizance was taken of the International Standard, ISO 8611, *General-purpose flat pallets for through transit of goods—Test methods* in the preparation of this Standard.

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CONTENTS

Page

1 SCOPE 4
2 REFERENCED DOCUMENT 4
3 DEFINITIONS 4
4 DIMENSIONS AND TOLERANCES 6
5 REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PERFORMANCE TESTING 7
6 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS 8
7 MARKING 8

APPENDICES

A TYPICAL TWO-WAY TIMBER PALLETS 9
B METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF RESISTANCE TO STACKING 11
C METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF DEFLECTION UNDER LOAD 13
D METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF RESISTANCE TO LOCAL DEFLECTION (POINT LOADING TEST) 16
E METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF DIAGONAL RIGIDITY (CORNER DROP TEST) 18
F METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF RESISTANCE TO IMPACT LOAD . 20

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