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HB 25—1992

Handbook

AUSTRALIAN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION DEFINITIONS

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A·B·C·D

AUSTRALIAN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION DEFINITIONS

A COLLECTION OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS EXTRACTED FROM

AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS AND THE BUILDING CODE OF AUSTRALIA

FIRST EDITION

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Standards Australia

Sydney, Australia

July 1992

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HANDBOOK OF AUSTRALIAN

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION DEFINITIONS

FOREWORD

In the 70 years since its establishment in 1922 as a national, independent and not-for-profit organization, Standards Australia (the Standards Association of Australia) has produced a large number of Australian Standards for use in building design, construction and related production and testing activities. Many of the earliest Australian Standards, dating back to the 1920's and 1930's, were prepared for the building and engineering industries and, nowadays, over a thousand standards relate directly or indirectly to building activities.

Most of the Australian building and construction standards contain definitions of the key terms used in such standards. These definitions are commonly known as "definitions in context" because they apply primarily to the situations covered by the standard. However, these definitions are important in a legal sense because building regulations and other statutory instruments call up a large percentage of Australian Standards, either in full or in part. In addition, definitions in standards that form part of commercial contract by direct reference or by reference in work specifications, can play a significant role in the event of any disputes or common law claims.

This Handbook contains technical and administrative definitions from over 500 building-related Australian Standards issued up to the end of March 1992. (For a complete list of standards from which definitions have been extracted, see Appendix 1). Several hundred other Australian Standards, and parts of standards, dealing with building and construction do not contain separate definitions. All extracted definitions have been sorted alphabetically, identified as to their source, and cross-referenced as far as practicable. Where differing definition for a particular term exist, the various definitions have been shown. This has been done primarily to draw the attention of standards writing comittees and users to the need for rationalization in definitions. Overall, there is a wide range of technical definitions, sometimes at variance, because they were written at different times, by different committees, and for different end uses.

In many technical areas, the suite of Australian Standards includes separate and more general glossaries or vocabularies of terms, ranging through acoustics, dimensional coordination, plumbing and drainage, to thermal insulation, and plywood and timber. Because of their significance, the definitions from several of these glossaries have been included in full within this Handbook (for a complete list of glossaries, see Appendix 2).

The Handbook could have been expanded significantly by including additional definitions from Australian Standards dealing with acoustics, electrical and electronics items, other specialized construction areas, such a road construction, and other standards with a peripheral interest to building. Judgements had to be made to limit the number of definitions in order to keep the first edition of the Handbook to a manageable size. Standards Australia welcomes informed comment on the Handbook from standards users, and, in line with general policy, all suggestions for modifications will be taken on notice to improve future editions.

Standards Australia is grateful to the Australian Uniform Building Regulations Co-ordinating Council for permitting the inclusion in this Handbook of definitions of terms from the Building Code of Australia (BCA) 1990 and the BCA State and Territory Appendices for comparative purposes. Definitions from all Australian Standards referenced in the BCA and its Appendices up to and including Amendment 2 (September 1991) have been included in this Handbook. A major objective of the Handbook is to support the Building Code of Australia by enabling the interpretation of terms that are used in the BCA, but not defined.

The Handbook will be subject to ongoing review. The capricious introduction of variations in definitions by technical committees will be actively discouraged; every SAA technical committee will be asked to simplify and rationalize definitions in new or revised Australian Standards.

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