

AS 2581—1998

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Pressure-sensitive adhesive labels  
for general purpose use**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee PK/14, Pressure Sensitive Labels. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 17 November 1997 and published on 5 February 1998.

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The following interests are represented on Committee PK/14:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Department of Defence  
Institute of Industrial Engineers  
Label and Tag Manufacturers Association of Australia  
Packaging Council of Australia  
Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association  
Printing Industries Association of Australia

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**Pressure-sensitive adhesive labels  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee PK/14, Pressure Sensitive Labels, as a revision of AS 2581—1985, *Pressure sensitive adhesive plastics labels for permanent use (general purpose)*.

The objective of this Standard is to ensure that the end-user is supplied with a product that meets minimum specified requirements.

The principal differences between this edition and the 1985 edition are as follows:

- (a) This edition does not deal with label stock properties which are now covered by AS 2666 and AS 2776.
- (b) Additional definitions have been included.
- (c) A classification for labels has been introduced.
- (d) More details have been included for materials and construction of labels.
- (e) Requirements for the form, type of cut and print and colour of labels have been included.
- (f) Information to be supplied by the end user when specifying requirements has been included.
- (g) Inclusion of an unwind direction chart for roll-fed labels (see Figure 1.3), which is based on the Federation Internationale des Fabricants Transformateurs d'Adhesifs et Thermocollants sur Papiers et autres Supports (FINAT), unwind direction chart, and a recommendation for what constitutes the leading edge of the label.
- (h) Finishing, packaging and marking requirements are more detailed.
- (i) Separate performance requirements are given for general purpose labels and labels for specific applications.
- (j) A new test method for lightfastness has been included. The term 'colourfastness' has been discarded as it refers to indelibility and lightfastness.
- (k) Requirements for abrasion (scuff) resistance have been added.

In the preparation of this Standard, cognizance has been taken of BS 4781:1990, *Specification for pressure-sensitive adhesive plastics labels for permanent use*.

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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