

AS/NZS 3788:1996

Australian/New Zealand Standard®

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**Pressure equipment—  
In-service inspection**

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## **AS/NZS 3788:1996**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ME/1, Pressure Equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 16 August 1996 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 29 July 1996. It was published on 5 October 1996.

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The following interests are represented on Committee ME/1:

A.C.T. WorkCover  
Aluminium Development Council, Australia  
Australasian Corrosion Association  
Australasian Institute of Engineering Inspection  
Australian Building Codes Board  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
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**Review of Standards.** To keep abreast of progress in industry, Joint Australian/New Zealand Standards are subject to periodic review and are kept up to date by the issue of amendments or new editions as necessary. It is important therefore that Standards users ensure that they are in possession of the latest edition, and any amendments thereto.

Full details of all Joint Standards and related publications will be found in the Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand Catalogue of Publications; this information is supplemented each month by the magazines 'The Australian Standard' and 'Standards New Zealand', which subscribing members receive, and which give details of new publications, new editions and amendments, and of withdrawn Standards.

Suggestions for improvements to Joint Standards, addressed to the head office of either Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand, are welcomed. Notification of any inaccuracy or ambiguity found in a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard should be made without delay in order that the matter may be investigated and appropriate action taken.

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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 95137.*

Originated as AS 3788—1990. Revised and designated AS/NZS 3788:1996.
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PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY:

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Homebush NSW 2140 Australia

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND  
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ISBN 0 7337 0701 7

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee ME/1 on Pressure Equipment to supersede AS 3788—1990, *Boilers and pressure vessels—In-service inspection*.

This Standard is the result of a consensus among representatives on the Joint Committee to produce it as a Joint Australian/New Zealand 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 there was a need to give guidance to users, inspectors and regulatory authorities on the inspection of in-service pressure equipment.

This Standard provides inspection requirements to ensure the continued safe operation of the pressure equipment. In special circumstances additional requirements may be necessary for adequate performance or safety. The material contained in this Standard will be a valuable aid in the training of inspectors.

Changes since the last edition include the following:

- (a) A complete general revision of the entire Standard.
- (b) Alignment with AS 3920.1, *Assurance of product quality, Part 1: Pressure equipment manufacture*, AS/NZS 1200, *Pressure equipment*, and the requirements of the WorkSafe National Standard for Plant.
- (c) Revision of the inspection periods in [Table 4.1](#).
- (d) Updating to current Standards Australia style.
- (e) Inclusion of Amendments 1 and 2.
- (f) Changes necessary for publication as a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard.
- (g) Removal of regulatory requirements.
- (h) Inclusion of new Appendices to cover:
  - (i) Inspection of storage tanks to API 620 or equivalent.
  - (ii) Methodology for cost effective remaining life assessment.
  - (iii) Testing of pop action relief valves.
  - (iv) Inspection of drums for transport of liquefied gas.

Users of this Standard are reminded that it has no legal authority in its own right, but acquires legal standing where adopted by government or other authority having jurisdiction, or if specified as part of a commercial contract.

During the preparation of this Standard, reference was made to the following publications:

AIP CP12—1985	Code of practice for inspection of boilers and unfired pressure vessels in process plants
API 510—1980	Pressure Vessel Inspection Code. Maintenance, inspection, rating, repair, and alteration
API	Guide to inspection of refinery equipment
ANSI/NB-23—1984	National Board Inspection Code
ROSPA—1975	Registration and periodic inspection of pressure vessels (Published by Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd)

Acknowledgment is made of the assistance obtained from these publications.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to tables and figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

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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