

Australian Standard™

Cathodic protection of metals

Part 1: Pipes and cables

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee MT-014, Corrosion of Metals. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 April 2004 and published on 3 June 2004.

The following are represented on Committee MT-014:

Australasian Corrosion Association
Australasian Institute of Metal Finishing
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Electrolysis Committee
Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation
Australian Paint Approval Scheme
Austroads
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Australian Standard™

Cathodic protection of metals

Part 1: Pipes and cables

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PREFACE

This Standard has been prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee MT-014, Corrosion of Metals, to supersede AS/NZS 2832.1:1998, *Cathodic protection of metals, Part 1: Pipes and cables*.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to specify the technical requirements for the cathodic protection of buried pipes and cables.

The objective of this revision is to cater for changes in government legislation, which affect stray current control on cathodic protection systems on structures.

This Standard is Part 1 of the AS 2832 series of Standards. The other parts are as follows:

AS

2832	Cathodic protection of metals
2832.2	Part 2: Compact buried structures
2832.3	Part 3: Fixed immersed structures
2832.4	Part 4: Internal surfaces
2832.5	Part 5: Steel in concrete structures

There are no International Standards (ISO) on the cathodic protection of metals.

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.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD.....	5
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE	6
1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS	6
1.3 DEFINITIONS	7
1.4 COMPETENCE OF PERSONNEL	11
SECTION 2 CRITERIA FOR CATHODIC PROTECTION	
2.1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	12
2.2 PROTECTION CRITERIA	12
2.3 OVERPROTECTION.....	15
SECTION 3 MEASURING TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT	
3.1 GENERAL	16
3.2 POTENTIAL MEASUREMENT AND EQUIPMENT	16
SECTION 4 DESIGN OF STRUCTURES TO ACCOMMODATE CATHODIC PROTECTION	
4.1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	18
4.2 MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION	18
4.3 COATED AND UNCOATED STRUCTURES	18
4.4 ELECTRICAL HAZARDS AND DISTURBANCES	19
4.5 TEST POINTS.....	20
4.6 INSULATING JOINTS (ISOLATING JOINTS).....	21
4.7 ROAD AND RAIL CROSSINGS	22
4.8 ELECTRICAL ISOLATION	23
4.9 ELECTRICAL CONTINUITY	23
SECTION 5 DESIGN OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS	
5.1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	24
5.2 SAFETY HAZARDS.....	24
5.3 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS	25
5.4 DESIGN DATA.....	25
5.5 MATERIALS	26
5.6 TEST POINTS.....	27
5.7 REFERENCES	27
5.8 ELECTRICAL EARTHING	27
5.9 GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS	27
SECTION 6 CATHODIC PROTECTION OF STRUCTURES SUBJECT TO STRAY DIRECT TRACTION CURRENT	
6.1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	28
6.2 MINIMIZATION OF STRAY CURRENT EFFECTS.....	28

SECTION 7		INSTALLATION OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS	
7.1	SCOPE	.....	31
7.2	APPROVAL TO INSTALL	.....	31
7.3	INSTALLATION PRACTICE	.....	31
7.4	INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT	.....	32
7.5	INSTALLATION OF GALVANIC ANODE SYSTEMS	.....	33
7.6	INSTALLATION OF IMPRESSED CURRENT ANODE SYSTEMS	.....	33
7.7	INSTALLATION OF INSULATED FLANGES, JOINTS AND COUPLINGS	.....	34
SECTION 8		CONTROL OF INTERFERENCE WITH FOREIGN STRUCTURES	
8.1	SCOPE AND GENERAL	.....	35
8.2	INTERFERENCE TESTING	.....	35
8.3	MINIMIZATION OF INTERFERENCE CURRENT	.....	35
SECTION 9		COMMISSIONING OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS	
9.1	SCOPE AND GENERAL	.....	39
9.2	PRE-ENERGIZATION TESTING	.....	39
9.3	SYSTEM OPERATION AND ADJUSTMENT	.....	39
9.4	POST-ENERGIZATION TESTS	.....	40
9.5	RECORDS	.....	40
9.6	OPERATION MANUALS	.....	40
SECTION 10		OPERATION OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS	
10.1	SCOPE AND GENERAL	.....	41
10.2	SYSTEM OPERATION CHECKS	.....	41
10.3	STRUCTURE INSPECTIONS	.....	42
10.4	CATHODIC PROTECTION POTENTIAL SURVEYS	.....	42
10.5	REPEAT INTERFERENCE TESTING	.....	43
10.6	RECORDS	.....	43
SECTION 11		DOCUMENTATION OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS	
11.1	SYSTEM DESIGN DOCUMENTATION	.....	44
11.2	COMMISSIONING DOCUMENTATION	.....	44
<i>APPENDICES</i>			
A	GUIDANCE ON THE GENERAL USE OF CATHODIC PROTECTION	.....	45
B	MEASUREMENT OF STRUCTURE POTENTIALS USING THE INSTANTANEOUS OFF-POTENTIAL METHOD	.....	49
C	COUPONS AND RESISTANCE PROBES	.....	51
D	CALIBRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF REFERENCE ELECTRODES	.....	53
E	INFORMATION FOR THE DESIGN OF STRUCTURES TO ACCOMMODATE CATHODIC PROTECTION	.....	55
F	COATINGS FOR USE WITH CATHODIC PROTECTION	.....	57
G	MITIGATION OF A.C. EFFECTS FROM HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL POWERLINES	.....	60
H	INFORMATION FOR THE DESIGN OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEMS	.....	68
I	EXAMPLE OF CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEM DESIGN DOCUMENTATION FOR PIPELINES	.....	77
J	GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS RELATING TO CATHODIC PROTECTION	.....	78
K	CONTROL OF INTERFERENCE CURRENTS—LIST OF ELECTROLYSIS COMMITTEES	.....	79
L	STRUCTURE INSPECTIONS	.....	80
M	COMPARISON OF STRUCTURE/ELECTROLYTE POTENTIALS OBTAINED WHEN MEASURED WITH VARIOUS REFERENCE ELECTRODES	.....	81

FOREWORD

Corrosion of a metal is an electrochemical reaction between it and its environment which results in wastage of the metal. Thus, corrosion is a combination of chemical effects with an associated flow of electrical energy (corrosion current).

In many practical situations where it is impossible to change the nature of the environment, corrosion may be prevented by employing cathodic protection on a buried or submerged structure. This is achieved by applying an appropriate direct current flowing in opposition to the original corrosion current, thus preventing the natural tendency of the metal to react with its environment. In practice, the electrical potential of the metal at risk is used to judge whether adequate protection is being achieved.

To employ cathodic protection, a circuit is established by connecting a suitable source of direct current to the structure to be protected.

Two types of cathodic protection systems are available, as follows:

- (a) Galvanic anode systems, which employ metallic anodes that are consumed to provide the source of direct current for protection of the structure. The driving voltage for the protective current comes from the natural potential difference that exists between the structure and a second metal (the galvanic anode).
- (b) Impressed current systems, in which the driving voltage for the protective current between the structure and the anode is supplied by an external direct current power source.

Corrosion control for a structure should be considered at the conceptual design stage. Factors that affect the corrosion of metallic structures are listed in Paragraph A3 of Appendix A. The practices recommended in this Standard relate to steps that need to be taken following a decision to apply cathodic protection to a structure. These steps are as follows:

- (i) Designing the structure to be compatible with cathodic protection and including cathodic protection facilities during construction. For existing structures, determine the measures to be taken to apply cathodic protection effectively, and the facilities necessary for cathodic protection monitoring.
- (ii) For new structures, deciding whether to coat, and if so, deciding which particular coating system should be employed. The nature and condition of any coating on existing structures needs to be considered when determining the requirements for the cathodic protection system.
- (iii) Designing the cathodic protection system. If the structure is already installed, the design parameters may be measured and an optimum design provided. If the structure is not installed, a number of assumptions, especially in regard to interference, will be required for the estimation of design parameters.
- (iv) Installing the cathodic protection system.
- (v) Commissioning the cathodic protection system and achieving a balance of cathodic protection current to enable the entire structure to be protected with minimum current, and with as uniform a potential distribution as is practicable.
- (vi) Monitoring cathodic protection at regular intervals, adjusting the system as necessary, and maintaining complete records of its operation.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Cathodic protection of metals

Part 1: Pipes and cables

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the cathodic protection of buried or submerged metallic pipes and cables.

The Standard specifically covers the following subjects which relate to cathodic protection:

- (a) Pertinent aspects of the design of structures requiring cathodic protection.
- (b) Coatings for use on submerged and buried structures.
- (c) Criteria for the cathodic protection of a structure.
- (d) Measuring techniques and equipment.
- (e) The design of cathodic protection systems.
- (f) The installation of cathodic protection systems.
- (g) The control of interference currents on foreign structures.
- (h) The cathodic protection of structures subject to stray direct current and telluric effects.
- (i) The operation and maintenance of cathodic protection systems.
- (j) Electrical hazards associated with the cathodic protection of buried structures.

NOTE: Guidance on the general use and design of cathodic protection systems and factors affecting the corrosion of buried metallic structures are given in Appendix A.

This Standard employs conventional (positive) current flow, for consistency with accepted practice, and uses the potential sign conventions specified in AS/NZS 1852 (all parts). In order to understand the various electrochemical reactions that occur at electrodes during cathodic protection, it should be recognized that electron flow occurs in the opposite direction to conventional current flow.

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1100 | Technical drawing |
| 1100.401 | Part 401: Engineering survey and engineering survey design drawing |
| 1627 | Metal finishing—Preparation and pretreatment of surfaces |
| 1627.2 | Part 2: Power tool cleaning |
| 1627.4 | Part 4: Abrasive blast cleaning |



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