





## Can international Standards be used instead of Australian Standards?

Conforming to Australian Standards is mandatory where laws require this. In that case, a duty holder should use the Australian Standard to ensure they are complying with their legal obligations.

Australian Standards are developed specifically for Australian workplaces and are likely to contain more relevant information for Australian operating conditions, such as load factors, climatic conditions, licencing requirements etc. An international Standard could be considered in conjunction with the equivalent Australian Standard. An international Standard may be a useful, additional source of information for duty holders, particularly where its use achieves the same or better overall level of safety to its Australian Standard equivalent.

Officers of a PCBU have a duty to take reasonable steps to acquire and keep up-to-date knowledge of work health and safety matters. Up-to-date knowledge may include acquiring knowledge of Standards, including international Standards that are relevant to the work of their PCBU.

### Further information

- Interpretive Guideline: model Work Health and Safety Act – the meaning of ‘reasonably practicable’
- Guide: How to determine what is reasonably practicable to meet a health and safety duty
- Fact sheet: Codes of practice and guidance material
- Code of Practice: How to manage work health and safety risk

*Note: this document is a general guideline only and is not a substitute for professional legal advice. The contents of this document are correct at the time of writing. However, there may be subsequent decisions of courts or tribunals on the matter covered by this guide which mean that the contents are no longer accurate.*

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