

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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**Procedures and devices for the  
removal and disposal of scalpel  
blades from scalpel handles**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee HE/1, Medical, Diagnostic and Surgical Products. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 1 May 1998 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 18 May 1998. It was published on 5 July 1998.

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Australian Dental Industry Association  
Australian Infection Control Association  
Australian Medical Association  
Australian Nursing Federation  
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# **Procedures and devices for the removal and disposal of scalpel blades from scalpel handles**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Subcommittee HE/1/3, Safe Disposal of Sharps and Clinical Wastes, under the responsibility of Committee HE/1, Medical, Diagnostic and Surgical Products.

The objective of this Standard is to establish the performance characteristics of devices and practices which are used to remove scalpel blades and similar instruments, e.g. stitch cutters, from scalpel handles after use on patients, and in areas outside the medical profession, e.g. schools, architects offices and graphic design studios, as well as the safe disposal of blades in order to reduce the incidence of injury or transmission of infection to the user.

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