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Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

Pipeline systems — High pressure

Part 3: Operation and maintenance



AS 2885.3:2022

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Pipeline systems — High pressure

Part 3: Operation and maintenance

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This page explains the meaning of the language and structure of this Standard.

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Australian and Australian/New Zealand Standards are voluntary unless they are referenced in legislation or called up in contracts.

Requirements

To conform to a Standard, all requirements in the Standard need to be met.

A requirement is any statement in the Standard which uses the word "shall".

Recommendations, permissions and possibilities

The following words are commonly used in Standards, but statements using them do not have to be followed to conform to the Standard:

(a) "should" means that something is recommended.

(b) "may" means that something is permitted.

(c) "can" means that something is possible.

Structure of Standards

A Standard always has the following parts:

(i) The Preface states who developed the Standard, what the Standard is aiming to do, and how it relates to other documents.

(ii) The Scope states what the Standard is about, what it covers and what it does not cover.

(iii) The Normative references clause lists other documents that are referenced in the Standard as part of requirements.

(iv) The Terms and definitions clause defines important terms to help with understanding the Standard.

A Standard may also include other parts, such as the following:

(1) A normative appendix sets additional requirements that need to be conformed to.

(2) An informative appendix provides additional information or guidance. They usually do not contain requirements. If an informative appendix does contain requirements, the Standard will explain when those requirements apply.

(3) A Bibliography lists documents referenced in the Standard but not as part of requirements.

Many Standards include notes. Notes provide recommendations and/or guidance only. They never contain requirements.

Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee ME-038, Petroleum Pipelines, to supersede AS 2885.3-2012, *Pipelines—Gas and liquid petroleum, Part 3: Operation and maintenance.*

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 inclusion of roles and responsibilities in this Standard was approved by the Standards Development and Accreditation Committee on 1 May 2015, as a one-off exemption to the directives of *Standardization Guide 009: Preparation of Standards for Legislative Adoption*.

〈A1〉 *This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (May 2026). The start and end of changes introduced by the Amendment are indicated in the text by tags including the Amendment number 1.* 〈A1〉

The objective of this Standard is to set the requirements for the operation and maintenance of gas and liquid petroleum pipelines and to provide important principles, practices and guidelines for use by COMPETENT persons and organizations managing their operation.

This Standard forms part of the AS(/NZS) 2885 series and as such refers to text in other parts of this series. Definitions used in this Standard and throughout the series are now listed in AS 2885.0.

This Standard is a result of a comprehensive revision of AS 2885.3-2012. It reflects a further progression of the concepts initiated in the 2012 revision while supporting the implementation of the revised AS 2885.0 and AS/NZS 2885.6. Additionally, the revision of both AS/NZS 2885.1 and AS 2885.3 in association with the newer AS 2885.0 and AS/NZS 2885.6 required some relocation of text relating to existing assets into AS 2885.3 and some relocation of text out of AS 2885.3 into AS 2885.0 and AS/NZS 2885.6. Clarification has been made regarding the current application of Part 3 for existing PIPELINE SYSTEMS.

While the AS(/NZS) 2885 series comprises separate standalone documents, AS 2885.3 relies upon the concepts and requirements of other Parts of the AS (AS/NZS) 2885 suite and should be read in conjunction with them.

〈A1〉 This document forms part of the AS(AS/NZS) 2885 series, which covers high-pressure petroleum pipelines. A list of all parts in this series can be found in the Standards Australia online catalogue.

NOTE The title of this document has been amended from "*Pipelines — Gas and liquid petroleum, Part 3: Operation and maintenance*" to "*Pipeline systems — High pressure, Part 3: Operation and maintenance*" by Amendment No. 1 (2026). 〈A1〉

While the key elements of the PMS system are unchanged the major changes in this revision are as follows:

(a) Generally improved text throughout and reordered content and headings.

(b) A listing of key documents from all parts requiring periodic review throughout the operating life of the PIPELINE SYSTEM has been included in Appendix A.

(c) All terms and definitions are now common across the AS(/NZS) 2885 series and have been moved to AS 2885.0.

(d) Greater flexibility has been introduced for the presentation of the Pipeline Management System documentation. The PIMP has been re-affirmed as a key part of the PMS and its specific content called up throughout the document.

(e) A periodic fit for purpose (FFP) assessment replaces the Remaining Life Review which had been implemented in the 2012 edition to replace the earlier MAOP review.

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(f) Improved instruction regarding requirements for existing pipelines not designed or conforming to the following AS/NZS 2885.1 design elements:

(i) Fracture control.

(ii) Pipeline isolation.

(iii) MAOP upgrade.

(iv) Pressure test records.

(v) No RUPTURE and maximum energy release rate assessment for HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREAS.

(g) Improved instruction regarding requirements for external interference management, ANOMALY management and operational changes.

(h) Further integration of stations within the PIPELINE SYSTEM and greater emphasis on the integrity of stations and safety critical equipment, including introduction of critical function testing requirement for higher risk station facility safe-guarding control and shutdown protection devices.

(i) Replacement of the term "maximum operating pressure (mop) restriction" to eliminate reported confusion with the maximum operating pressure terminology. RESTRICTED OPERATING PRESSURE (ROP) is now used for managing longer term integrity issues, generally requiring pipeline control parameter adjustments, field set-point adjustments and over-pressure protection system adjustments to operate at a designated lower pressure.

(j) Clarification that management systems designed to meet Safety Case legislation are acceptable providing they address all of the requirements of this Standard.

(k) Appendix G details the part-specific APPROVAL requirements.

(l) The concept of "External Interference" has evolved in some arenas beyond its intended and originally defined interpretation. Historically, the initial 1997 version of AS2885 referred to external interference as activities that could result in direct contact with the pipeline (excavators, augers, HDD). Some publications over the years have subsequently included in the category of external interference activities such as vehicles loads, soil loads, vibration and blasting. We acknowledge the overlap of concepts, and note that vehicles loads, soil loads, vibration and blasting are typically identified and managed by the same processes that identify excavation over or near the pipeline (i.e. patrols, liaison). The committee has addressed this in this edition with the renaming of Section 7 as Pipeline Corridor Management instead of External Interference.

〈A1〉 Amendment 1 to this document includes the following further changes:

(i) Clarification of retrospective requirements.

(ii) Correction of editorial errors, ambiguous drafting and inconsistent terminology.

(iii) Provision of additional guidance on managing land instability and pipeline strain in Clause 6.4.5 and Clause 6.5.2.

(iv) Expansion of guidance in Clause 7.2 to include reporting of both incidents and near misses to APGA.

(v) Figure 9.1 replaced with an updated figure.

(vi) Appendix D updated to correct errors and to reflect the latest inspection tool technology.

(vii) Requirements for APPROVAL updated throughout the standard including to ensure the correct use of the defined term.

(viii) Appendix G updated to accurately reflect all requirements for approval. 〈A1〉

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SMALL CAPS have been used throughout this document to indicate terms that are defined in AS 2885.0 e.g. COMPONENT. While “may”, “should” and “shall” are defined terms, they do not appear in small caps. FULL CAPS have been used throughout this document to indicate abbreviations.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices 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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NOTES

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Pipeline systems — High pressure

Part 3: Operation and maintenance

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

Part 3 of the AS(/NZS) 2885 series specifies the minimum requirements for the operation and maintenance of PIPELINE SYSTEMS that fall within the scope of AS 2885.0.

1.2 Basis of AS 2885.3

In addition to the basis and fundamental principles of the AS (AS/NZS) 2885 series defined in AS 2885.0, this Standard is also based upon the following:

(a) A PMS that covers the PIPELINE SYSTEM, as shown in AS/NZS 2885.0.

(b) Where stations are complex (e.g. liquid pumping terminals, gas hub stations, major hazard facilities), their operation and maintenance may be more appropriately managed under an alternative standard. The use of any alternative standard and how the application of that standard varies from this Standard shall be APPROVED.

NOTE The requirements of this Standard should be reviewed against those of the alternative standard to confirm that all mandatory aspects have been addressed by that standard.

1.3 Application

1.3.1 Current application

Where an existing PIPELINE SYSTEM does not fully conform to ⟦A1⟩ the requirements of this document or the retrospective requirements of other parts of the AS(/NZS) 2885 series, including where ⟨A1⟧ documentation cannot be generated to confirm conformance, the PIPELINE SYSTEM shall be:

(a) modified to conform, or

(b) additional controls shall be applied until it is demonstrated that any risk due to the non-conformance is reduced to ALARP.

Any non-conformance and ALARP assessment shall be APPROVED.

1.3.2 Pipelines in high consequence areas

Regardless of pipeline age and design code, the no rupture and maximum energy release rate requirements for pipelines in HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREAS are described in AS/NZS 2885.6.

1.3.3 Retrospective application

Retrospective application of this Standard is governed by AS 2885.0.

1.4 APPROVAL

AS 2885.0 details the requirements for specific documentation APPROVAL under this Standard.

All other APPROVALS required by this Standard shall be APPROVED by a person, position or organization as nominated in the LICENSEE'S APPROVAL structure.

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