AS 3850.3:2026

Australian STANDARD®

STANDARDS Australia

Prefabricated concrete elements

Part 3: Civil construction



AS 3850.3:2026

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How to read this Standard

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

Refer to Standards Australia's Standardisation Guide 006 for more details about drafting rules.

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 Standards Australia Committee BD-066, Prefabricated Concrete Elements to supersede AS 3850.3:2021.

The objective of this document is to provide requirements for the planning, manufacturing, construction, design, casting, transportation, erection and incorporation into the final structure of prefabricated concrete elements used in civil, infrastructure and non-building construction.

These requirements impact on the safe use of these elements across these domains.

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with AS 3850.1 and AS 3850.2.

A list of all parts in the AS 3850 series can be found in the Standards Australia online catalogue.

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.

This document includes commentary on some of the clauses. The commentary directly follows the relevant clause, is designated by “C” preceding the clause number and is printed in italics in a box. The commentary is for information and guidance and does not form part of the Standard.

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Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document provides requirements for the planning, manufacturing, construction, design, casting, transportation, erection and incorporation into the final structure of prefabricated concrete elements in civil, infrastructure and non-building construction.

NOTE 1 These requirements impact on the safe use of these elements across these domains.

It applies to prefabricated concrete elements, including (but not limited to) —

(a) pipes;

(b) culverts;

(c) bridge elements;

(d) tunnel elements;

(e) poles;

(f) piles;

(g) drainage and sewerage access and maintenance chambers;

(h) manholes;

(i) pits;

(j) lintels;

(k) headwalls;

(l) covers and surrounds; and

(m) water quality products.

This document does not cover the following:

(i) The in-service design of prefabricated concrete elements.

(ii) Elements used in building construction.

(ii) Small individual concrete elements, which can be handled manually (e.g. bricks, blocks and pavers).

NOTE 2 Additional requirements for some products are covered in other Standards.

NOTE 3 State regulations can mandate different or higher minimum requirements than this document.

1.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document.

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