



University of KwaZulu-Natal Libraries, Howard College

STANDARDS COLLECTION

Library guide

<http://library.ukzn.ac.za>

What is a Standard?

The term standard refers to specifications, codes of practice and standard methods. These are published documents which describe the procedures or specifications to ensure that a material, product, method or service is fit for its purpose and performs in the manner for which it was intended.

Standards provide the basis for consumer protection, health and safety.

What Standards are in the EG Malherbe Library?

These standards are available in print -

- **SABS/SANS** - South African Bureau of Standards (*current subscription*)
- **BS** - British Standards Institution (*subscription ceased 1995*)
- **ANSI** - American National Standards Institution
- **IEEE** - Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
- **ASTM** - American Society for Testing and Materials
- **IEC** and **ISO** standards adopted by the SABS or BSI.

Where are standards physically located?

- Standards are now shelved on the 4th Floor of the EG Malherbe Library
- They are grouped together on the shelves according to the issuing body i.e. SABS, BSI, ASTM and ANSI/IEEE
- They are then arranged according to the standard number and prefix
- Amendments to a standard are shelved with the relevant standard

Note: The SABS standards were re-numbered in 2003 and all new standards issued since this date have a SANS designation. They are filed in a separate sequence following the SABS sequence. Check both sequences for the standard you require!

How do I find a standard?

- A few selected standards have been catalogued on the library OPAC, but most of the collection is only accessible by means of the published Annual Standards Catalogues or the website. Consult the published Annual Standards Catalogue which is shelved at the beginning of the standards collection i.e. SABS Catalogue 2004 or BSI Catalogue 2001. For ASTM standards check the **index volume**
- Check the **keyword index** at the back of the Annual Standards Catalogue to search for standards by subject keyword
- Use the **ICS index** to access subjects by the subject classification code of the International Classification for Standards
- A short description of each standard in the main body of the Annual Standards Catalogue provides useful information on the content and scope of the standard. The arrangement is numerical
- Once you have the **standard number**, you can check on the shelves

Can Standards be borrowed?

No, the print standards are for reference only and must be used in the library.

Are Standards available online?

- Yes, the South African standards can be accessed online.
- All SANS standards are on CD-ROM and networked via Application Explorer on the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg Campuses. Click on the Application Explorer icon and then check under the Miscellaneous category for the SANS icon. Search for the standard you require by standard number.
- If you do not know the standard number then you must first search the STANSA website. A hyperlink to the website is provided from the CD-ROM search screen.
- The fulltext of SANS standards is available in PDF.

Please note that copyright restrictions apply. Standards are read only and can be saved, but not printed.

Are other standards available?

Yes, standards may also appear in various publications e.g:

- **Concrete standards**

Those issued by the American Concrete Institute are published in the ACI Manual of Concrete Practice (7 vols) which is shelved in the Reference collection at R620.136 ACI

- **Chemicals**

OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals are online at www.sourceOECD.org

- **Information Management**

Technical standards on managing information from NISO are available online www.niso.org/standards

- **Pulp and Paper**

TAPPI Test Methods are shelved in the Reference collection at R676.27 TAP

- **Tubular Exchangers**

Standards of the Tubular Exchanger Manufacturer's Association are shelved with the books at 621.4022 TUB

- **Vehicle standards**

The Society for Automotive Engineers publishes vehicle standards which appear in the SAE Handbook (3 vols) which are shelved in the Reference collection at R629.2 SAE

- **Water**

Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater published by the American Public Health Association is shelved at 628.2 AME

Some Useful websites

American National Standards Institution - www.ansi.org

American Standards for Testing and Materials - www.astm.org

British Standards - www.bsi-global.com

South African Standards - www.sabs.co.za or www.stansa.co.za

International Electrotechnical Commission - www.iec.ch

International Standards Organization - www.iso.ch

SABS Prefixes/ SANS Series

ARP	Recommended practice
BS	British Standard
CKS	Co-ordination specification
CISPR	International Special Committee on Radio Interference
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
EEC	European Economic Community
EN	European Standard
ENV	European pre-standard
ETR	ETSI Technical Report
ETS	European Telecommunication Standard
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission – designated by the SANS 60000 series
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MPT	Mobile Service – Radio Communications Agency UK
NRS	Rationalized user specification
SABS	Designation for standards until 2003 when SANS was adopted.
SABS 0	Numbers starting with zero denoted a SA Code of Practice prior to 2003 but are now designated by the SANS 10 000 series
SABS SM	SA Standard Method. Current designation for Standard Methods is the SABS no. + 5000
SANS	New designation of all SABS standards from 2003
VC	Compulsory specification (legislated and gazetted)

BS Prefixes and Series

Aero	Aerospace series
AU	Automobile series
BSEN & BSDDENV	Adoptions by BSI
BS IEC*	IEC adoptions by BSI
BS ISO	ISO adoptions by BSI
CECC	Electronic Components of Assessed Quality Series
CP	Codes of Practice
DD	Drafts for Development
MA	Marine Series
PD	Published Documents
PP	Education Publications
QC	Electronic Components of Assessed Quality Series