



## **AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS UPDATE**

The recent review of the AS/NZS 2589: 2007 was published late in 2007 after considerable delays.

This edition incorporates major changes as listed below:-

- The AS/NZS 2589:2007 is the amalgamation of AS/NZS 2589.1:1997, Gypsum linings in Residential and light Commercial Construction- Application and finish & AS/NZS 2589.2: 1997, Fibre-reinforced gypsum plaster.
- Inclusion of a number of design specifications.
- The inclusion of Commercial Construction.
- Rationalization of Levels of finish.
- The simplification of formatting.

The AWCI is a licensed member of Standards Australia and New Zealand.

There were considerable delays experienced in finalizing this valuable document which were, in my opinion, the result of our interior lining industry's lack of participation which in turn allowed periphery industries groups such as the timber and sectors of the insulation industry (cellulose fibre) to indulge in self interested pursuits, delaying the documents publication.

This must never be allowed to happen again.

### **NOTE**

It is important to understand the AS/NZS 2589:2007 is the minimum standard for systems installation practices, individual manufacturers may require additional measures be taken during installation to satisfy their individual warranty agreements.

The AS/NZS 2589:2007 lists to a number of periphery Australian Standards which, in turn lists adjacent trade conformance requirements. These periphery standards cover, framing, thermal and acoustical insulation, decoration and concealed services, just to name a few.

Please remember as a licensed member of Standards Australia your association has access to these listed standards in the event you need to refer to them.

The following are some important additions, deletions, alterations and updates that need to be clearly understood, and are compiled in order that members are kept fully informed and in a position to updating supervisors and tradesmen.

- Gypsum Lining Finishes. Page 16 section 3, 3.1.2.  
Levels of finish have been more clearly defined. Levels 0, 1 & 2 have been deleted. ( Levels 3,4 & 5 only are listed) Contractors need to remember when applying levels of finish, responsibility for compliance falls not only on the internal lining contractor but also on the carpenter and the painter.
- The previous AS/NZS 2589.1:1997 placed responsibility for fixing interior linings over poor framing on the plasterer/interior lining contractor. That clause has been removed in order to place the responsibility for framing conformance back to the builder where it belongs.
- Simple fastener identification system has been adopted with the appropriate minimum lengths to suit various BMT of steel and timber categories.  
E.G. SCREWS. Page 14. Section 2.9 Fasteners  
“S” type screws for use in steel framing up to .75 B M T ,  
“D” type for steel framing greater than .75 B M T ,  
“L” type for use when laminating multi-layered fire or acoustic barriers,  
“W” for use in wood or timber framing.
- The length of galvanised plasterboard nails when used in conjunction with softwood framing have been increased.
- Joint Reinforcing Tape and Cements, page 15 Section 2, 2.11  
The use of Self Adhering Fibre Glass joint reinforcing tape is now permitted only when setting compound which is compliant with ASTM C475 is used, and when the joint is back blocked to the AS/ NZS 2589:2008.  
**(THAT MEANS, ALL WALL & CEILING JOINTS)**
- Back blocks are to be 200mm wide and fit loosely between framing members. ( 400 mm wide for Butt Joints)
- Jointing Walls and ceilings pages 38-40 section 4,  
In residential construction all rooms containing three or more ceiling joints must be back blocked for level 4 and all ceiling joints for level 5 finishes. (Again I mention manufacturers warranty requirements may compel you to back block all ceiling joints).
- Level 4 suspended ceilings require no back blocking. Page 39 section 4.4.4.2.4.  
Where there is no rigid connection between ceiling and wall structures suspended ceilings are not required to be back blocked when paper joint reinforcing tape is used, but must be back blocked when self adhering F. G. Tape is used.
- External applications Page 17 section 3, 3.3.12  
External protected areas such as garages, carports, breezeways and verandas must be installed, jointed & decorated in accordance with the Manufacturers recommendations.
- Insulation batts must not exceed the wall framing thickness.  
Page 27,section 3,2.11
- Manufacturer’s recommendations apply regarding load limits on ceilings, and the standard makes frequent mentions of this over riding specification.
- Page 17 sections 3,3.1.2  
The issues of critical & non critical light, sheen, gloss and flat paint

finishes are clearly defined as are the parameters of the various levels of finish.

- Appendix E.  
GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF SURFACE DEVIATIONS AND TOLERANCES Page 63-4Section E1,2.3.4.5  
For the first time surface deviation & joint tolerances have been adequately addressed and I will demonstrate how this works with tools I have developed. The AWCIV is to offer these measuring tools to the industry in the near future. Some industry experts believe these joint, internal angle & external angle tolerances now applicable in the standard are too generous. (I again bring to your notice the over riding recommendations of the manufacturer)
- There is also a section covering Alternate Systems and Materials.  
“Alternative methods, materials and procedures not specified in this standard may be used, if it can be demonstrated that the result of the alternative can satisfy the requirements of this standard. Service, durability & strength shall be considered in any assessment of new technology.”
- Structural Movement section 3, 3.3 page 19 talks about deflection, physical change in materials, junctions with dissimilar products, humidity and the non structural nature of plasterboard lining elements..
- Perimeter fixing. Page 33 section 4, 4.4.3.1.3  
Fasteners shall be installed at 300 mm Max centres to support air conditioning & heating vents.
- Appendix B Decoration Pages 52 – 55.  
All aspect of paint work applications, brush verses roller versus spray finishes is discussed. Glancing light influences and inappropriate choices in lighting systems are also discussed in detail.
  - There are also some interesting comments regarding finishes of paint work and the effects of Glancing Light on page 16. Section 3. Design Requirements 3.1.2  
Note. For further information on factors affecting levels of finish it is recommendation to read “Plasterboard Expectations” and “Illumination and decoration of flat surfaces” from the CSIRO Division of Building Research, report TR90/1.

The Australian Standard 2589:2008 Gypsum Lining – Application and Finish is a valuable industry tool, please make use of it to protect yourself and your company from those who would lay unfair or uninformed blame.

Prepared by Len Pimm for the AWCIV Geelong State Conference  
Technical Sessions at Sheraton Four Points.  
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