

# ***AS/NZS 4187:2003 — Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities***

## **THIS STANDARD IS CURRENTLY BEING UPDATED**

Prior to 2005 a joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand technical committee was revising the current standard. Unfortunately, due to circumstances this revision process did not reach conclusion.

However I can now advise that a re-structured committee has been established and the revision process is underway. The committee has two representatives from New Zealand; myself, representing the NZSSA and our profession, and Karen Andrews representing NZNO. The remainder of the committee comprises representatives from stakeholder groups from around Australia.

Regular meetings commenced in February 2011 to progress the work of updating the information contained within the standard, as well as converting it to the ISO standards format and the ISO terminology. This is seen as a logical step as ISO standards are going to form the base of the reference material and therefore it is sensible to create a document that reads the same and has a similar look.

A draft for public comment is anticipated to be released around February 2012 (not before). This will be available for comment for the normal 9-week period. At the end of this public comment phase, comments will be reviewed, assessed and resolved by committee members and any adjustments made to the revision draft. The document will then be re-formatted and it is hoped to have a final standard balloted and in print (i.e. published) in 2013.

Why so long you ask? I am new to this process and I have already identified the large volume of work involved in ensuring all relevant information is captured properly. All members on the committee have their own full time positions as well as representing their stakeholders. However while 2-years may seem a long time, it is a fair timeline and you will be pleased to know, it is a firm one. Another strong point is the committee is functioning very positively and progress has a good momentum to it.

At this time it is not possible to provide specifics in relation to changes. These will become clear to readers when the draft is at public comment (an important aspect for a reviewer of the public comment draft will be the Preface and/or Foreword, which will outline the major differences in the revision standard. Until the updated standard is in print it is important to continue using AS/NZS 4187:2003 as the current reference document.

Should there be any further updates that can be provided these will be made available on the NZSSA website, [www.nzssa.org](http://www.nzssa.org).

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