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 (*current set 2009*)
- **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 only. Check under the Miscellaneous category for the SANS icon then 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 SANSI 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


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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aero</td>
<td>Aerospace series</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>Automobile series</td>
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<td>BSEN &amp; BSDDENV</td>
<td>Adoptions by BSI</td>
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<td>BS IEC*</td>
<td>IEC adoptions by BSI</td>
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<td>BS ISO</td>
<td>ISO adoptions by BSI</td>
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<tr>
<td>CECC</td>
<td>Electronic Components of Assessed Quality Series</td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td>Codes of Practice</td>
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<td>DD</td>
<td>Drafts for Development</td>
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<td>MA</td>
<td>Marine Series</td>
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<td>PD</td>
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<td>QC</td>
<td>Electronic Components of Assessed Quality Series</td>
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