

Australian Standard™

**Caravan and light trailer towing  
components**

**Part 4: Safety chains up to 3500 kg  
capacity**



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME-052, Caravan and Light Trailer Components. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 4 May 2004.

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The following are represented on Committee ME-052:

Australian Automobile Association  
Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Industry Group  
Caravan Industry Australia  
Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services  
Consumers' Federation of Australia  
Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee ME-052, Caravans and Light Trailer Components to supersede AS 4177.4—1994, *Caravan and light trailer towing components*, Part 4: *Safety chains up to 3500 kg capacity*.

*This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (April 2006). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.*

This Standard is Part 4 of AS 4177, *Caravan and light trailer towing components*, which is published in Parts as follows:

- Part 1: Towbars and towing brackets
- Part 2: 50 mm towballs
- Part 3: Coupling body for ball couplings
- Part 4: Safety chains up to 3500 kg capacity (this Standard)
- Part 5: Electrical connectors

The objective of this Standard is to provide the manufacturers and users, the designation and design requirements for safety chains for use with trailers and caravans of up to 3.5 t aggregate trailer mass, for use on public roads.

In this revision, two different size characters for marking are included.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

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**STANDARDS AUSTRALIA****Australian Standard**  
**Caravan and light trailer towing components****Part 4 Safety chains up to 3500 kg capacity****1 SCOPE**

This Standard specifies requirements for safety chains for use with trailers and caravans of up to 3.5 t aggregate trailer mass. The safety chains are designated according to their loading capacities based on the aggregate trailer mass.

A method for determining the strength of safety chain is given in Appendix A.

**2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1442 Carbon steels and carbon-manganese steels—Hot-rolled bars and semifinished products

2193 Calibration and classification of force-measuring systems

**3 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

**3.1 Aggregate trailer mass**

The total mass of the laden trailer when carrying the maximum load recommended by the manufacturer. This includes any mass imposed on the towing vehicle when the combination vehicle is resting on a horizontal supporting plane.

**3.2 Batch**

A quantity of some commodity produced under conditions which are considered uniform.

NOTE: Each batch is assumed, as far as practicable, to consist of materials or items of a single type, grade, class, size and composition and to have been manufactured under essentially the same condition at essentially the same time.

**3.3 Elongation**

The elongation at the point of fracture of a chain expressed as a percentage of the gauge length, and comprising plastic elongation and elastic elongation.

**3.4 Gauge length**

The portion of the tensile test sample containing the number of links for the purpose of undertaking a specified destructive test.

**3.5 Proof load**

The load which the chain must be able to withstand, while remaining in service.

**3.6 Shall**

Indicates that a statement is mandatory.