

Australian Standard[®]

**Playground equipment for parks,
schools and domestic use**

Part 1: General requirements

This standard, prepared by Committee CS/5, Playground Equipment, was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 30 June 1981, and was published on 17 August 1981.

The following scientific, industrial and governmental organizations and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Australian Consumers Association
Australian Council of State School Organizations
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations
Australian Retailers Association
Australian Toy Association
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Business and Consumer Affairs
Department of Health (Commonwealth)
Department of Home Affairs
Department of Industrial Relations, N.S.W.
Department of Labour and Industry, Vic.
Education Department of New South Wales
Education Department of Victoria
Health Commission of New South Wales
Industrial Design Council of Australia
Kindergarten Union of New South Wales Incorporated
Local Government Association of New South Wales
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Vic.
Municipal Association of Victoria
National Safety Council of Australia (Victorian Division)
Plastics Institute of Australia Incorporated
Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria
Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation
Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

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**Playground equipment for parks,
schools and domestic use**

Part 1: General requirements

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PREFACE

This edition of this standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Playground Equipment to supersede the 1976 edition.

When first prepared at the request of the National Safety Council of Australia, this standard specified the requirements for materials, and for the manufacture and construction and marking of playground equipment. With the concurrent publication of Part 2, this standard now deals only with materials, machining and instructions for erection and maintenance.

The clauses relating to manufacture and construction have been transferred to Part 2 which deals with safety aspects of the design and manufacture of equipment.

In 1978 the committee prepared AS 2155, The Siting of a Playground and the Installation and Maintenance of Playground Equipment. It is also preparing a guide for the establishing of an adventure playground which will include guidance for local government bodies, housing authorities and community groups in the setting up of playgrounds in areas of high density population.

The standards are being drafted on the basis of submissions from educationists, playground association groups and parents' organizations that the primary aims of a playground should be to stimulate a child's imagination, provide excitement and adventure in safe surroundings, and allow scope for children to develop their own ideas of play.

The committee agreed that this present standard should not preclude the use of reclaimed building materials or of materials that may be developed in the future, provided that they could be shown to comply substantially with the requirements of Part 2 of this standard, and that the standard should not be restrictive of new designs.

Organizations concerned with the purchase or erection of playground equipment should be aware that most materials deteriorate when exposed to the weather. Unless the equipment is properly protected against corrosion at the time of manufacture and at frequent and regular intervals thereafter it will become unusable and a safety hazard. This standard includes requirements intended to ensure reasonably long life for the equipment.

During the course of drafting, reference was made to British standards for playground equipment, and acknowledgment is made of the assistance obtained therefrom. A number of overseas draft standards were also considered.

This standard requires reference to a number of Australian and British standards for materials, finishes, and construction practices, complete listings of which are given in Appendices B and C. In the text of the standard only the number of the referred standard is given.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

for

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR PARKS, SCHOOLS AND DOMESTIC USE

PART 1—GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 SCOPE. This standard specifies the minimum requirements for the materials and protective coatings to be used in the manufacture of basic types of playground equipment intended for use in parks, schools, preschools and domestic situations. It also specifies labelling requirements and instructions for erection and maintenance.

The standard assumes that the equipment, although intended to be used by children only, will be capable of withstanding limited use by adults in unsupervised areas.

Information on painting methods is given in an appendix.

1.2 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this standard, the definitions set out in AS 1886 and the following definitions apply:

Domestic equipment—equipment designed for use in domestic situations.

Public equipment—equipment erected in parks, public playgrounds and schools.

Pre-school equipment—equipment designed for use by children up to the age of 5 years in a school or kindergarten situation.

'Shall' and *'should'*—the word 'shall' is to be understood as mandatory, and the word 'should' as non-mandatory, i.e. advisory or recommended.