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AS 4685.1:2014

Australian STANDARD

Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods (EN 1176-1:2008, MOD)

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STANDARDS Australia

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This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee CS-005, Playground Equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 13 March 2014.
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The following are represented on Committee CS-005:

- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Department for Health and Ageing, SA
- Early Childhood Australia
- Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board
- Engineers Australia
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia
- Kidsafe
- Monash University
- National Association of Testing Authorities Australia
- Occupational Therapy Australia
- Play Australia
- Play Equipment Importers and Exporters

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 4685.1.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard®

Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods (EN 1176-1:2008, MOD)

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS-005, Playground Equipment, to supersede, AS 4685.1—2004, *Playground equipment*, Part 1: *General safety requirements and test methods*.

This Standard will apply from the date of publication. However, the Committee has decided that to avoid excessive costs to manufacturers and operators, the superseded Standard, AS 4685.1—2004, will continue as an alternative for a period of one year after the publication date.

Designers and providers must note the importance of providing inclusive play and recreation settings for children and adults with disabilities. In particular, where the design of play equipment and surfaces provides access for users with wheelchairs or mobility aids to elevated surfaces, care must be taken to ensure that the design protects these users from falls through elevated openings. Refer to the AS 1428, *Design for access and mobility* (series) for further guidance regarding inclusive environments.

Designers and providers of playground equipment are strongly urged to reduce the potential for foreseeable misuse of their products. Among other appropriate design measures, unintended access should be actively discouraged through the elimination of unnecessary handholds and footholds, the inclusion of physical barriers, and the use of dimensions and profiles that are intrinsically difficult for children to climb.

Designers and providers of playgrounds are strongly urged to minimize the harmful effects of UV exposure to children and other users by incorporating shade structures and natural shade within the design. The Committee noted that the provision of shade has the additional benefit of reducing the potential for severe skin burns from exposed hot surfaces.

The objective of this Standard is to specify general safety requirements for playground equipment covering materials, design and manufacture.

This Standard is an adoption with national modifications and has been reproduced from EN 1176-1:2008, *Playground equipment and surfacing*, Part 1: *General safety requirements and test methods*, and has been varied as indicated to take account of Australian conditions. The modifications are specified in Appendix ZZ.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

(a) In the source text ‘this part of EN 1176’ should read ‘this Australian Standard’.

(b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

References to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards, as follows:

Reference to International Standard		*Australian/New Zealand Standard*	
EN 1177	Impact attenuating playground surfacing—Determination of critical fall height	AS/NZS 4422	Playground surfacing—Specifications, requirements and test method
ISO 1834	Short link chains for lifting purposes—General conditions of acceptance	AS 2321	Short link chains for lifting purposes

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EN		AS/NZS	
1991	Actions on structures	1170	Structural design actions
1991-1-2	Part 1-2: General actions—Actions on structures exposed to fire	1170.1	Part 1: Permanent, imposed and other actions
1991-1-3	Part 1-3: General actions—Snow loads	1170.3	Part 3: Snow and ice actions
1991-1-4	Part 1-4: General actions—Wind actions	1170.2	Part 2: Wind actions
EN ISO		AS	
2307	Fibre ropes—Determination of certain physical and mechanical properties	4143	Methods of test for fibre ropes
9554	Fibre ropes—General specifications	4142	Fibre ropes
EN ISO/IEC		AS ISO/IEC	
17025	General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories	17025	General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

Only normative references that have been adopted as Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards have been listed.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex or appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ annex or appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ annex or appendix is only for information and guidance.

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