

Australian/New Zealand Standard®

**Playgrounds and playground
equipment**

**Part 1: Development, installation,
inspection, maintenance and
operation**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS/5, Playground Equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 4 July 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 24 June 1997. It was published on 5 August 1997.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/5:

Australian Chamber of Manufactures
Australian Council of State School Organizations
Australian Early Childhood Association
Australian Local Government Association
Australian Public Risk Insurance Management Association
Australian Retailers Association
Consumers Federation of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/5, Playground Equipment to supersede, in part, AS 2155—1982, *Playgrounds—Guide to siting and to installation and maintenance of equipment* and NZS 5828.1—1986, *Specification for playgrounds and playground equipment, Part 1: General guidelines for new and existing playgrounds—Equipment and surfacing*.

It is based on prEN 1176-8, *Playground equipment, Part 8: Installation, inspection and maintenance*, and prEN 1176-9, *Playground equipment, Part 9: Operation*, which were prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee 136, Sports Playground and Other Equipment, Subcommittee 1, Playground Equipment for Children. Extensive modifications were made as a result of the public comment received and to incorporate aspects of the previous Australian and New Zealand Standards on playgrounds, AS 2155 and NZS 5828.1, not covered in AS/NZS 4422, *Playground surfacing—Specifications, requirements and test method*.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

The best way to minimize risk to the children using a playground is to not include hazards in the first place, and to back this up with a plan for dealing with problems as they arise. This Standard contains information on matters that should be considered before a playground is built, so that unnecessary hazards are not built in through a lack of forethought and planning.

To this end, the content of the two CEN drafts (prEN 1176-8, *Playground equipment, Part 8: Installation, inspection and maintenance*, and prEN 1176-9, *Playground equipment, Part 9: Operation*) were amalgamated, because the information required by creators and operators of playgrounds is interlinked with the information which should be provided by the manufacturer. If equipment manufacturers understand the information which a creator or operator needs to take into account, they are more likely to provide it. Similarly if operators know what information they need to correctly select and maintain a playground, they are more likely to ask for it and be able to act on it.

The information has been reorganized into manufacturer's responsibilities and operator's responsibilities, and recognizes that adequate documentation is a necessary part of accountability.

Good intentions are no help to an injured child. However, developing and maintaining a playground in accordance with this Standard will help to minimize the risk of injury occurring. The consequences to a child are the same irrespective of whether the playground has been constructed as a DIY (do-it-yourself) home project, by a service organization as a goodwill project, or by a specialist manufacturing organization, and no matter what the source of the equipment is, consideration needs to be given to the maintenance requirements of the structure created.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard
Playgrounds and playground equipment

**Part 1: Development, installation, inspection,
 maintenance and operation**

1 SCOPE This Standard specifies requirements for the development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playgrounds and playground equipment to ensure a continuing level of function and safety. It also contains requirements for information to be supplied by the manufacturer.

This Standard is applicable to all playground equipment and should be read in conjunction with the current product Standards, AS 1924 Parts 1 and 2 (for Australia) and NZS 5828 Parts 2 and 3 (for New Zealand) and AS/NZS 4422.

NOTES:

- 1 Information on the general requirements for playground equipment is given in AS 1924.1 (for Australia) and NZS 5828.2 (for New Zealand).
- 2 Information on the safety aspects of design and construction of playground equipment is given in AS 1924.2 (for Australia) and NZS 5828.3 (for New Zealand).
- 3 Information on impact absorbing surfacing for use in playgrounds is given in AS/NZS 4422.
- 4 Information on the establishment and supervision of supervised adventure playgrounds is given in AS 2555.

2 OBJECTIVE This Standard is intended to minimize the risk of injury to children using playgrounds by providing guidelines for siting and developing playgrounds, product information requirements, instructions and operating procedures intended to support sound playground design, the selection of appropriate equipment and to minimize operational hazards. The Standard is intended for use by designers, manufacturers and installers of playground equipment as well as the operators of playgrounds.

3 APPLICATION The same hazards face a child from playground equipment whether it is produced by a commercial organization (such as a specialist manufacturer), a voluntary group (such as a service group or a parent organization) or a single individual. The requirements of this Standard therefore apply to all playgrounds and playground equipment.

4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

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| 1924 | Playground equipment for parks, schools and domestic use |
| 1924.1 | Part 1: General requirements |
| 1924.2 | Part 2: Design and construction—Safety aspects |
| 2555 | Supervised adventure playgrounds—Guide to establishment and administration |

AS/NZS

- | | |
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| 4422 | Playground surfacing—Specifications, requirements and test method |
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