

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Folding cots—Safety requirements

AS/NZS 2195:1999

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS/3, Safety Requirements for Children's Furniture. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 17 September 1999 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 18 October 1999. It was published on 15 November 1999.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/3:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Early Childhood Association
Australian Industry Group
Australian Retailers Association
Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
Department of Fair Trading, N.S.W. Consumer Protection Agency
Furnishers Society of Victoria
Furtech, Australia
Infants Nursery Products Association, Australia
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Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

Folding cot manufacturers and importers

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/3, Safety Requirements for Children's Furniture to supersede AS 2195—1978, *Folding portable cots for use in domestic situations and day nurseries (safety requirements)*. It is one of a number of Standards being prepared to cover safety requirements in that area.

The Australian Standard was revised due to a number of unsafe incidents involving folding cots and the vastly changed nature of the product since the previous edition of the Standard. It is based largely on EN 716-1:1996 *Furniture—Children's cots and folding cots for domestic use—Part 1: Safety requirements* and EN 716-2:1996 *Furniture—Children's cots and folding cots for domestic use—Part 2: Test methods*, and prEN 716-3:1996 *Additional safety requirements and test methods for folding cots* with some contribution from BS 7423:1991, *Specification for safety requirements for children's travel cots of internal base length not less than 900 mm* (now superseded by the CEN Standards) and AS/NZS 2172:1995, *Cots for household use—Safety requirements*.

ISO 7175:1997 *Children's cots and folding cots for domestic use* does not contain requirements for folding timber cots or for safety related problems recently raised with folding cots such as the collapse of the top rail forming a 'V' shaped hazard. ISO 7175 also includes within its scope both folding and non-folding cots together in an unclear manner hence this Standard was not adopted.

This Standard is published with the objective of providing regulatory authorities with essential safety requirements and to provide manufacturers with functional, durability, stability and performance criteria to reduce the likelihood of death or injury to infants occupying folding cots.

This Standard is not intended to limit design, but dimensions are specified where the Committee considered that these relate to the child's safety.

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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FOREWORD

Folding cots are sometimes called playpens or other similar names but are in essence the same device/product and, if they have a floor, are intended to be included within the scope of this Standard. Playpens that do not have a floor do not fall within the scope of this Standard. Timber folding cots are also included within the scope of this Standard, but include gap and other requirements that differ from fabric and mesh folding cots, hence the majority of the requirements are in AS/NZS 2172.

Accessories that attach to the folding cot, for example an adjustable base (sometimes termed a bassinet), must meet the requirements of this Standard. The accessory must be tested fully with the cot in order to determine that it does not compromise safety. If an accessory, supplied as a separate product, has been tested with the cot and also complies with the requirements of the Standard, the manufacturer is required to state in the labelling supplied with the cot that the accessory is an approved accessory for use with that particular folding cot. The purpose of this is to specify and inform the consumer of those accessories suitable for use with a particular product that will not compromise the safety of the cot. In addition to this, labelling is required to tell the consumer to not purchase accessories unless recommended by the manufacturer.

The most important safety hazards found with folding cots are:

- It is often difficult to determine if locking devices are effectively engaged, if not, the cot could subsequently collapse.
- If one or more of the locking devices fails, the cot should not form a 'V' shape such that the child's neck can become trapped causing a strangulation and asphyxiation hazard. One method of eliminating any possibility of such a 'V' shape failure is to design a folding cot with continuous rigid top rails.
- There should not be a gap between the flexible sides of the folding cot and the mattress, otherwise the child's head could become entrapped causing a suffocation hazard.

Specific safety recommendations are included in this Standard which are designed to overcome such safety issues. These include testing for strength and durability of the locking device and folding mechanism. A bite test and a detachable parts test also ensures children cannot swallow small components of the cot. Requirements are also included to ensure there are no footholds and a sufficient depth of sides to prevent children from falling out of the cot.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard Folding cots—Safety requirements

1 SCOPE This Standard specifies safety requirements for folding cots. These requirements include material, design, construction, performance, labelling and marking, all of which are important for the well being of children who use cots. The Standard is applicable to folding cots constructed of metal, plastic and textile fabric or mesh. This Standard is not applicable to cradles, carry cots or to non-folding cots. Playpens with a floor also fall within the scope of this Standard as they are essentially the same product as folding cots. Playpens without a floor are not covered by this Standard. For timber folding cots, reference should be made to particular requirements within this Standard (see Clause 5) which references AS/NZS 2172.

2 APPLICATION This Specification is applicable to cots intended for children in households or day nurseries and which can be readily dismantled or folded for transportation or storage.

3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- 1647 Children's toys (Safety requirements)
- 1647.2 Part 2: Constructional requirements
- 1647.3 Part 3: Toxicological requirements
- 2281 Flexible cellular polyurethane for seat cushioning and bedding

AS/NZS

- 1754 Child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles
- 2172 Cots for household use—Safety requirements
- 4385 Infants' rocking cradles—Safety requirements

NZS

- 5820 Specification for the safety of toys

4 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

4.1 Accessory—any item which is not an integral part of the folding cot but is specified by the manufacturer as being suitable for use with the cot e.g. bassinet.

4.2 Base—a rigid surface on which the cot mattress is supported. This may be an integral part of the mattress.

4.3 Bassinet—an elevated base intended to hold a mattress.

4.4 Folding cot—enclosure which can be used for sleeping and which can be folded when not in use. It also refers to enclosures referred to as playpens with a floor, but not those without a floor.

4.5 Locking mechanism—a system designed to maintain the folding cot in its erected position of use and which will inhibit the cot from unintentional folding or collapsing. A locking mechanism should consist of one or more locking devices.



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