



#PlayToday

info@playaustralia.org.au
www.playaustralia.org.au

promoting the value of play

CHAIN FOR USE ON PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Short-link chain must be used in all playground applications unless covered with an appropriately robust sheath such as, for example, commercial-grade hosing.

It should not be possible for an 8.6mm rod to pass through gaps between the links in a new chain.

It is not unusual for gaps in chain to eventually exceed 8.6mm over time due to normal wear and tear. In this case standards do *not* require that chains be immediately replaced, stating instead

NOTE When "8-mm-short-link-chains" wear, the openings can increase. If the opening on a worn chain is greater than 8.6 mm, a risk assessment can be carried out to confirm whether replacement is necessary. (AS4685.1 clause 4.2.13)

Play Australia recommends that members apply a common-sense approach to risk assessment in this case, talking into account a combination of factors including the degree of wear and tear, the overall age of the chain and equipment, the degree of active supervision at the site and organisational resources.

Where chain is connected, such as by an S-hook or D-shackle, gaps must be either small enough to prevent an 8.6mm rod from passing through or large enough to allow a 12mm rod to pass through.

Non-compliant gaps in connections can sometimes be rectified by filling the gap, such as with nylon or plastic plugs, or with a nut and bolt. Temporary solutions should be avoided where possible, however, as they can be susceptible to becoming dislodged due to curious fingers or normal wear and tear.

16 May 2021