



#PlayToday

info@playaustralia.org.au

www.playaustralia.org.au

promoting the value of play

DEFINITIONS IN AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS

Annual main inspection

See Inspection, Annual Main.

Barrier

A device intended to prevent the user from falling and from passing beneath.

Cableway

An item of children's playground equipment whereby children can travel on or along a cable under the force of gravity.

Carousel

Playground equipment intended for more than one user, that rotates around a central vertical axis without oscillation.

Climbing equipment

Playground equipment that only allows the user to move on it or in it by the use of a hand and foot/leg support and requires a minimum of three points of contact with the equipment, one of these being a hand. (Note that during movement it is possible to have only one or two points of contact but this is only during a transition from one rest position to the next.)

Cluster

Two or more separate pieces of equipment designed to be installed in close proximity to each other to provide continuity in a sequence that is needed for the play activity, e.g. trail of stepping-stones.

Collective use

Use by more than one user at the same time.

Critical fall height

The maximum free height of fall for which a surface will provide an acceptable level of impact attenuation.

Crushing point

A place where parts of the equipment can move against each other, or against a fixed area so that persons, or parts of their body, can be crushed.

Easily accessible

Requiring only basic skills to access the equipment, allowing users to move freely and quickly onto/within the equipment

Entrapment

A hazard presented by the situation in which a body, or part of a body, or clothing can become trapped. Note that standards are only concerned with certain types of entrapment where the user is not able to free him/herself and injury is caused by the entrapment.

Falling space

Space in, on or around the equipment that can be passed through by a user falling from an elevated part of the equipment. Note that the falling space commences at the free height of fall.

Fall zone

See impact area.

Forced movement

Forced movement occurs where a user may find it difficult or impossible to stop part way through a typical arc of motion on an item of play equipment, such as due to gravity (eg slides, fireman's poles) or momentum (eg swings, carousels, spring rockers).

Free height of fall

The greatest vertical distance from the clearly intended body support to the impact area below. Note that the intended body support includes those surfaces to which access is encouraged.

Free space

Space in, on or around the equipment that can be occupied by a user undergoing a movement forced by the equipment (e.g. sliding, swinging, rocking).

Grasp

Holding of the hand around part of the circumference of a support.

Grip

Holding of the hand around the entire circumference of a support.

Guardrail

A rail intended to prevent a user from falling.

Handrail

A rail intended to assist the user to balance.

Impact area

An area that can be hit by a user after falling through the falling space. The term is synonymous with 'fall zone'.

Inspection, routine visual

Inspection intended to identify obvious hazards that can result from normal use, vandalism or weather conditions. Typical hazards can take the form of such things as broken parts or broken bottles.

Inspection, operational

Inspection, more detailed than routine visual inspection, to check the operation and stability of the equipment. Typical checks include an examination for wear.

Inspection, annual main

Inspection intended to establish the overall level of safety of equipment, foundations and playing surfaces. Typical checks include the effects of weather, evidence of rotting or corrosion and any change in the level of safety of the equipment as a result of repairs made, or of added or replaced components.

Ladder

A means of access incorporating rungs or steps on which a user can ascend or descend with the aid of the hands.

Minimum space

Space required for the safe use of equipment, comprising falling space, free space and space occupied by the equipment.

Moveable play equipment

A range of purpose-made manufactured equipment used in supervised settings (e.g. SECS, schools etc.) that is not permanently fixed in place and can be adjusted and moved by educators on a regular basis to vary play opportunities

Obstacle

Object or portion of an object that protrudes inside the space occupied by equipment, the falling space or the free space of a user. Note that the risks associated with obstacles in playground equipment will vary according to its situation in, on or around the equipment.

Operational inspection

See [inspection, operational](#).

Platform

Raised surface where one or more users can stand without the need of hand support. Note that the classification of a platform will vary depending on the function of the playground equipment. Surfaces where the user is only able to stand with the aid of hand supports are not classified as platforms.

Playground equipment

Equipment and structures, including components and constructional elements with, or on which, children can play outdoors or indoors, either individually or in groups, according to their own rules or own reasons for playing which can change at any time

Playing surface

The surface of a playground from which the use of the playground equipment commences and which comprises at least the impact area.

Ramp

A means of access incorporating an inclined surface on which a user can ascend or descend.

Rocking equipment

Equipment that can be set in motion by the user and is generally characterized by a rigid element that rocks about a central support. Note that the equipment can have one or several seats or stands. The seesaw/rocking movement will depend on the type and configuration of fixture.

Routine visual inspection

See [inspection, routine visual](#).

SECS

See [supervised early childhood services \(SECS\)](#).

Seesaw

See [rocking equipment](#).

Shearing point

A place where part of the equipment can move past a fixed or other moving part, or past a fixed area so that persons, or parts of their body, can be cut.

Slide

A structure with inclined surface(s) that contains and guides the user sliding in a defined track. Note that inclined planes, designed primarily for other purposes, such as roofs, do not constitute slides.

Steep play element

An access/egress play element of a gradient greater than 45 degrees from the horizontal.

Supervised early childhood services (SECS)

A defined play space used by an education and care service or children's services, for children under school age, which is supervised by educators. (Educators are early childhood practitioners who work directly with children in education and care services or children's services.)

Stairs

A means of access incorporating treads on which a user can ascend or descend.

Tiered platforms

Successive platforms of varying heights allowing the user to ascend or descend on or within the equipment. Note that stairs are not considered to be tiered platforms.

Upper body equipment

Playground equipment, or part of the equipment, from which suspension is intended using the hand/s without foot support. Examples include monkey bars (horizontal ladders), parallel bars, turning or somersault bars, horizontal ladders, jungle gyms, track rides and other suspended style equipment (excluding fireman's poles, cable ways (flying foxes), rope or chain structures and spatial networks).