



#PlayToday

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promoting the value of play

RETROSPECTIVITY AND PLAYGROUND STANDARDS

Playground standards are not retrospective and existing equipment should continue to be assessed against the requirements that applied at the time that equipment was installed.

AS4685.0:2021 *Playground equipment and surfacing* notes, however, that:

8.8 Equipment not meeting current playground Standards

Old equipment shall be risk-assessed by a competent person and unacceptable risks addressed.

In practice, therefore, common sense still applies and obviously risky equipment should not be left in place simply by virtue of having been installed at a time that predates current standards.

Note that since 2004 the central principles behind our current playground standards, including test methods, entrapments and impact areas (fallzones), have seen relatively minor refinements only. Asset owners can therefore have a high degree of confidence in the safety of equipment installed since this time that has otherwise been maintained in good condition.

Generally speaking, equipment *in good condition* installed in accordance with AS1924:1981 is also likely to have few significant standards issues, however Play Australia recommends that any such equipment should nonetheless still be assessed by a competent person.

Note that historically standards compliance in Australia has not always been consistent. It therefore cannot automatically be assumed that simply because an item of playground equipment is relatively old that it was necessarily compliant with standards as they applied even at the time it was installed.

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Executive Director
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