



#PlayToday

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promoting the value of play

SLIDES

Note that this guide is intended for purchasers or owners of commercial slides acquired from a reputable supplier. This guide is not intended to provide guidance on slide design and/or construction. Any individual considering building their own slide should seek the advice of a suitably experienced playground design professional well in advance of commencing work.

Slides for public, educational and supervised early childhood settings are governed by Australian Standard AS4685:2014 *Playground equipment and surfacing*. Note that slides purchased from garden or hardware suppliers, or from manufacturers of cubbies and similar structures intended primarily for residential use, generally do not comply with this standard.

Play Australia recommends that when considering purchase of a slide you ensure that the manufacturer is able to provide a written certificate of compliance with AS4685:2014.

Play Australia is aware of a number of instances where manufacturers or suppliers have claimed that their equipment “complies with standards” although, in fact, they are in fact referring to international standards not applicable to Australia, or to Australian standards such as AS/NZS 8124.1:2002 *Safety of toys* that are not applicable to play equipment in public or educational settings.

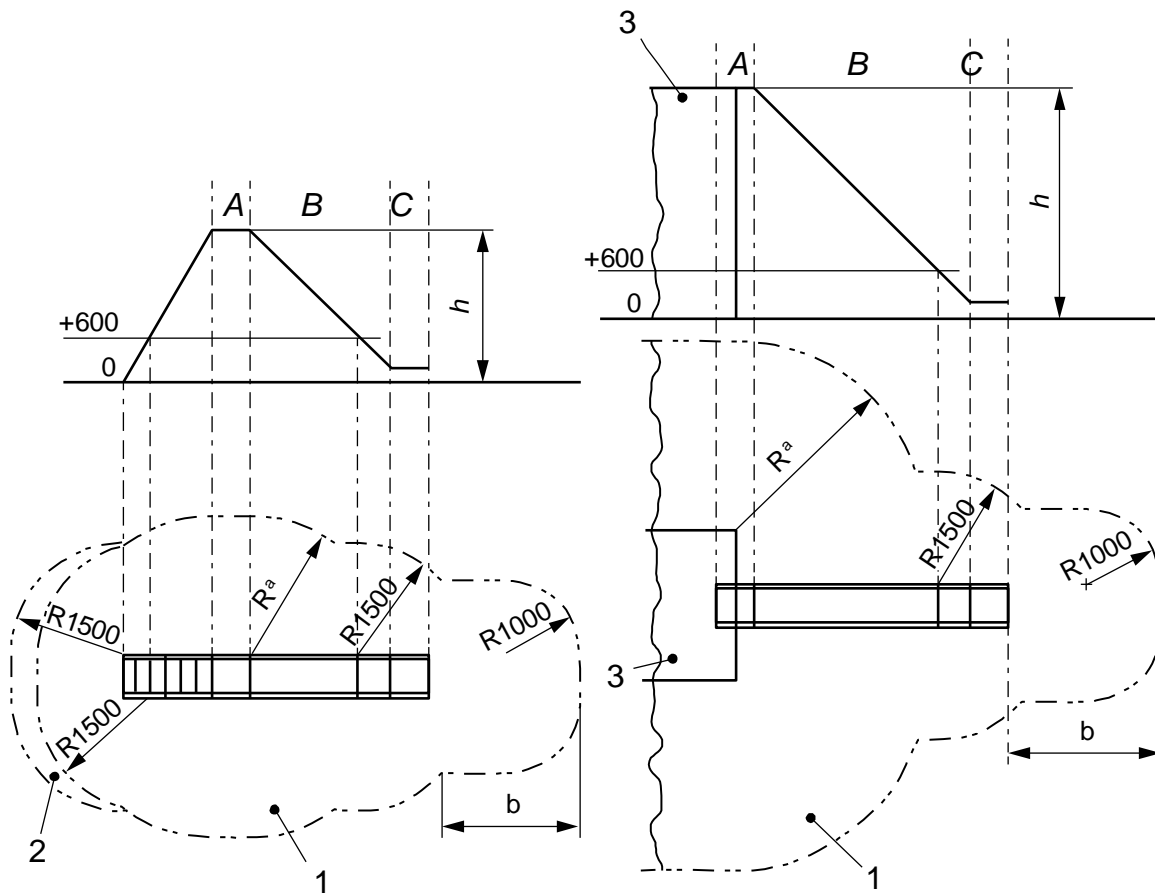
Impact areas (fall zones)

Slide impact areas must comply with the requirements of AS4685, that is, slides between 600mm and 1500mm above the adjacent falling surface have a minimum impact area of 1500mm on all sides, and thereafter tapering to 2500mm for slides 3000mm high.

In addition, the impact area extends a minimum of at least 1000 mm to the sides of the run-out section, and at least 2000 mm beyond the required run-out section for most types of slides (may be less with a long run-out).

The surface around the run-out section must have a critical fall height of at least 1000 mm (this relates to the impact absorbing qualities of the under surfacing, which is mainly relevant to synthetic surfaces only).

Detailed requirements for slide impact areas are shown in the diagram below.



a) Freestanding slide

b) Attachment slide

Key

- A starting section
- B sliding section
- C run-out section
- 1 impact area
- 2 impact area surface with no test requirement
- 3 play structure
- h free height of fall
- a depending on free height of fall
- b depending on the type of run-out section

Height of the run out section

The height of the end of the run-out section above the ground must be:

- (a) For slides where the length of the sliding zone is less than 1500 mm, no greater than 200 mm.
- (b) For slides where the length of the sliding zone is 1500 mm or greater, no greater than 350 mm.