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## **SWINGS AS PER AUSTRALIAN STANDARD AS4685**

### **FRAMEWORK**

Swings with more than two seats shall be divided by construction parts into bays so that there are no more than two seats per bay. This requirement is intended to discourage children from crossing the path of swings in use.

The circulation space at the side of swings shall extend to the supporting frame or the outer edge of the fall zone, whichever is further from the swing seat. In the direction of travel, the circulation space shall extend to the end of the fall zone.

Swing frames or their top bar should only be attached to other equipment where specific measures are taken to segregate them from other activities, e.g. allowance of an additional 1.5 m circulation space, barriers or enclosures.

If swing frames or their top bars are attached to other equipment the design shall incorporate engineering measures to ensure that no unintended access to the swing frames or their top bars is created.

### **GROUND CLEARANCE**

The minimum ground clearance at rest position shall be 350mm except for tyre swing seats where the minimum ground clearance at rest shall be 400mm and for Supervised Early Childhood centres where the minimum ground clearance shall be 300mm.

### **SIZE OF FALL ZONE FOR SWINGS**

All swings need to have impact absorbing material on the fall zone area.

The fall zone will be 1.75m from the point of extension of the swing seat front and back for all swings in Supervised Early Childhood settings. In other words, if you pull the swing out as far as you can and add 1.75m then this is the fall zone required. Fall zones of swings are not permitted to overlap. There shall be no hard edging within the fall zone.

There is no fall zone required outside the swing posts, however there should be 1.75m either side of the central point of the swing seat that has undersurfacing on the ground. This will generally allow a reduced fall zone for swings at the side of the swing.

If swings are not self aligning, reduced fall zones should not be applied.

### **WIDTH OF SEATS**

For Supervised Early Childhood settings that width of flat seats shall be a minimum of 300mm. For all other settings the minimum width of flat seats shall be 400mm. The width of cradle seats and toddler seats shall be a minimum of 300mm.

Where flexible swing seats are used, their width for the purposes of calculating swing separations shall be deemed to be 300 mm for supervised early a childhood settings, and 400 mm for all other settings.

Given that there is no particular injury issue associated with the structure issues related to swings, items which conform with the old Standard which are currently installed will not cause you any difficulty.

Please note that Standards are not retrospective, and therefore if your swings conformed with the old Standard AS/NZS 1924 Part 1, then they are not unsafe; however, remember that in the hierarchy of decision-making, if the appropriate authority (eg. Local Council, Department of Human Services, Education Department in Victoria) decides that play equipment will conform with the new Standard AS4685, then it is a requirement for services to do so, if not immediately then over time.

The benefit of the new Standard when installing new swings is that you can have a smaller fall zone area which will be of benefit if you operate in a small space.