

AS 4685.1:2021



STANDARDS  
Australia



# Playground equipment and surfacing

## Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods (EN 1176-1:2017, MOD)

*This national standard is the adoption of EN 1176-1:2017 with national modifications as set out in the Appendix ZZ to take account of Australian conditions, with the permission of the European Committee for Standardization — CEN, Rue de la Science 23, B — 1040 Brussels, Belgium.*



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The following are represented on Committee CS-005:

- Association of Rotational Moulders Australasia
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service
- Consumers' Federation of Australia
- Early Childhood Australia
- Engineers Australia
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia
- Kidsafe Australia
- National Association of Testing Authorities Australia
- Occupational Therapy Australia
- Play Australia
- Scouts Australia
- Sports and Play Industry Association
- University of Sydney

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## Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods (EN 1176-1:2017, MOD)

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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS-005, Playground Equipment, to supersede AS 4685.1:2014, *Playground equipment and surfacing, Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods (EN 1176-1:2008, MOD)*.

If a Standard is referenced in legislation, the legislative instrument or regulation specifies the date on which the Standard or Amendment comes into effect. Regulatory Authorities have indicated 12 months as an appropriate transition period from the date of publication for the application of this Standard. Refer to the relevant regulatory authority for further information.

The objective of this document is to specify general safety requirements for permanently installed public playground equipment and surfacing. Additional safety requirements for specific pieces of playground equipment are specified in subsequent parts of this document.

This document also specifies the requirements that will protect the child from hazards that they might be unable to foresee when using the equipment as intended, or in a manner that can be reasonably anticipated.

This document covers playground equipment for all children. It has been prepared with full recognition of the need for supervision of young children and of less able or less competent children.

The purpose of this document is to ensure a proper level of safety when playing in, on or around playground equipment, and at the same time to promote activities and features known to benefit children because they provide valuable experiences that will enable them to cope with situations outside the playground.

This document is applicable to playground equipment intended for individual and collective use by children. It is also applicable to equipment and units installed as children's playground equipment although they are not manufactured as such, but exclude those items defined as toys in EN 71 and the European Toys Safety Directive.

This document is not applicable to adventure playgrounds with the exception of those items which have been commercially sourced.

**NOTE** Adventure playgrounds are fenced, secured playgrounds, run and staffed in accordance with the widely accepted principles that encourage children's development and often use self-built equipment.

The use of electricity in play equipment, either as a play activity or as a motive force, is outside the scope of this document. The attention of users is drawn to local national standards and regulations which are to be complied with when using electricity.

Play equipment placed in water and where water can be seen as impact attenuating surfacing is not fully covered by this document and additional risks are associated with wet environments.

This document does not cover the risk of exposure to excessive levels of UV radiation.

This document is an adoption with national modifications, and has been reproduced from, EN 1176-1:2017, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods*. The modifications are additional requirements and are set out in [Appendix ZZ](#), which has been added at the end of the source text.

[Appendix ZZ](#) lists the variations to EN 1176-1:2017 for the application of this document in Australia.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (a) In the source text “this part of EN 1176” should read “this document”.
- (b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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