

Main Changes

Australian Standards for Playgrounds

AS 4422 and AS 4685.0



November 2017

Standards Australia published 2 new Standards for playgrounds ie:

- *AS 4422:2016 Playground surfacing— Specifications, requirements and test method* (replaces AS/NZ 4422)
- *AS 4685:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation* (replaces AS/NZS 4486)



Main Changes and Inclusions: AS 4422:2016 - Playground surfacing

IMPORTANT: This part of the Standard applies from the date of publication, 23 November 2016, unlike previous Standards.

I) Definitions

Includes several definitions from AS 4685 Part 1 and introduces 2 new definitions ie:

- Impact attenuating surfacing (IAS)
- Unitary surface

II) Testing

- Changes to testing for various materials
- New requirements for test reports for onsite and laboratory testing.



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Main Changes and Inclusions:

AS 4685:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

IMPORTANT: This part of the Standard applies from the date of publication, 30 August 2017, unlike previous Standards.

1. General

Some states require structural engineering certification.

Plant selection refers to avoiding plants with foliage and flowers and seeds that present choking hazards.

2. Definitions

Includes several definitions from Part 1 and introduces new definitions ie:

- Nature play
- Risk assessment
- Risk benefit assessment

3. Surfacing

Recommends eliminating or minimizing trip hazards, protrusion hazards, toxic products and inhalation hazards.

- 3a. (New) Testing of unitary surfacing required post installation and every three (3) years.
- 3b. (New) Loose-fill mulch installed at 300mm depth and maintained not less than 200mm in depth.

4. Site Selection

Introduces clause for nature play. This clause recommends risk assessment to determine suitability of nature play elements in the playground.

5. Safety Management System

Introduces clause for risk benefit assessments to take into account:

- Context of the playground
- Purpose
- Likely users, and
- Need for benefit assessment procedures instead of standard risk removal

- 5a. Requirements for record keeping.

6. Inspection

Introduces comprehensive post installation inspection (includes testing of surfacing).

7. New Appendices

- Risk assessment matrix
- Loose-fill (playground surfacing) examples

