Playground Equipment

Do Schools need to comply?

Yes - if your school has playground equipment.

Conditions of compliance:

A school has a duty of care obligation to ensure that its existing playground equipment is safe for student use, that new equipment meets standards of construction that are current at the time of construction and that the equipment is maintained in a safe condition.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

A school has duty of care obligations that are generally regarded as including the design, installation and maintenance of the school’s playgrounds. A school that complied with the relevant Australian Standards for design and installation would normally be regarded as having met its obligations in this area. Schools may be able to meet duty of care obligations through using other means.

The relevant Australian Standards are listed below:

- **AS 4685.1:2014**  Playground equipment and surfacing - General safety requirements and test methods
- **AS 4685.2:2014**  Playground equipment and surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for swings
- **AS 4685.3:2014**  Playground equipment and surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for slides
- **AS 4685.4:2014**  Playground equipment and surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for cableways
- **AS 4685.5:2014**  Playground equipment and surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for carousels
- **AS 4685.6:2014**  Playground equipment and surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment
- **AS/NZS 4422:1996**  Playground surfacing - Specifications, requirements and test method
- **AS/NZS 4486.1:1997**  Playgrounds and playground equipment - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation
- **AS 1428.3:1992**  Design for access and mobility - Requirements for children and adolescents with physical disabilities

Suppliers should provide written confirmation that the playground equipment and its installation meet the requirements of the Australian Standards.

All playground equipment should be inspected regularly according to the school’s Inspection Schedule for Playground Equipment and repairs and maintenance acted upon in accordance with the
Playground Equipment

school's maintenance provision. Particular attention needs to be given to the surface beneath and around the playground equipment.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

You may be in breach of your duty of care if a student at your school is injured while playing on playground equipment and it is found that the equipment does not comply with Australian design standards or it has not been regularly inspected and maintained.

Useful links:

SAI Global - to purchase standards
DECS - Playgrounds factsheet