

IMPACT AREAS

Playground injuries most frequently occur when a child falls from play equipment onto a hard surface. Providing tested playground surfacing and reducing the height of equipment will help to reduce the severity of injuries.

Tested playground surfacing is required under and surrounding play equipment with fall heights greater than 600mm above ground level. These surfaces must have proof of testing in accordance with AS 4422.



Impact Areas required by AS 4685:2014

AS 4685:2014 presents a graded system of impact areas for specific free height of fall, for playground equipment. The extent of the impact area is measured from a point directly below the elevated part of the equipment where the equipment measures 600mm or more above surface level. The required impact area varies depending on specific equipment e.g. swings; and the setting in which the equipment is used e.g. supervised early childhood settings or schools and public settings.

When purchasing new equipment the impact area can be determined by the manufacturer in accordance with AS 4685:2014. Request and retain *written* confirmation of this from the manufacturer to eliminate potential issues with playground inspections.

Varying impact areas apply for each other type of moving equipment such as swings, rocking equipment (e.g. spring rockers, see saws), runways and carousels.

Note: the impact area for swings and carousels may not overlap with impact areas for other equipment items.

Impact Areas for Swings

AS 4685:2014 allows for a reduction in the amount of certified surfacing required for swings that are self-aligning. Contact Kidsafe TAS for further information.

Impact Areas for Cableways

A minimum 2000mm impact area shall be provided to each lateral side of the runway cable. In addition, a minimum 2000mm impact area is required beyond the end of the maximum swinging position of the grip or seat.

Impact Areas for Rocking Equipment

AS 4685:2014 has different impact areas required for specific types of rocking equipment. Contact Kidsafe TAS for further information.

Impact Areas for Carousels

AS 4685:2014 has different impact areas required for specific types of carousels. Contact Kidsafe TAS for further information.

Impact Areas for Slides

Impact areas are required to be provided surrounding slides elevated more than 600mm above playing surface in accordance with AS 4685:2014. In addition, a run out section impact area filled with certified surfacing is required to be provided from the end of the slide.

Impact Areas for Mobile Equipment

Kidsafe TAS recommends that a minimum impact area of 1500mm be provided surrounding mobile equipment items measuring more than 600mm above playing surface.

