



# CONSULTING COORDINATION Pty Ltd

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CD:wp

Aust Standards

Megatoy Play Systems  
Production Avenue  
BUNDABERG QLD 4

Attention: Michael Vella

Dear Michael

**RE: AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
OUTDOOR FITNESS/GYM/EXERCISE EQUIPMENT INSTALLATIONS**

In the absence of a separate Standard for Outdoor Fitness, Gym and Exercise Equipment, the advice that we have received from two separate legal sources is:

“outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment provided for use by both adults and/or children when installed in public space or a school with public access falls under the definition and jurisdiction of the Australian Playground Standards AS4685:2004 Parts 1 to 6, AS/NZS4422:1996 and AS/NZS4486.1:1997”

It has been reported elsewhere that the AS4685 Standard was amended to specifically exclude outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment. This is not the case and the proposed amendment was rejected by the Standards committee.

Outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment for use by both adults and/or children therefore will require a determination of compliance with the Australian Playground Standards for entrapment and the like and the provision of information for fall height and fall zones so that it is installed with impact attenuating surfacing.

This situation is no different to that for outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment supplied under EN Standards and perusal of technical documentation for European manufactured equipment details fall heights and fall zones. It is of course necessary to have the fall heights and fall zones of imported European equipment re-assessed to suit the peculiarities of the Australian Play Equipment Standards. The same re-assessment is required for outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment certified to compliance with ASTM Standards that is imported.

A local authority or other owner of outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment installed without regard for Playground Standards requirements, especially entrapment, fall height, fall zones and impact attenuating surfacing, risks the potential for a liability and negligence claim in the event of an injury. A local authority or other owner of outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment should obtain their own legal advice in relation to this issue and its potential consequences.

## **AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR FITNESS/GYM/EXERCISE EQUIPMENT INSTALLATIONS**

A local authority considering the purchase of outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment should enquire of potential suppliers to ensure compliance of the equipment to the Australian Playground Standards and request a certificate of compliance prior to ordering equipment in accordance with cl 3.1.2 (h) of AS4685.1:2004. (As amended in October 2006 and April 2008)

The certification compliance of outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment for use by both adults and/or children with the Australian Playground Standards has a very positive benefit aside from reducing the risk and liability potential for an equipment owner.

Outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment for use by both adults and/or children that has been certified for compliance with the Australian Playground Standards can be installed in close proximity to playground equipment or even in the same play area providing the usual provisions for fall zones, forced movement situations, impact attenuating surfacing and safe access to equipment as detailed in the Standards are adhered to.

This dual use of space will allow for parents, grandparents and carers to supervise their children on the play equipment while they themselves are deriving a benefit from the use of the outdoor gym/fitness/exercise equipment.

Consulting Coordination Pty Ltd is the 'Quality Inspection Services' Provider for Queensland State Government Departments and Local Government Councils under Local Buy Contract No BUS 172-0808 Parks and Facilities.

Should you require any further clarification or discussion on this matter in particular or playground equipment in general please contact Clive Dodd on 07 5514 8700 or 0418 751402.

Yours faithfully,



**CONSULTING COORDINATION**

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