



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

Product safety

Moveable soccer goals

Supplier guide





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Moveable soccer goals

What is this guide about?

Under the Australian Consumer Law (ACL), mandatory consumer product safety standards are introduced when considered reasonably necessary to prevent or reduce the risk of injury to a person. This guide provides a summary of the requirements for the supply of moveable soccer goals.

A full list of mandatory standards and bans is available from pages 10–12.

Who should read this guide?

Suppliers of moveable soccer goals should read this guide to familiarise themselves with the hazards and the mandatory requirements for these products.

What are moveable soccer goals?

The mandatory standard applies to freestanding moveable soccer goals that weigh 28 kg or more.

A moveable soccer goal is designed for movement to various locations for use by adults or children as a goal and has:

- at least two upright posts
- two side ground bars
- a rear ground bar
- a crossbar and support bars.

This mandatory standard does not apply to permanent or semi-permanent soccer goals. Goals are considered permanent or semi-permanent if the upright posts are designed to be fixed to or fitted into the ground.

What are the hazards?

Serious injury and death

At least 40 people around the world have died when a moveable soccer goal has overbalanced and fallen, striking the person.

Seven children in Australia, mostly under 15 years old, have died and at least one has suffered paraplegic injury after attempting to climb or swing from the crossbar. In most incidents, the moveable soccer goal was anchored inappropriately or not anchored at all, causing it to accidentally tip onto the victim.



Blunt force and trauma to the head, neck, chest and limbs from moveable soccer goals can occur due to:

- instability of the goals
- goals with inadequate anchoring
- inappropriate or ineffective installation
- goals becoming unanchored
- inappropriate use, such as swinging on goalposts or crossbars.

Moveable soccer goals present a serious risk if they are poorly designed, manufactured and/or installed.

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for moveable soccer goals is based on Australian Standard AS4866.1-2007, *Playing field equipment – Soccer goals – Safety aspects*, published by Standards Australia on 23 November 2007, with variations outlined in Consumer Protection Notice No. 28 of 2010.

AS4866 is a voluntary standard, except for those sections specifically called up by the consumer protection notice. It is important to note that the sections of AS4866 called up by the consumer protection notice may also be varied by the notice. For this reason it is important to read both the notice **and** AS4866.

This mandatory standard came into effect on 31 December 2010 and has replaced the mandatory standards or bans that applied to moveable soccer goals in:

- New South Wales
- Western Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Queensland.

Meeting mandatory requirements

To comply with the mandatory standard for moveable soccer goals, you and your business must meet all the requirements for design, testing and labelling.

The following are some key requirements of the mandatory standard.

Design

Moveable soccer goals must have:

- two side ground bars and a rear ground bar
- an effective ground anchor system with at least one anchor point on each side of the rear ground bar and instructions on the use of the system.

Testing

Static load

Determine whether the soccer goal is regulated by the mandatory standard:

- Position the goal so that the distance between the crossbar and the field surface is 0.3 m and the mid-point of the crossbar is resting on a weighing scale with an appropriate support to achieve the height required.
- Determine the static load. If this is less than 28 kg, the moveable soccer goal is not regulated. If the goal is 28 kg or more, it must meet the mandatory standard.

Stability

A moveable soccer goal must not fall over or fail to return to its original position when subject to the following testing procedure:

1. Install the goal according to the manufacturer's instructions on a horizontal surface using the recommended minimum ground anchors.
2. Apply a pull force of 1100 N to the centre of the crossbar for no less than 60 seconds in a direction that is horizontal, perpendicular to the crossbar, heading outwards from the goal opening.
3. Determine whether the unit falls over or fails to return to its original position.

Labelling

Moveable soccer goals must have the following warning permanently marked clearly and legibly:

“WARNING—ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL—NEVER CLIMB OR HANG ON CROSSBAR.
Unanchored goals can tip over causing serious injury or death.”

The warning labels must be placed on the goal in three positions:

- the underside of the crossbar
- the outside of both goal upright posts.

The words in the warning must be permanently marked clearly and legibly and be written in:

- upper case letters at least 25 mm high
- lower case letters at least 12.5 mm high.

**WARNING—ALWAYS ANCHOR
GOAL—NEVER CLIMB OR HANG
ON CROSSBAR**

**Unanchored goals can
tip over causing serious
injury or death**

Your responsibilities as a supplier

As a supplier, you are legally responsible for ensuring that the moveable soccer goals you supply meet the mandatory safety standard requirements, which are enforceable by law. Failure to comply can result in legal action, penalties and/or recalls.

All suppliers are equally responsible for ensuring that products they supply meet the mandatory standard.

To do this, we strongly advise you to take the following steps:

- Read requirements specified in the consumer protection notice printed in this guide.
- Have systems in place to visually check these products to ensure they comply with the requirements of this mandatory standard.
- Where necessary, use reports from reliable, independent testing laboratories to verify compliance.
- Register to receive automatic email updates from the Product Safety Australia website (www.productsafety.gov.au) to help ensure you are aware of the latest product safety information.

Consumer Protection Notice No. 28 of 2010

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Trade Practices Act 1974

Consumer Protection Notice No. 28 of 2010

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD – MOVABLE SOCCER GOALS

I, David Bradbury, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, pursuant to subsection 65E (1) of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and for the purposes of section 65C of that Act, hereby;

REVOKE the Consumer Product Safety Standard – Movable Soccer Goals declared in *Consumer Protection Notice No. 23 of 2010* and registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments on 7 July; and

DECLARE that after 30 December 2010 the consumer product safety standard for movable soccer goals that weigh 28 kg or more is the standard approved by Standards Australia specified in Division 1 of the Schedule, as varied by Division 2 of the Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

Division 1: The Standard

Australian Standard AS 4866.1-2007 *Playing field equipment - Soccer goals - Safety aspects*, published by Standards Australia on 23 November 2007.

Division 2: Variations

AS 4866.1-2007 is varied by

- (i) In clause 1 deleting the words "and indoor arenas";
- (ii) Deleting clause 3;
- (iii) Deleting clauses 5.1, 5.2, 5.3(a), 5.3(b), 5.3(c) and 5.3(d);
- (iv) Deleting the text of clause 5.3(f) and replacing with the following:
"Goals shall be provided with an effective ground anchor system and instructions on the use of the system. At least one anchor point shall be provided at each side of the rear ground bar.";
- (v) Deleting Figure 2
- (vi) Deleting clauses 5.4 and 5.5;
- (vii) In clause 5.6.1(a) deleting the words "produce an impact force of less than 200 N when tested in accordance with Clause 6.1(a), and";
- (viii) Deleting clause 5.6.1(b);
- (ix) Deleting clauses 5.6.2, 5.6.3 and 5.7;
- (x) Deleting clauses 6.1(a), 6.1(c) and 6.2;
- (xi) Modifying clause 6.3.1(a) by deleting the words "without pegs, stakes or other forms of temporary anchoring device" and replacing with the words "using the recommended minimum ground anchors";

- (xii) Modifying clause 6.3.1(b) by deleting the word "2000 N" and replacing with "1100 N";
- (xiii) Deleting clauses 6.3.2, 7 and 8;
- (xiv) Delete clause 9 and replace with the following:
"9 WARNING LABELS
Movable soccer goals must have the following warning permanently marked clearly and legibly with upper case letters at least 25 millimetres high and lower case letters at least 12.5 millimetres high:

"WARNING—ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL—NEVER CLIMB OR HANG ON CROSSBAR. Unanchored goals can tip over causing serious injury or death."

The warning labels shall be placed in three positions on the goal - on the underside of the crossbar and the outside of both goal upright posts.";
- (xv) In the examples provided in Figure 4, deleting "Unsecured goal" and replacing it with "Unanchored goals"; and
- (xvi) Deleting clauses 10, and 11.

Dated this 16th day of November 2010

DAVID BRADBURY
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

Role of the ACCC

To minimise the risk of injury associated with consumer products, the ACCC undertakes a variety of activities:

- consulting with suppliers and other agencies to identify non-compliant goods
- developing mandatory safety and information standards, when necessary
- informing and educating suppliers about emerging hazards and requirements of mandatory standards or bans
- liaising with suppliers to assist them in understanding how to comply with the standards or bans
- promoting benefits of compliance with mandatory safety standards or bans
- assessing overall levels of marketplace compliance with mandatory safety standards or bans
- informing and educating consumers to choose only compliant products, report suppliers of non-compliant goods to the ACCC and always use products safely
- conducting compliance surveys or inspections to detect non-complying products
- investigating allegations from consumers and suppliers about supply of non-compliant products
- investigating possible breaches found during compliance surveys or inspections
- seeking the immediate withdrawal of non-compliant or unsafe products from sale
- seeking the recall of non-compliant or unsafe products from the market
- taking action against suppliers including:
 - substantiation, infringement or public warning notices
 - court enforceable undertakings, injunctions and various other court orders
 - damages, compensation orders, disqualification orders and civil penalties
 - adverse publicity orders or requirements for corrective advertising
 - prosecutions resulting in criminal sanctions (fines).

Product liability

Parts 3–5 of the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) (which forms Schedule 2 to the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*) contain provisions on product liability. Under these provisions, consumers can seek compensation or damages for personal injury or other loss caused by a safety defect in products supplied by a manufacturer.

Goods with a safety defect are those that are not as safe as what people are generally entitled to expect.

Generally the manufacturers or importers of products are liable under Parts 3–5 of the ACL. But if other suppliers, such as retailers, cannot identify the manufacturer or importer, they may be deemed liable for the damages.

Suppliers may reduce their exposure to product liability action by using these responsible and sensible business practices:

- conducting regular reviews of product designs and production
- implementing and reviewing quality assurance procedures
- testing products regularly to relevant standards, including batch testing
- conducting appropriate marketing
- providing clear and thorough user instructions
- where necessary, conducting a quick voluntary recall of any products that are defective or unsafe.

Mandatory standards and bans

The following mandatory standards and bans apply nationally under the ACL.

Mandatory standards

- Aquatic toys
- Babies' dummies
- Baby bath aids
- Baby walkers
- Balloon-blowing kits
- Basketball rings and backboards
- Bean bags
- Bicycle helmets
- Bunk beds

- Care labelling—clothing and textile products
- Child restraints for motor vehicles
- Children’s household cots
- Children’s nightwear and paper patterns for children’s nightwear
- Children’s portable folding cots
- Children’s projectile toys
- Children’s toys containing magnets
- Corded internal window coverings
- Cosmetics and toiletries—ingredient labelling
- Disposable cigarette lighters
- Elastic luggage straps
- Exercise cycles
- Hot water bottles
- Lead and certain elements in children’s toys
- Motor vehicle recovery straps
- Moveable soccer goals
- Pedal bicycles
- Portable fire extinguishers (aerosol type)
- Portable fire extinguishers (non-aerosol type)
- Portable ramps for motor vehicles
- Prams and strollers
- Protective helmets for motorcyclists
- Reduced fire risk cigarettes
- Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- Swimming aids and flotation aids for water familiarisation and swimming tuition
- Tobacco labelling
- Toys for children under, up to and including 36 months of age
- Treadmills
- Trolley jacks
- Vehicle jacks
- Vehicle support stands.

Interim bans

Interim bans may be made by the state, territory or Commonwealth Minister. Their duration may be 60–120 days. Check the Product Safety Australia website (www.productsafety.gov.au) for details of any interim bans.

Permanent bans

- Candles with lead wicks
- Children's plastic products with more than 1 per cent DEHP
- Children's stationery sets containing undeclared knives or cutters with a metal blade
- Combustible candle holders
- Fire footbags and other such goods
- Gas masks with asbestos breathing devices
- Glucomannan in tablet form
- Inflatable toys, novelties and furniture containing beads
- Jelly cups containing konjac
- Miniature motorbikes (monkey bikes) with unsafe design features
- No hole tongue studs
- Novelty cigarettes
- Pools and spas with unsafe design features
- Sky lanterns
- Smokeless tobacco products
- Tinted headlight covers
- Toothpaste containing Diethylene glycol (DEG)
- Toy-like novelty cigarette lighters
- Yo Yo water balls

Penalties

Supplying products that do not comply with a mandatory standard or ban is an offence under the ACL. Maximum fines for non-compliance are:

- \$500 000 for individuals.

For a body corporate, the greater of:

- \$10 000 000
- three times the value of the benefit received, or
- 10% of annual turnover in the preceding 12 months, if a court cannot determine the benefit obtained from the offence.

More information

For the latest information on bans, standards and recalls, visit www.productsafety.gov.au.

Key terms used in this guide

Below is a list of key terms that have been used in this guide.

Australian Consumer Law (ACL) The ACL replaces previous Commonwealth, state and territory consumer protection legislation in fair trading acts. It is contained in a schedule to the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, which has been renamed the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA)*.

Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) The *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (formerly the *Trade Practices Act 1974*) deals with almost all aspects of the marketplace: the relationships between suppliers, wholesalers, retailers, competitors and customers. It covers anti-competitive conduct, unfair market practices, industry codes, mergers and acquisitions of companies, product safety, product labelling, price monitoring, and the regulation of industries such as telecommunications, gas, electricity and airports.

consumer protection notice A consumer protection notice is a notice that declares a particular standard prepared by Standards Australia (or other approved body), with any additions or variations specified in the notice, to be a prescribed standard.

mandatory consumer product safety standard The Commonwealth Minister can prescribe compulsory safety standards for consumer goods and product related services. Suppliers must not supply goods or services that do not comply with a safety standard for goods of that kind.

Safety standards require goods to comply with particular performance, composition, content, design, construction, finish, labelling or packaging rules.

Visit www.productsafety.gov.au and state and territory government websites for lists of products that mandatory safety standards currently apply to in Australia.

Many mandatory standards are based on Australian voluntary standards published by SAI Global.



permanent soccer goals	Any goal fixed by concrete or other material to the ground, with or without net supports.
semi-permanent soccer goals	Any goal designed to be inserted into a ground sleeve so that it can be taken from the field during the off-season.
supplier	Anyone in the business of selling, exchanging, leasing, hiring or hire-purchasing of goods or provision, granting or conferring of services.
supply	Selling, exchanging, leasing, hiring or hire-purchasing of goods or provision, granting or conferring of services.

Contacts

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Product safety

For more information about mandatory standards, bans, recalls and emerging issues—and to subscribe to email alerts and RSS feeds—visit our websites:

www.productsafety.gov.au

www.recalls.gov.au

You can also follow us on Twitter: @ProductSafetyAU

ACCC Infocentre: 1300 302 502

Callers who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact us through the National Relay Service: www.relayservice.com.au

Voice-only (speak and listen) users phone: 1300 555 727 and ask for 1300 302 502

SAI Global

To obtain copies of Australian/New Zealand standards, contact SAI Global on 131 242 or visit the SAI Global website at www.saiglobal.com/shop.

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