



Product safety

Trolley jacks

Supplier guide



Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
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Contents

Trolley jacks	2
What is this guide about?	2
Who should read this guide?	2
What are trolley jacks?	2
What are the hazards?	2
Mandatory standard	3
Meeting mandatory requirements	4
Design and construction	4
Performance	5
Testing	5
Safety markings	5
Instructions	7
Your responsibilities as a supplier	8
Information for retailers	8
Consumer guarantees	9
Consumer Protection Notice No. 10 of 2008	10
Role of the ACCC	12
Product liability	13
Mandatory standards and bans	14
Mandatory standards	14
Interim bans	15
Permanent bans	15
Penalties	16
More information	16
Key terms used in this guide	17
Contacts	19

Trolley jacks

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 trolley jacks.

A full list of mandatory standards and bans is available on pages 14–16.

Who should read this guide?

Suppliers of trolley jacks should read this guide to familiarise themselves with the hazards and the mandatory requirements for this product.

What are trolley jacks?

The mandatory standard applies to devices designed to raise part of a vehicle via the vehicle's chassis. It does not apply to devices designed to raise entire vehicles.

Trolley jacks usually come with:

- wheels for manoeuvring the trolley jack
- a handle for positioning the trolley jack under the vehicle and for pumping the hydraulic cylinders
- hydraulic cylinders for lifting the vehicle.

Note: There is a separate mandatory standard for vehicle jacks, which are used to change tyres on vehicles. The mandatory standard for vehicle jacks is based on AS/NZS 2693 *Vehicle jacks*, with variations and additions made by Consumer Protection Notice No. 1 of 2010.

What are the hazards?

Death or serious injury

Using unsafe trolley jacks, or using trolley jacks unsafely, can lead to serious injuries and, in some cases, death.

Each year in Australia around 160 injuries are associated with jacks, including amputations, fractures and crush injuries. Over the past decade, at least 46 Australians have been crushed and killed when working under a vehicle. Most of the deaths involved the vehicle being lifted or supported in the wrong way.

Mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for trolley jacks is based on some parts of AS/NZS 2615 *Hydraulic trolley jacks*, with variations and additions made by Consumer Protection Notice No. 10 of 2008.

AS/NZS 2615 is a voluntary Australian standard, except for those sections specifically called up by the consumer protection notice. It is important to note that the sections of AS/NZS 2615 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** AS/NZS 2615 together.

The mandatory standard applies to hydraulic trolley jacks with a nominated capacity of up to and including 2500 kg (or 2.5 tonnes). It does not apply to devices that are designed to raise entire vehicles.

Meeting mandatory requirements

To comply with the mandatory standard for trolley jacks, the trolley jacks that you supply or manufacture for the purpose of supply must meet all the requirements for design and construction, performance, testing, safety markings and instructions.

The following are some key requirements of the mandatory standard.

Design and construction

Materials

All materials used in the construction of the trolley jack must have properties to withstand a range of forces when tested in accordance with AS/NZS 2615:2004.

Protective coating

Except for mating surfaces or sliding parts, the trolley jack must have a suitable corrosion protective coating.

Head cap

The head cap is the part of the trolley jack that makes contact with the vehicle. The head cap must be free to rotate about a vertical axis and be capable of retaining a horizontal cylindrical bar of 100 mm diameter.

Overload protection

The trolley jack must include a means of overload protection so that it cannot lift a load of 15 per cent more than its nominated capacity.

Prevention of overtravel

Overtravel is when the trolley jack goes higher than the height it is designed to achieve. The trolley jack must include a positive stop to prevent overtravel of the head cap. Alternatively, the trolley jack must be designed so that overtravel is prevented.

Minimum capacity

The nominated capacity of the trolley jack must not be less than 750 kg.

Performance

Durability

The trolley jack must not fail or become unserviceable when subjected to a durability trial.

Loss of height under load

The trolley jack must not lose more than 5 per cent of its height when subjected to a specified load. Also, after 30 minutes, the loss of height must not exceed 5 millimetres.

Lowering

The trolley jack must provide a controlled lowering mechanism that can be activated by the operator. The operator must be able to use the trolley jack to control the descent of the load without hazard to the operator or damage to the trolley jack.

Overload capacity

The trolley jack must be able to hold a load in excess of its nominated capacity without collapsing, becoming unstable or losing more than 5 per cent of its height.

Eccentric load test

When subjected to an eccentrically applied load (i.e. a load applied off-centre or to the side of the head cap), a trolley jack must not collapse, become unstable, or lose more than 5 per cent of its height.

Testing

The mandatory standard specifies testing to ensure trolley jacks meet requirements such as design, construction, performance, markings and instructions for use. Suppliers need to organise this testing through specialist laboratories with the right skills, experience and equipment.

Safety markings

Suppliers must ensure that the hydraulic trolley jacks they supply have the required safety warnings and safe usage instructions. These give users important safety information and provide constant warnings to exercise caution when using a trolley jack.

On the trolley jack

The hydraulic trolley jack must be permanently and legibly marked in English with the following:

- the nominated capacity stated as 'Working Load Limitkg'
- a warning notice bearing the following words in letters not less than 5 mm in height and on a contrasting background:

THE JACK MUST BE USED ONLY ON HARD LEVEL SURFACES AND BE FREE TO ROLL DURING LIFTING AND LOWERING
DO NOT GET UNDER A VEHICLE THAT IS SUPPORTED BY A TROLLEY JACK—USE SUPPORT STANDS

- clear and necessary operating instructions for the trolley jack including the following information:
 - the unlifted wheels of the vehicle should be chocked
 - the load should be centrally located on the head cap
 - no person should remain in a vehicle that is being lifted
 - read the vehicle manufacturer's owner's manual before lifting the vehicle
 - the hydraulic trolley jack should be used for lifting and lowering only
- a statement specifying the correct hydraulic fluid for use with the hydraulic trolley jack and a requirement that it be kept at the recommended level
- name and address in Australia or New Zealand of the manufacturer, importer or other supplier of the hydraulic trolley jack
- the manufacturing batch identification.

On the packaging

The following information must be clearly marked on the packaging of the hydraulic trolley jack:

- the 'height lowered' being the minimum height of the head cap, in millimetres
- the 'height raised' being the maximum height of the head cap, in millimetres
- the nominated capacity as 'Working Load Limitkg'
- if the hydraulic trolley jack requires lubrication before use, then a label or swing label in a contrasting colour must be attached to the handle bearing the words:

THIS HYDRAULIC TROLLEY JACK REQUIRES LUBRICATING PRIOR TO USE.

Instructions

The following instructions must be marked on or supplied with the hydraulic trolley jack.

Maintenance instructions

Maintenance instructions must include any necessary procedures for maintenance, including lubrication requirements and details for servicing the hydraulic system.

Safe usage instructions

Recommendations for safe use of the hydraulic trolley jack, including the following statements or words to the same effect:

- the trolley jack should be used on a hard level surface and be free to roll during lifting and lowering
- the unlifted wheels of the vehicle should be chocked
- the load should be centrally located on the head cap
- no person should remain in a vehicle that is being lifted
- the hydraulic trolley jack should be used for lifting and lowering only
- the raised vehicle should be supported on vehicle support stands
- no person should get bodily under a vehicle supported by a hydraulic trolley jack
- the vehicle manufacturer's owner's manual should be consulted prior to the lifting of the vehicle.

Assembly instructions

Where assembly is required, adequate assembly instructions together with a parts list and an exploded diagram of the trolley jack.

Your responsibilities as a supplier

As a supplier, you are legally responsible for ensuring that new and second hand trolley jacks 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 the 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.

Information for retailers

If you are a retailer, you are responsible for ensuring that the products you supply meet the requirements of mandatory safety standards. To ensure that the trolley jacks you sell or hire comply with the mandatory standard, you should always:

- stipulate that any trolley jacks you order must meet the mandatory standard
- undertake visual checks of delivered stock where possible to check compliance with the requirements of the mandatory standard
- obtain and keep reliable written verification from independent sources that products have been tested to, and meet, the mandatory requirements.

Consumer guarantees

All Australian traders, whether online or running a 'bricks and mortar' operation, must comply with Australian trading laws. Since 1 January 2011 this has included laws on consumer guarantees, which are part of the ACL (which forms Schedule 2 to the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*). The consumer guarantees give consumers the right to a refund if a product is unsafe.

Every business that supplies goods—by selling, leasing or hiring—or services to consumers automatically provides certain guarantees about those goods or services.

Businesses that make goods, put them together or have their name on them also give certain guarantees. Importers give these same guarantees if the maker does not have an office in Australia.

If a consumer has a problem with a good, they are free to approach the seller or manufacturer/importer to obtain a remedy—and you cannot tell them otherwise.

For more information on consumer guarantees, please refer to the publication, *Consumer guarantees—business snapshot*, available on the ACCC website.

It is important to remember that if you don't comply with a consumer guarantee, your customers have a right to take action against you. This is the case even if the problem with the good was caused by the manufacturer.

The consumer guarantees do, however, provide sellers with rights against manufacturers or importers of goods if the seller provides a remedy to a consumer for a problem which was caused by the manufacturer or importer.

Consumer Protection Notice No. 10 of 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Trade Practices Act 1974

Consumer Protection Notice No 10 of 2008

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR TROLLEY JACKS

I, Chris Bowen, Minister for Competition Policy & Consumer Affairs, pursuant to subsection 65E (1) of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and for the purposes of section 65C of that Act, hereby:

- (a) REVOKE the consumer product safety standard for trolley jacks declared by consumer protection notice No 4 of 1997 published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. GN 11 of 19 March 1997;
- (b) DECLARE that in respect of goods of the kind specified in Division 1 of the Schedule to this Notice, the standards approved by Standards Australia specified in Division 2 of the Schedule, as varied by Division 3 of the Schedule, are consumer product safety standards for the purposes of section 65C of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*. The standard at Division 2(a) of the Schedule to this Notice will cease to operate as a consumer product safety standard from 1 August 2009.

THE SCHEDULE

Division 1: Particulars of the goods

Trolley jacks with a nominated capacity up to and including 2.5 tonnes.

Division 2: The Standards

Either:

- (a) Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2615:1995 *Hydraulic Trolley Jacks*, approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 24 August 1995,

Or:

- (b) Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2615:2004 *Hydraulic Trolley Jacks*, approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 7 April 2004.

Division 3: Variations

Standard AS/NZS 2615:1995 is varied by:

- (a) Deleting clause 1 and substituting it with the following clause:

“1 **SCOPE** This Standard specifies requirements for the design, construction, performance and labelling of hydraulic trolley jacks up to and including 2.5 tonnes, designed to lift vehicles. It does not include devices that raise an entire vehicle.

Requirements for vehicle jacks, i.e. jacks in which the load is directly transferred from the head cap to the base, are specified in AS/NZS 2693.”;

- (b) Deleting clause 6.3.

Standard AS/NZS 2615:2004 is varied by:

- (a) Deleting clause 1 and substituting it with the following clause:

“1 **SCOPE**

This Standard specifies requirements for the design, construction, performance and labelling of hydraulic trolley jacks up to and including 2.5 tonnes, designed to lift vehicles. It does not include devices that raise an entire vehicle.

Requirements for vehicle jacks, i.e. jacks in which the load is directly transferred from the head cap to the base, are specified in AS/NZS 2693.”;

- (b) Deleting clause 5.4(a);
(c) Deleting clause 6.3 and substituting it with the following:

“6.3 **Ease of operation**

When the hydraulic trolley jack is tested in accordance with Appendix A and the operating force exceeds 450N, Appendix F shall be used to determine the maximum capacity of the hydraulic trolley jack using a maximum operating force of 450N.”;

- (d) Deleting clause 8(d).

Note: The choice between two consumer product safety standards in this consumer product safety notice is available until 31 July 2009. From 1 August 2009 the standard at Division 2(b) of the Schedule will operate as the only consumer product safety standard in this consumer product safety notice.

Dated this 15th day of August 2008.

Chris Bowen
Minister for Competition Policy & Consumer Affairs

Role of the ACCC

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

- 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
- consulting with suppliers and other agencies to identify non-compliant goods
- promoting benefits of compliance with mandatory standards or bans
- assessing overall levels of marketplace compliance with mandatory 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-compliant 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

Part 3-5 of the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) (which forms Schedule 2 to the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*) contains 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 Part 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

Mandatory standards

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

- Aquatic toys
- Baby bath aids
- Baby dummies
- 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
- Movable 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

- Baby dummies with unsafe decorations
- Baby dummy chains with unsafe decorations
- 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 holes 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.

trolley jack

A device designed to raise part of a vehicle via the vehicle's chassis. A trolley jack usually comes with:

- wheels for manoeuvring the trolley jack
- a handle for positioning the trolley jack under a vehicle and for pumping the hydraulic cylinders
- hydraulic cylinders for lifting the vehicle.

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 for a list of products that mandatory safety standards currently apply to in Australia.

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

supplier

Anyone in the business of selling, exchanging, leasing, hiring or hire-purchasing of goods or provisions, or of granting or conferring of services.

supply

Selling, exchanging, leasing, hiring or hire-purchasing of goods or provisions, or 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

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

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SAI Global

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