

Non-Fixed or Mobile Equipment

The Australian Standard AS 4685:2004 that applies to fixed playground equipment also applies to non-fixed or mobile equipment.

Non-fixed or mobile equipment includes trestles and attachments, portable forts, climbing apparatus and many more.

Non-fixed or mobile equipment must be set up on a level surface for stability.

An unencumbered fall zone as determined by the various fall heights in accordance with AS 4685:2004 is required around the perimeter of equipment with fall heights of 500 mm or more above ground level and between individual items of equipment.

However, for ease of setup and to reduce the severity of injury if a child falls from the equipment, *Kidsafe NSW* recommends that a fall zone of 1900mm for supervised early childhood settings or 2500mm for other settings is applied around and between each piece of equipment that is not linked (AS/NZS 4422:1996). A minimum 2000mm run out section fall zone is required at the end of all slides. See Figure 1 below.

For any equipment with a climbing height greater than 500mm above ground level the equipment



must be set up on a certified surfacing (impact absorbing material). Refer to *Kidsafe NSW* fact sheet titled *Playground Surfacing* for further information.

It is required that certified surfacing fills the fall zone under and around the equipment.

When setting up non-fixed or mobile equipment, ensure that enclosed openings within the range of 89mm – 230 mm at heights of 600 mm or more above ground level or a supporting surface are not present to avoid the possibility of strangulation by head and neck entrapment.

Kidsafe NSW recommends that equipment be limited to a maximum climbing height of 1000mm for children under 3 years of age and 1500mm for children aged 3-5 years.

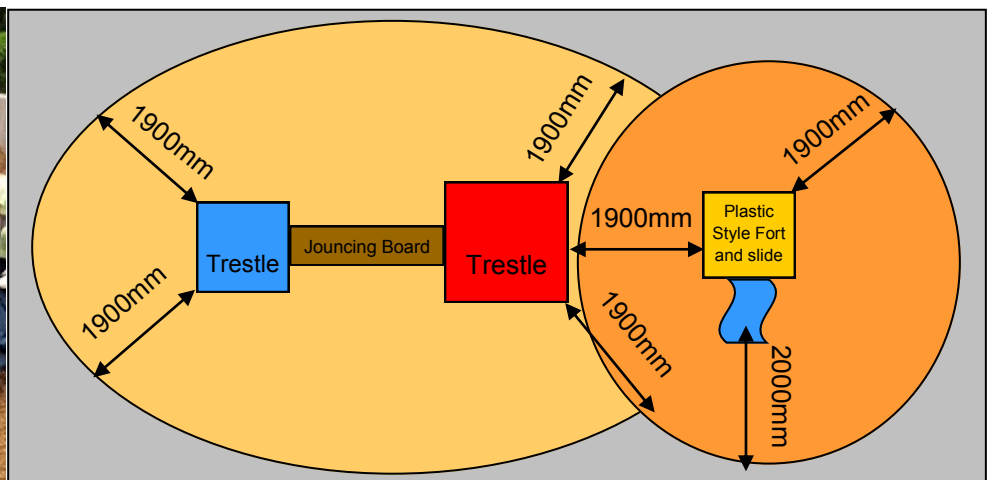


Figure 1—Minimum dimensions of fall zones for supervised early childhood settings as stated in AS/NZS 4422:1996. This figure is not to scale.