

Entrapment

Definition

An entrapment is a hazardous situation where the body (or part of the body) or clothing can become trapped or caught, so that the person is unable to free themselves.

AS 4685.1 Playground equipment and surfacing requires entrapment hazards to be removed or avoided on playground equipment (including moveable play equipment such as trestles and attachments).

When designing, installing or maintaining playground equipment, care must be taken to ensure the following hazards are not created:

Head and neck entrapment

Bound openings (completely closed on all sides) located more than 600mm above playing surface.

Partially bound openings (V or U shaped) located more than 600mm above playing surface and facing upward.

Clothing/hair entrapment

Gaps or V shaped openings on slides, swings, sliding poles and other equipment where clothing/hair can become trapped while, or immediately before, the user is undergoing forced movement.

Whole body entrapment

Openings where the body can be trapped eg. within tunnels and below heavy suspended items.

Foot or leg entrapment

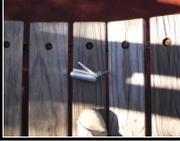
Gaps where a person's foot or leg gets trapped in a path of travel.

Finger entrapment

Openings where fingers can be trapped whilst the remainder of the body is moving or continues in forced movement eg. sliding, swinging, spinning.

Bound openings located more than 1000mm above playing surface.

Chains and items with variable gaps, such as a clatter bridge.

Entrapment Type	Openings to avoid	Image
Head and neck (bound)	89-230mm	
Head and neck (partially bound)	U or V shaped	
Clothing/hair	V shaped around items of forced movement	
Whole body	Refer to AS 4685 for specifics. Contact Kidsafe NSW for information	
Foot or leg	>30mm (across direction of travel)	
Bound finger	8-25mm	
Finger (chains)	≥8.6mm	
Finger (connectors)	8.6-12mm	
Finger (variable gaps)	≤12mm	

Entrapment Identification

A comprehensive playground inspection will identify entrapment hazards using calibrated testing tools with specific test methods. This inspection should be conducted by a qualified inspector post installation and then annually.