Entrapment

Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

September 2018

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 above the horizontal plane.

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.

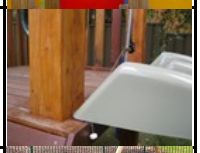
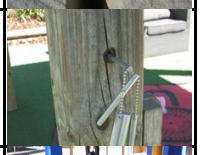
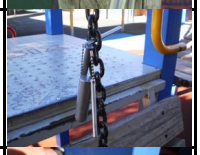
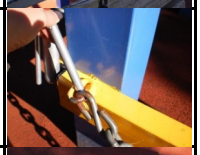
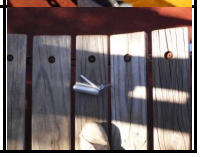
Whole body entrapment
Openings where the body can be trapped within tunnels and below heavy suspended items.

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.

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

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