

Moveable Play Equipment

The Australian Standard AS 4685 Playground Equipment and Surfacing applies to both moveable and fixed play equipment.

Moveable play equipment includes trestles and attachments, portable forts, climbing apparatus and many more play accessories.

The Australian Standard (AS4685) states that the maximum free height of fall for moveable play equipment is 1500mm eg. the highest foot support and/or platform on moveable play equipment is no higher than 1500mm. Moveable play equipment must be set up on a level surface for stability.

A minimal falling space and impact area of 1500mm is required surrounding moveable play equipment items that measure 600mm or more above ground level.

An impact area of 1500mm is required between each piece of equipment that is not linked (AS/NZS 4422). See Figure 1 below.

A tape measure or length of dowel (pre cut to 1500mm as pictured at right) can be used to check the required falling space and impact area.

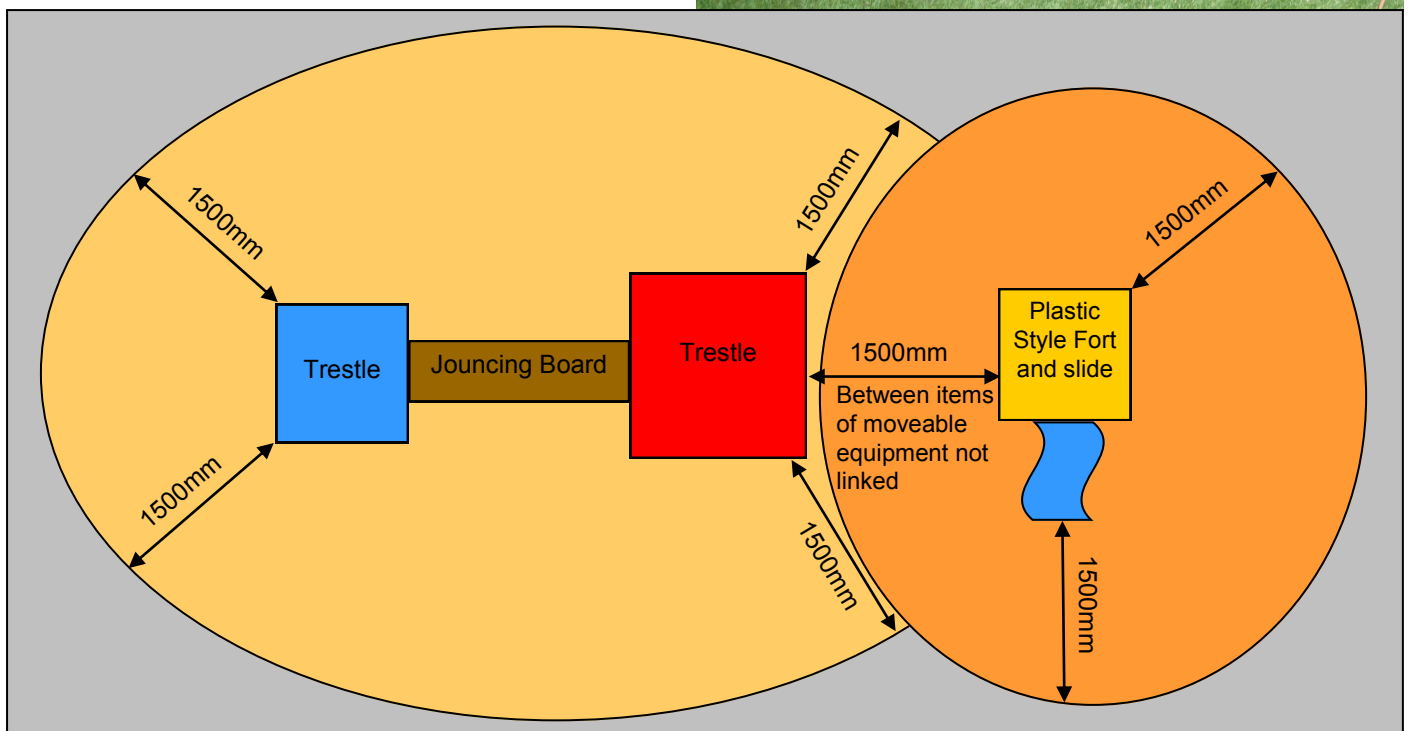


Figure 1 - Minimum dimensions of impact areas for moveable equipment items as per AS 4685:2014. This figure is not to scale.



For moveable play equipment with a climbing height 600mm or more above ground level the equipment must be set up on impact attenuating playground surfacing. Refer to the information sheet: *Playground Surfacing* for further information.

It is required that certified playground surfacing fills the falling space and impact area under and surrounding the equipment. On areas of solid surfacing, it is recommended to mark out the impact area on the playground surface by painting a line or at the time of installation, laying a different colour to highlight the impact area as pictured below.



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

A ruler or tape measure could be used to check for bound head and neck entrapment hazards in the set up of the moveable equipment (example pictured above).

Mini trampolines that measure less than 600mm above surface level may be placed on any soft surface (such as well maintained grass) with a recommended 1000mm circulation zone surrounding the trampoline. Refer to the information sheet titled *Trampolines*.

Impact area for equipment less than 600mm above ground level must be provided with an impact area of less than 1500mm (AS 4685:2014 4.2.8.2.5). *Kidsafe NSW* recommends a circulation zone of 1000mm is provided surrounding low equipment items that are designed for climbing, rocking or jumping.

Refer to the *Moveable Play Equipment Safety Checklist* designed to assist educators and playspace providers with the setting up of equipment.



KIDSAFE NEW SOUTH WALES Inc.
Playground Advisory Unit

P: 02 9845 0893 F: 02 9845 0895
E: kidsafe@chw.edu.au

kidsafensw.org

Kidsafe
Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia