



Prams and strollers—safety requirements

Prams and strollers can be dangerous to children, causing injury and even death. Injuries are often caused by falls where children have not been properly restrained in the pram or stroller. Some injuries—and deaths—have occurred when the pram or stroller has rolled out of a parent's or carer's control.

If you sell prams and strollers, you need to be aware of the mandatory consumer product safety standard for prams and strollers (the mandatory standard).

The mandatory standard is based on the voluntary Australian/New Zealand standard 2088: 2000, *Prams and strollers—safety requirements* but does not mandate all of the requirements of the voluntary standard. To understand how the mandatory standard varies from AS/NZS 2088: 2000, refer to Consumer Protection Notice No. 8 of 2007 for prams and strollers (see www.comlaw.gov.au).

The mandatory standard for prams and strollers will take effect from 1 July 2008. It defines prams and strollers as:

Pram a wheeled vehicle with a body of box-like or boat-like shape designed to transport a baby or child weighing up to and including 9kg primarily in a fully reclined position.

Stroller a wheeled vehicle designed to transport a child in a seated position, which may also be adjusted to a semi-reclined or a fully reclined position.

What does the mandatory standard require?

This mandatory safety standard specifies certain construction, performance and labelling requirements for prams and strollers.

To add to the safety measures available to users of prams and strollers and to highlight the need for parents and carers to be in control of the product at all times, the mandatory standard will now require (among other things) that:

- the pram or stroller has a tether strap that connects it to the person controlling it
- the pram or stroller has parking device actuators that are clearly red in colour.

Who must comply with the mandatory standard?

Anyone supplying prams and strollers, including:

- manufacturers
- distributors
- wholesalers
- importers
- hirers
- retailers
- second-hand suppliers,

is responsible for ensuring that they comply with the mandatory standard.

Do the prams and strollers I supply comply with the mandatory standard?

If you are unsure whether the products you supply comply with the mandatory standard, you should:

- obtain copies of relevant and current test certificates from your supplier confirming compliance with the mandatory standard, or
- arrange for appropriate testing to be conducted by a qualified test laboratory; or

- obtain copies of AS/NZS 2088: 2000 and Consumer Protection Notice No. 8 of 2007 to assist with determining compliance with the mandatory standard.

If you are still unsure whether the goods you supply comply with the mandatory standard, you should withdraw your products from sale until their compliance with the mandatory standard can be confirmed.

Penalties for non-compliance with the mandatory standard

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission regularly conducts random product safety surveys to ensure compliance for products subject to mandatory safety and information standards. Penalties under the *Trade Practices Act 1974* can be severe on suppliers who fail to comply with these standards. Courts can impose fines of up to \$1.1 million for corporations and \$220 000 for individuals.

Where can I get a copy of the mandatory standard?

You can obtain a copy of AS/NZS 2088: 2000 by contacting SAI Global on 131 242; you can also download the standard from the SAI Global website (www.saiglobal.com). You must also refer to Consumer Protection Notice no. 8 of 2007 for prams and strollers to understand how the mandatory standard varies from AS/NZS 2088: 2000.

Information on other product safety and information standards are available from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

ACCC contacts

ACCC email
Infocentre@acc.gov.au

Small business helpline
1300 302 021

ACCC website
www.acc.gov.au

For other business information
go to www.business.gov.au

The ACCC has produced a range of publications dealing with mandatory standards. These are available online (www.acc.gov.au) or by contacting the ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502.

Important notice

The information in this fact sheet is for general guidance only. It reflects the ACCC's views on what is required to comply with certain provisions of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*. It does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied on as a statement of the law relating to the Act. You should obtain legal advice if there is doubt about whether any conduct may breach the Act.

Other federal or state laws may impose additional requirements or responsibilities on your business when dealing with other businesses or consumers, beyond the requirements of the Act.