

S T A T E M E N T

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REVISED AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR PRAMS AND STROLLERS DUE LATE NOVEMBER

Standards Australia is in the final stages of revising the Australian Standard for prams and strollers and expects to publish the new edition by the end of November 2009.

This new edition of *AS/NZS 2088-2009 Prams and Strollers – Safety requirements* includes more detailed requirements for accessories such as bassinets and toddler seats and more stringent stability testing of strollers. It also includes a test for hazardous gaps and openings which may pose finger entrapment risks to occupants of strollers.

The new requirements promote improved safety and protection against risks and hazards which may cause injury to children.

AS/NZS 2088 provides manufacturers, authorities and others with guidelines on the minimum safety requirements for materials, construction, performance and labelling of prams, strollers and their accessories. In the new edition, particular attention is given to accessories and toddler seats which have become increasingly popular attachments on some prams and strollers.

The Standard will include more than 20 test methods for different aspects of prams and strollers, including durability tests, tests for hazardous edges, points and finger entrapments, and security and stability tests. New stability tests for strollers have also been included.

In order to address concerns highlighted by accidents or tragedies involving runaway strollers or other incidents, other new requirements include:

- the inclusion of a brake actuator to be red, revised warnings and the option for an automatic brake;
- the addition of new stability tests to ensure that infants who wriggle to the end of the vehicle cannot cause the vehicle to over balance;
- a revision of harnessing requirements in order to prevent loops being created by the harness that could cause strangulation as well as ensuring that the harness fits the occupant securely;
- new tests involving the pram or stroller running down a ramp and stopping abruptly to ensure that a seat or accessory does not disengage;
- retention and test requirements for add-ons such as bassinets, child restraints and toddler seats; and
- testing of toddler platforms that are used for an additional toddler to stand on.

For information on mandatory pram and stroller safety requirements under the Australian Trade Practices Act, visit the ACCC's website www.accc.gov.au

Media enquiries: Luisa Bustos, Writer and Public Affairs Officer, Standards Australia
(02) 9237 6184 | 0405 506 457 | luisa.bustos@standards.org.au

General enquiries: Standards Australia Customer Information Service
1800 035 822 | mail@standards.org.au

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