

Australian Standard[®]

**Harnesses for use in prams,
strollers, and high chairs
(including a detachable walking
rein)**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/20, Prams and Strollers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 September 1989 and published on 11 December 1989.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/20:

Attorney-General's Department
Australian Chamber of Manufactures
Australian Consumers Association
Australian Retailers Association
Business and Consumer Affairs, New South Wales
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Health, New South Wales
Department of Public and Consumer Affairs, South Australia
National Safety Council of Australia (South Australian Division)
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Prams and Strollers to fulfil the need for an Australian Standard for restraining harnesses which could be called up under the requirements for the provision of attachments for restraints in AS 2088—1989, *Prams and strollers—Safety requirements*.

The harnesses covered by this Standard are designed to prevent babies and young children aged from 4 months up to about 4 years from injuring themselves or being injured through lack of sufficient physical restraint when they are occupying a pram, stroller, or high chair, or when walking. The dynamic load test required by the Standard is intended to simulate the effect of a child weighing 18 kg suddenly falling a distance of 300 mm and then being restrained by the safety harness against further falling.

The number of accidents reported that involve harnesses is small, but the limited evidence available suggests that three common factors are involved, viz the children were over 12 months old and very active, they had been left unattended in a pram, stroller, or high chair, and the side straps of the restraining harness had not been correctly adjusted to restrain them. This Standard therefore sets requirements for the maximum length of side straps and also requires that instructions be provided referring to the importance of limiting free play to prevent the child from taking up an unsafe position.

Attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that the attachment point for harnesses in prams, strollers, and high chairs be as strong at least as the harnesses themselves and positioned so that the child cannot slip forward or stand up when the harness is adjusted correctly. For this purpose, it is generally desirable that the attachment points be placed at the base of the pram, stroller or high chair.

At the present time, purchasers generally expect harness assemblies to include suitable side straps which are designed to enable the harness to be fitted to a pram, stroller, or high chair that may be bought independently. Because the position of the child relative to the points of attachment that are provided for side straps might vary from one appliance to another, it is important that the side straps of the harness should be adjustable accordingly.

This Standard does not specify the type of materials to be used in the construction of harnesses. Material must comply with requirements for toxicity and corrodibility, and are tested for their efficiency under dynamic load. Materials labelled washable are subject also to compliance with dimensional requirements following a number of washing cycles.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Harnesses for use in prams, strollers, and high chairs (including a detachable walking rein)

1 SCOPE. This Standard specifies requirements for harness assemblies comprising a shoulder harness and side straps for restraining children in prams, strollers, and high chairs, and which may provide a detachable rein for use when a child is walking.

This Standard does not apply to lap straps and crotch straps provided in some types of strollers and high chairs.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

| | |
|----------|--|
| AS | |
| 1192 | Electroplated coatings—Nickel and chromium |
| 1647 | Children's toys—Safety requirements |
| 1647.3 | Part 3: Toxicological requirements |
| 1957 | Care labelling of clothing, household textiles, furnishings, upholstered furniture, bedding, piece goods and yarns |
| 2001 | Methods of test for textiles |
| 2001.5.4 | Method 5.4: Determination of dimensional change in laundering of textile fabrics and garments—Automatic washing method |

3 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

3.1 Back—that part of the shoulder harness that, when fitted to the body according to the manufacturer's instructions, lies to the rear from a vertical plane drawn through the two sides of the body.

3.2 Buckle—the fastening device that secures the wearer within the shoulder harness and the release of which frees the wearer.

3.3 Centre back position—the position of a buckle that lies within 50 mm either side of the anatomical centre of the back of the child when the shoulder harness is fitted to the body according to the manufacturer's instructions (see Figure 1).

3.4 Double-action release buckle—a buckle the release of which, under normal conditions of use, requires two or more separate and coordinated movements (which may be consecutive or simultaneous), e.g. pressing and turning, pulling a strap and releasing the tongue of a buckle.

3.5 Front—that part of the shoulder harness that, when fitted to the body according to the manufacturer's instructions, lies forward from a vertical plane drawn through the two sides of the body.

3.6 Hardware—any metal or rigid plastics part of the harness.

3.7 Harness assembly—an assembly or set of components comprising a shoulder harness, side straps, and related hardware and attachments.

3.8 Retaining loop—a non-load-bearing component used to secure the loose end or ends of a strap.

3.9 Shoulder harness—an assembly of straps with attachments and adjusting devices, comprising a waist strap, shoulder straps, sliders, slide buckles, or clasps, and, as appropriate, a securing and release buckle or releasable fastener, which, when installed by means of side straps or attachments in a pram, stroller or high chair, restrains the wearer. It may also be used with a walking rein.

3.10 Shoulder straps—those parts of the shoulder harness which pass over the shoulder of the wearer.

3.11 Side straps—those straps fitted with appropriate buckles, hooks, or other fastenings which, when attached to the waist strap, secure the shoulder harness to a pram, stroller, or high chair.

3.12 Single-action release buckle—a buckle the release of which requires a single movement, e.g. a single press action, single pull, or single twist action.

3.13 Waist strap—that part of the shoulder harness which passes around the waist or body of the wearer.

4 MATERIALS.

4.1 Toxicity. All materials and coating shall comply with the relevant requirements of AS 1647.3.

4.2 Corrosion. All metal parts shall either be made of corrosion-resistant material or be protected against corrosion.

4.3 Electroplated coating of nickel and chromium.

Nickel and chromium electroplating shall comply with the requirements for Service Condition No 2 (Moderate) specified in AS 1192.

5 CONSTRUCTION.

5.1 General. All parts of the harness assembly shall be free from sharp edges and burrs.

5.2 Straps.

5.2.1 General. Where a buckle and tongue is provided, the distance between the holes in a strap to receive the tongue shall be not more than 15 mm.

5.2.2 Shoulder straps. Shoulder straps shall comply with the following requirements:

- The shoulder straps shall be fixed within the shoulder harness so as to enable them to extend over the wearer's shoulders from the front to the back of the waist strap.
- Where the shoulder straps are arranged so that they run essentially parallel to each other; the fixing points either at the front of the waist strap (if the waist strap is fastened at the back) or at the back of the waist strap (if the waist strap is fastened at the front) shall not be capable of being adjusted to more than 100 mm apart measured between the inside edges of the shoulder straps.