

AS/NZS 4385:1996

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

**Infants' rocking cradles—
Safety requirements**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS/3, Safety Requirements for Children's Furniture. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 March 1996 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 11 March 1996. It was published on 5 June 1996.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/3:

Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute
 Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Australian Chamber of Manufactures
 Australian Consumers Association
 Commercial Services Group, Australia
 Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health
 Department of Fair Trading, N.S.W. Consumer Protection Agency
 Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs (Commonwealth of Australia)
 Furnishers Society of Victoria
 Furnishing Industry Association of Australia
 Ministry of Consumer Affairs, New Zealand
 National Council of Women of Australia
 New South Wales Guild of Furniture Manufacturers
 New Zealand Association of Safety Equipment Testing Laboratories
 New Zealand Furniture Manufacturers Federation
 N.S.W. Health Department
 Office of Consumer and Business Affairs, S.A.
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Safety requirements**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Australia/New Zealand Standards Committee CS/3 on Safety Requirements for Children’s Furniture.

It is issued as a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard with the objective of providing regulatory authorities with essential safety requirements and to provide manufacturers with functional, durability, stability and performance criteria to meet these safety requirements associated with rocking cradles in order to reduce the likelihood of deaths or injuries to infants.

The term ‘normative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

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FOREWORD

This Standard has been developed to address concerns about potential suffocation hazards identified with some rocking cradles following two coronial enquiries into two infant deaths in South Australia.

It is important to convey to parents and carers that they should also pay particular attention to ventilation when the cradle is being used. The mattress and other cushioning materials should be sufficiently firm to preclude conforming to the contours of the infant's face. The bedding and cradle construction as a whole should still allow and ensure that proper ventilation is maintained. The Committee felt that because asphyxiation, hence lack of ventilation, has caused or been related to infant deaths, these safety issues were worthy of mention. These and other infant safety issues are all included in information labelling.

There is no reference in this Standard to toys in a cradle, because this Committee considered that it was preferable to state in a leaflet to parents and carers that toys should not be left in the cradle. It is expected that any toys supplied with a cradle will conform to any mandatory sections of the toy Standard.

This Standard is based on currently marketed products with manually operated locking devices in order to avoid the hazards of a sibling being able to remove the locking pin and to minimize risk to the infant if the cradle is not locked in the horizontal position.

The Committee would like to encourage the view that any future products be designed so that they are not dependent on human intervention to apply locking devices when the cradle is not being rocked. Designs that incorporate a fail-safe action such that the mattress base is always returned to the horizontal position are recommended. Such designs could utilize for example, automatic locking devices, cam or spring actions.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard**Infants' rocking cradles—Safety requirements**

1 SCOPE This Standard specifies safety requirements for infants' rocking cradles. These requirements include those such as material, design, construction, performance, labelling and marking, all of which are important for the well-being of infants who use rocking cradles. The Standard is applicable to rocking cradles which have the ability to swing or rock/tilt. It is not applicable to baby hammocks or cradles which do not tilt.

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)

1647.1 Part 1: General requirements

1647.2 Part 2: Constructional requirements

1647.3 Part 3: Toxicological requirements

1647.4 Part 4: Flammability requirements

1789 Electroplated coatings—Zinc on iron or steel

1956 Anodic oxidation coatings on aluminium for decorative and automotive applications

NZS

5820 Specification for the safety of toys

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

3.1 Base—the surface on which the rocking cradle mattress is supported.

3.2 Filler bars or filler panels—the vertical bars or panels in the end or side frames of the rocking cradle.

3.3 Gap—an opening bounded either by solid components of the rocking cradle or by solid components of the rocking cradle and an imaginary boundary joining the solid components in such a manner as to result in a maximum bounded area (see Figure 1).

3.4 Shall—indicates that a statement is mandatory.

3.5 Should—indicates a recommendation.

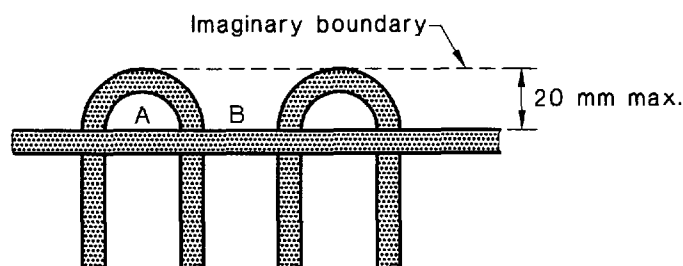


FIGURE 1 TYPICAL GAPS

4 MATERIALS

4.1 Timber Timber used in rocking cradles shall—

- (a) not contain splinters, loose knots, compression failures, pith or reaction wood;
- (b) be free from decay and insect attack; and
- (c) be free from chemicals such as copper chrome arsenate.

NOTE: It is recommended that the moisture content not exceed 13%.

4.2 Metals All metal components, including springs, nuts, bolts and washers shall be either made of corrosion-resistant material or be protected against corrosion.

4.3 Aluminium Aluminium frames shall be anodized to comply with Grade 4 conditions specified in AS 1956.

4.4 Nickel and chromium plating Nickel and chromium electroplating shall comply with Service Condition No. 1 specified in AS 1192.

4.5 Zinc plating Zinc plating shall comply with Service Condition 1 specified in AS 1789.

4.6 Painted coatings and plastics components All painted coatings and plastics components shall comply with the relevant requirements specified in AS 1647.3 for Australia or NZS 5820 for New Zealand.

5 CONSTRUCTION

5.1 General All components of the rocking cradle shall—

- (a) be permanently fixed; or
- (b) require the use of a tool to enable partial or total disassembly; or
- (c) require a series of integrated procedures each of which is dependent on the other for assembly/disassembly.

NOTE: The intention of Item (c) is to prevent possible tampering by a child.

All joints shall be close fitting.

5.2 Timber rocking cradles In timber cradles dowels, nails, and screws shall penetrate all the members of the joint. The finished joint shall be such that no part of any dowel, screw or nail shall be exposed above the surface of any joining member. Nail heads shall be punched below the surface.

5.3 Metal rocking cradles The parts of all permanent joints shall be close fitting and the joints shall be securely welded. The welds and all other parts shall be smooth and free from flux, slag and spatter before a finishing coat is applied. Riveted joints shall be close fitting and shall be tightly closed.

6 DESIGN

6.1 Dimensions Except where otherwise permitted in this Standard, the following dimensions shall apply:

- (a) The vertical distance between the top of the mattress base and the top edge of the lowest rocking cradle side or end shall not be less than 300 mm (min.).
- (b) Distance between adjacent filler bars or filler bars and filler panels shall not be less than 50 mm (min.);
and not greater than 65 mm (max.).

NOTE: To facilitate supervision, it is important that the filler bars and filler panels are arranged so that an infant within the rocking cradle can be readily seen.