

AS/NZS 5848:1992

Australian/New Zealand Standard

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**Code of practice for  
bungy jumping**

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This Standard was prepared under a joint arrangement by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand. It was approved for publication on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 27 August 1992 and on behalf of the Standards Council of New Zealand on 22 September 1992. It was published on 14 December 1992.

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**The following organizations are represented on the Committees responsible for this Standard:**

### **Standards New Zealand Committee 5848, Bungy Jumping**

Accident Compensation Corporation  
Association of Local Government Engineers of New Zealand  
Bungee Bats  
Department of Conservation  
Department of Labour  
— Occupational Safety and Health  
A J Hackett Bungy Queenstown  
Hillary Commission  
T/A Thrillseekers, Bay of Plenty  
Wellington City Council representing Local Government Association  
Wellington Regional Council (Harbours)

In addition to the above, representatives from the following assisted the Committee:

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research  
— Industrial Development Division  
World Bungy International

### **Standards Australia Committee SF/44, Bungy Jumping**

Department of Employment, Industrial Relations and Training, Tasmania  
Department of Occupational Health Safety and Welfare, Western Australia  
Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia  
WorkCover Authority of New South Wales  
Bungy jumping operators

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### PREFACE

This Standard is issued as a joint Standard under the terms of the Active Co-operation Agreement between Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand.

Where appropriate, dual clauses have been introduced. These clauses commencing with either the words, "In New Zealand:" or, "In Australia:", indicate requirements deemed necessary for one country only.

Bungy jumping is a new form of recreation. In 1989, and the beginning of 1990, three incidents occurred in New Zealand when bungy jumping resulted in serious injury. The risk of injury to themselves and to the public was recognized by the operators, who, through the New Zealand Bungy Jumping Federation requested that a Code of Practice be developed with the objective and purpose of controlling the risks, and to ensure the safety of the public and operators.

It is accepted within our present society, that opportunities for people to experience a thrilling activity are provided. Where there is a potential for injury or death, then control of the risk is essential. This Code provides the standards on which to base the management of the inherent risks. The Code itself will not control the risks involved. This depends on compliance with the Code by each and every operator.

This Code follows a logical sequence in its layout: starting with an operator opening a new site that requires approval from various authorities depending on the site and the nature of the equipment used.

As some of the sites are in scenic and environmentally sensitive areas, the Code provides for the protection of the site and immediate surroundings, the access ways to the site and the effects of numbers of people.

There are several ways of operating bungy jumping. The jumper can arrive at the jump point as a pedestrian, or by being lifted up to the jump point by crane or other lifting appliance, or the jumper may be propelled from the ground by an extended bungy used as a catapult. In Australia the use of cranes for this last technique has been excluded. However, in Australia for any form of bungy jumping not covered by this Standard, each operation will need to be assessed on its merits by the appropriate regulatory authority.

There are at present two types of platform used. Static platforms, where the platform is attached to a permanent structure (eg. a bridge) or is on the ground. Mobile platforms which are attached to a lifting appliance (eg. crane). This Standard recognizes the safety controversy of jumping over land or water and makes provisions for both types of operations.

The preparation, testing and checking of equipment precedes any operation and each day's operation. Similarly staff selection and training is essential before public operation begins. The non-involvement of the New Zealand Bungy Jumping Federation in the training of personnel has prompted a review of 203.4. A suitable amendment may be issued in due course. Stricter requirements for training and experience have been included for Australian operations. The Standard provides the framework for the operating procedures. Sites and equipment vary greatly, so each site will require its own operating manual. The content and standards required in the operating manual are set out in the Standard. The risk of serious injury makes provision for emergency procedures essential.

In operations of this kind, standards need to be set and complied with in the early stages of operation. It is easy for complacency and lower standards to become normal when the operation is proceeding without undesired incidents occurring. This must be guarded against. The Standard concludes with a section on continuing certification of compliance with the standards, audit of the management systems and continuing approval to operate. Certification and audit will not be performed by Standards Australia.

The hand-signals to be given to crane drivers and lifting appliance operators in Australia differ from those hand-signals used in New Zealand. The hand-signals from AS 2550-1982 *Crane mobile, tower and derrick- Selection and operations* have been incorporated for use in Australia.

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