

AS/NZS 5848:2000

AS/NZS 5848

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Code of practice for bungy jumping



Standards Australia



STANDARDS
NEW ZEALAND
Pūranga Aotearoa

AS/NZS 5848:2000

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF/44, Bungy Jumping. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 July 2000 and on behalf of the Standards Council of New Zealand on 22 February 2000. It was published on 19 October 2000.

The following interests are represented on Committee SF/44:

AJ Hackett Bungy Queenstown
Bungy Consultants New Zealand Ltd
Bungy Jumpmasters Association, New Zealand
Bureau Veritas Certification Services
Bureau Veritas, New Zealand
Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand
Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, New South Wales
New Zealand Department of Labour – Occupational Safety and Health
New Zealand Mountain Safety Council
Pipeline Bungy, Queenstown
Taupo Bungy
WorkCover Authority of New South Wales
Workplace Standards Authority, Tasmania

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

A.J. Hackett Bungy, Cairns
BungyPro
Hanmer Springs Bungy
Material Performance Technologies
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 98081.

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First published in New Zealand as NZS 5848:1990.

Published as an Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 5848:1992.

Jointly revised and published as AS/NZS 5848:2000.

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Jointly published by Standards Australia International Ltd, GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001 and Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington 6020

ISBN 0 7337 3901 6

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. It has been extensively modified since it was first released in 1992. Modifications include a more practicable testing regime for bungee cords and attachments, and also changes to reflect experience gained by operators over the last 7 years.

Where appropriate, dual clauses are used. These clauses commencing with either the words, “In New Zealand:” or, “In Australia:”, indicate requirements deemed necessary for one country only.

Bungee jumping is a new form of recreation. In 1989, and the beginning of 1990, three incidents occurred in New Zealand when bungee jumping resulted in serious injury. The risk of injury to themselves and to the public was recognized by the operators. Through the New Zealand Bungee Jumping Federation they 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.

There are several ways of operating bungee jumping. The jumper can arrive at the jump point as a pedestrian, or by being lifted up to the jump point by helicopter, by crane or other lifting appliance, or the jumper may be propelled from the ground by an extended bungee used as a catapult.

In Australia the types of bungee jumping permitted in each State and Territory varies. Operators should check with the appropriate regulatory authority as to the type of bungee jumping permitted and the applicability of this Standard.

There are at present two types of platform used. Static platforms are attached to a permanent structure (e.g. a bridge) or located on the ground. Mobile platforms are attached to a lifting appliance (e.g. crane). There is also the use of a heli-platform (i.e. using a helicopter as a platform for jumping). This Standard recognizes the different safety considerations 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 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 use of dynamic loads in the calculation of the safe working load of platforms will be considered at the next revision of the Standard.

The term “informative” is used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

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