



Outdoor Council of Australia

17th October 2007

RE: Standards Australia development of an Australian Standard for artificial climbing structures and challenge courses.

Draft Australian Standard Part 1: Fixed and mobile artificial climbing and abseiling walls.

Dear Outdoor Council of Australia members and stakeholders,

Between the 26th July 2007 and 27th September 2007, Standards Australia released for public comment the above document as '**Draft DR 07324**'. The feedback received by Standards Australia Committee SF - 047 (responsible for this draft) was limited and the comments received by the Management Committee of the Outdoor Council of Australia mainly covered two issues:

Issue One: That the communication from Standards Australian and representatives on the Standards Australia Committee SF - 047 was insufficient. Thus many stakeholders did not have reasonable opportunity to respond within the period of public comment.

Issue Two: That the Standard's scope should be limited to design, construction and testing, directing readers to the existing Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) for current operational procedures, thus being consistent with other outdoor recreation activities.

The Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA) representative on the Standards Australia Committee SF - 047 raised these issues at the public comment review meeting held recently in Melbourne at which the attached correspondence from the OCA was also tabled, with the following outcomes:

Issue One: Opportunity for comment.

Based upon equitable access to comment and Standards Australia's own tight operating procedures, Standards Australia do not often grant extensions for feedback or comment. Standards Australia Committee SF - 047 discussed the potential benefits of extending consultation at some length and, whilst not unanimous, the Committee did agree that the opportunity for public comment be extended for OCA members, and other organisations that formally requested extensions, to **14th December 2007**.

OCA members receiving this communication should, as a matter of priority, forward it to those persons involved in the ownership of, or delivery of, artificial wall climbing and abseiling services. The OCA is aware that several organisations own and manage artificial structures but chose not to respond to the draft Standard or were unaware of this process.

It is essential that anyone who feels that they have something to contribute to the draft Standard use the public comment period to comment on its provisions. All comments from the public are considered in detail by the Standards Australia Committee SF - 047 and, if necessary, further drafting is undertaken.

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Please visit; <http://www.saiglobal.com/PDFTemp/2007-10-18%5Cthp3491520814/DR07324.pdf> to access the current draft standard.

Please visit <https://committees.standards.org.au/COMMITTEES/SF-047/P0701/SF-047-P0701.DOC> to download guidance and an appropriate comment form.

Once comments are complete, please email your form to carol.foster@standards.org.au

Issue Two: Removal of management and operational procedures from scope of Standard

The Committee SF-047 was not keen to 'de-scope' the document without a sound technical argument. This created significant discussion as the reasons for this proposal are to support the industry standards (Adventure Activity Standards) which are increasingly recognised by Governments, insurers and associated stakeholders around Australia.

AAS, along with NOLRS and relevant accreditation, enable the outdoor recreation industry to manage its own suit of standards, ensuring currency as well as significantly limiting the potential for confusion and the application of inappropriate (yet similar) standards.

Agreement was reached by the Committee SF-047 that the scope for the Australian Standard should remain the same however the Management and Operational Procedures section (section 4) and the Emergency Provisions and Procedures (section 5) should be kept to a minimum. This will be achieved by incorporating simple statements of expected outcomes in the areas of supervision, competencies, rules, inductions, spectators, equipment, first aid and emergency management.

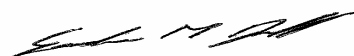
The Australian Standard will then refer to the Adventure Activity Standards for more detailed expectations via a new link from the Outdoor Council of Australia Website (yet to be established). In this way, the key objective 'to reference to a single product' (AAS) can be maintained by the Australian Standard, the AAS will have increased credibility in courts and the reader will find it easy to access state-specific, industry agreed requirements.

Opportunity for comment and support for existing requirements are essential to the outdoor recreation industry and are viewed with high importance by the Outdoor Council of Australia as we move collectively towards better understanding and management of our operating environment.

I urge everyone to support this request to get involved. There is no minimum limit on the volume of feedback provided. Simply pointing out an aspect or requirement that seems unattainable or unreasonable in the draft Standard can contribute to securing these activities in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Gordon Duff



Vice President
Outdoor Council of Australia

OCA representative on Committee SF-047