



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

Mandatory consumer product safety standard for caravan jacks



The standard

The consumer product safety standard for vehicle jacks (the mandatory standard) references either the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2693:1993 *Vehicle jacks* or AS/NZS 2693:2003 *Vehicle jacks* (with variations). The 2003 version of AS/NZS 2693 provides detailed specifications for caravan jacks. For example, clause 4.9 of AS/NZS 2693:2003 defines a caravan jack as:

A jack which is limited in its application to caravans and trailers fitted with its specific engagement fitting and is not intended to be used to lift a caravan or trailer at other than the specific engagement points.

Reasons for introducing a mandatory safety standard

Each year in Australia around 160 accidents are linked to the use of vehicle jacks. Deaths and injuries, ranging from amputation and fractures to crush injuries, result from vehicles falling off vehicle jacks.

Because weight is distributed differently in each caravan, caravan jacks are required to have an engagement fitting specific to a particular make of caravan. This is designed to reduce the likelihood of accident and injury by providing users with a precise location to position their jack for the safe lifting of their caravan.

Requirements of the mandatory safety standard

The mandatory safety standard specifies requirements for the design, construction, performance and labelling of vehicle jacks.

Who is required to ensure compliance with the mandatory standard?

All suppliers of caravan jacks—including caravan manufacturers and importers, distributors, hirers and retailers—are responsible for ensuring that the goods they supply comply with the mandatory standard.

Do the jacks I supply comply with the mandatory standard?

If you are unsure whether the goods you supply comply with the mandatory standard, you should obtain:

- > copies of test certificates from suppliers/manufacturers of the jacks
- > copies of the relevant mandatory standards and, if necessary, have sample testing done.

If you are still unsure whether the goods you supply comply with the mandatory standard, you should withdraw your products from sale until their compliance with the mandatory standard can be confirmed.

Suppliers should note that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) regularly conducts random product safety surveys to ensure compliance for products subject to mandatory safety and information standards. Penalties under the *Trade Practices Act 1974* can be severe on suppliers. Courts can impose fines of up to \$1.1 million for corporations and \$220 000 for individuals.

Where can I get a copy of the mandatory standard?

Suppliers can obtain a copy of Australian Standard AS/NZS 2693:2003 by contacting SAI Global on **131 242** or accessing its website (www.saiglobal.com).

Copies of the mandatory standard as well as information on other product safety and information standards are available from the ACCC.

INQUIRIES:

ACCC Infocentre:

1300 302 502

ACCC email:

infocentre@accc.gov.au

ACCC website:

www.accc.gov.au

