

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On developing the Australian Challenge Ropes Course and Flying Fox Standards.

The SF-047 Committee and Standards Australia have draft AS 2316.2.1:2015 Artificial climbing structures - Flying foxes and challenge ropes courses - construction and safety requirements and draft AS 2316.2.2:2015 Artificial climbing structures and challenge courses - Flying foxes and challenge ropes courses - Operation requirements open for public comment. Public comment closes 8th October 2015.

Who initiated the project to establish an Australian Standard for flying foxes and challenge ropes courses?

In 2011, the Outdoor Council of Australia following stakeholder consultation submitted a formal proposal to Standards Australia seeking assistance to complete a project commenced, as part of Australian Standard 2316.1-2009 Artificial Climbing Structures and Challenge Courses, related to the Challenge Ropes component.

What was the Australian Standard 2316.1-2009 Artificial Climbing Structures and Challenge Courses project?

In response to stakeholder feedback and urging from Workcover authorities the Outdoor Council of Australia submitted a proposal to Standards Australia for assistance in the development of an Australian Standard for artificial climbing structures and challenge courses.

What happened to the challenge ropes component of this initial proposal?

The AS Artificial climbing structures and challenge courses Part 1: Fixed and Mobile Artificial Climbing and Abseiling Walls was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 20 October 2009 and published in November 2009. Unfortunately Standards Australia then placed Part 2 of the project (along with many other projects) in abeyance due to funding issues.

Who prepared AS Artificial climbing structures and challenge courses Part 1: Fixed and mobile artificial Climbing and abseiling walls?

This AS was prepared by Committee SF-047, Artificial Climbing Structures and made up of representatives from:
Association for Challenge Course Technology Australia, Australian Amusement Association, Australian Camps Association, Christian Camping International Australia, Engineers Australia, Indoor Rockclimbing Gyms of Australia Association, Outdoor Council of Australia, Scouts Australia, Sport Climbing Australia, WorkSafe Victoria.

When did work commence on Draft AS 2316.2 Flying Foxes and Challenge Ropes?

Initial work commenced on 27 March 2013. Members of the SF-047 Committee included representatives from: Australian Amusement Association, Australian Camps Association, Christian Venues Association, Department of Communities NSW, Department of Defence (Australia), Sport and Recreation Victoria, Outdoor Council of Australia, Rescue Training Group, Scouts Australia, TAFE - Goulburn Ovens (VIC), Highgate Group, Outdoors New Zealand.

What did the SF-047 Committee consider in the development of a Draft AS 2316.2 Flying Foxes and Challenge Ropes Courses?

Consideration	Outcome
Applicability of a pre-existing draft flying fox draft partially developed as part of initial AS 2316 project	Out of date and did not cover challenge ropes.
Consideration for adoption of EN 15567-1:2007 Sports and recreational facilities - Ropes courses - Part 1: Construction And safety requirements; and/or EN 15567-2:2007 Sports and recreational facilities - Ropes courses - Part 2: Operation requirements	Preferred if modifications are permitted as part of the copyright and usage permit. Standards Australia able to create an AS using the document. No cost to sector for development.
ACCT Standards	Standards Australia does not have a relationship with ACCT and Standard cannot be approved under Standards Australia system.
Development of new AS standard	Timing consuming and costly
Taking the project to ISO as new work item	Timing consuming and costly

Agreed outcome was to adopt EN 15567 Parts 1 & 2 and modify them by ZZ appendices for Australian Conditions.

Who drafted the ZZ appendices?

The SF-047 Committee appointed a working group to review the EN Parts 1 & 2 and develop the ZZ appendices. SF-047 committee members highlighted areas for the working group to review - under modification rules only “shall” statements could be amended and then only if there was a compelling overriding Australian Standard or standard of practice required for Australian conditions.

How much did it cost the Outdoor Council of Australia and the sector to adopt EN 15567 Parts 1 & 2 and modify them by ZZ appendices for Australian Conditions?

It cost nothing. Standards Australia underwrote the development costs. Committee time was voluntarily given. An initial quote to develop the AS was in excess of \$30,000.

Who makes money from the Standard?

SAI Global will sell the Standard.

What will the new Standard look like and be called?

The new standard once agreed will be called AS 2316.2.1:2015 Artificial climbing structures and challenge courses - Flying foxes and challenge ropes courses - construction and safety requirements and AS 2316.2.2:2015 Artificial climbing structures and challenge courses - Flying foxes and challenge ropes courses - Operation requirements.

The Standard will look like an Australian Standard – it will have an AS cover and inside the cover will be the EN standard EN 15567-2007 Parts 1 & 2 and the ZZ appendices. Think of the ZZ appendices as the ‘special conditions of contract’ without the ZZ appendices it is not an AS.

What happens if the source documents EN 15567-2007 Parts 1 & 2 are superseded?

The AS will remain current. At some point in the future the AS may be reviewed and updated but this will require a proposal to Standards Australia.

How do I make a comment on the draft standards?

Go to:

<http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/results2.aspx?searchType=power&publisher=AS&doctype=Drafts&status=Current&sfld1=Reference%20Number&sval1=2316&orderby>

Note: You will need to register to see the draft and to lodge comments.

It's crazy that I have to buy the EN 15567-2007 Parts 1 & 2 to make a comment as the ZZ appendices on their own aren't enough?

Agreed – it is crazy but it is the universal standards process - it is not just applicable to our project. SA is applying the international system of copyright related to standards.

To this end the Australian Camps Association are coordinating with Outdoor Council of Australia, Outdoors WA and other State Peak Bodies to organise a series of feedback workshops.