



SAFETY ALERT: BASKETBALL RINGS AND BACKBOARDS

A NEW MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARD AND SAFETY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM FALLING BASKETBALL HOOPS AND DEBRIS.

In its most recent product safety campaign, the ACCC released a brochure and poster that alert Australians to the—sometimes lethal—dangers of improperly installed basketball rings.

The Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard) Basketball Rings and Backboards) Regulations 2005: a new Trade Practices Act mandatory standard requiring all basketball rings and backboards to carry a safety warning came into force on 11 October 2005. The standard and an associated safety education campaign were introduced in response to three deaths and numerous injuries caused by the collapse of structures supporting basketball rings.

The Hon. Chris Pearce MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, launched the safety standard and consumer awareness campaign at the Australian Institute of Sport on Monday, 10 October 2005. He advised that the new mandatory standard requires that a warning notice and symbol be displayed at the time of sale of a basketball ring and backboard. A warning that swinging on the ring may cause serious injury or death must also be permanently fixed to the backboard.

The safety education campaign is intended to raise awareness of safe use, installation and maintenance of basketball rings and backboards.

The key messages of the campaign are to:

- > install a basketball ring and backboard safely
- > ideally, fix the basketball ring and backboard to a 'hot dip' galvanised steel post
- > remove unsafe basketball rings and backboards installed on brick walls
- > tell children to never hang or swing on the basketball ring
- > check the condition of an existing installation, and consult a structural engineer if you have any doubt about the safety or stability of the installation.

Copies of the *Safety alert: basketball rings and backboards* are available on the ACCC website, from ACCC offices throughout Australia and the ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502.

WARNING: SWINGING ON THE RING
MAY CAUSE SERIOUS
INJURY OR DEATH

