



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

## Mandatory labelling requirements introduced for basketball rings and backboards— *Don't swing on the ring!*

Following several deaths and a string of injuries associated with the use of basketball rings, in October 2005 the Federal Government introduced the *Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard) (Basketball Rings and Backboards) Regulations 1995* (the mandatory standard) for basketball rings and backboards. The mandatory standard was introduced after it was discovered inappropriate installation and misuse, rather than the products themselves, were leading to injuries.

Under the mandatory standard, basketball rings and backboards must be labelled with a specific warning advising users that improper installation or swinging on the basketball ring may cause serious injury or death. The mandatory standard applies to basketball rings and backboards requiring installation and therefore does not apply to toy basketball rings and backboards.

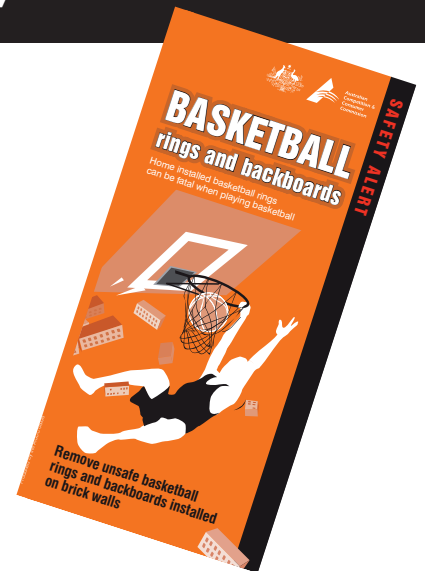
All suppliers of basketball rings and backboards including importers, wholesalers and retailers are required to comply with the mandatory standard.

Slam dunking has been identified as one of the leading causes of injury. It involves a basketball player leaping at the goal ring and putting the ball through the ring, momentarily holding on to the ring after 'dunking' the ball. This places excessive strain on the ring as the player's full body weight hangs from the ring and is carried by the supporting fixture or backboard. Deaths and many injuries have occurred from players performing 'slam dunks' and having the structure supporting the basketball ring collapse on top of them.

The slam dunk is particularly hazardous when performed on an incorrectly installed basketball ring and backboard. For example, basketball rings installed on garage walls may not be able to support the player's weight, making hanging or swinging on the ring extremely dangerous.

During a recent Australia-wide product safety survey, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) found a large number of rings and backboards offered for sale did not comply with the mandatory standard.

Sellers of basketball rings and backboards need to be aware that failing to follow the mandatory standard potentially places the lives of their customers at risk. When it comes to safety, close enough is not good enough—if a product does not meet the requirements of the mandatory standard to the letter, the ACCC will take measures to prevent the conduct. Suppliers should also note that supplying goods that do not comply with a mandatory standard is an offence under the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and may result in fines of up to \$1.1 million for corporations and \$220 000 for individuals.



Copies of the mandatory standard (including the specific labelling requirements) and the ACCC publication Safety alert for basketball rings and backboards, which provides guidance on proper installation of backboards to supporting structures, can be obtained by contacting the ACCC InfoCentre on 1300 302 502 or can be downloaded from the ACCC website ([www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)).

### INQUIRIES:

ACCC Infocentre:  
1300 302 502

ACCC email:  
[infocentre@accc.gov.au](mailto:infocentre@accc.gov.au)

ACCC website:  
[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

