

# TS-750-017 Tubular Steel Playground Fencing Technical Specification

## 1. PURPOSE

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This specification sets out recommended minimum standards for materials and processes used to manufacture powder coated tubular steel playground fencing. The specification has been developed to ensure purchasers of this type of fencing receive a product that is fit for purpose, has an extended service life and is aesthetically pleasing. Compliance with this specification will ensure products provided comply with relevant Australian Standards and established industry best practice.

*There is no Australian Standard that addresses the material quality of tubular steel fencing, consisting of a pre-fabricated (welded) panel that connects to a post with a series of brackets and self-drilling tek screws. As a consequence suppliers in the market can offer fencing materials that vary greatly in terms of the steel tube profile size, the wall thickness (gauge) of the tube, the strength, the design and method of fabrication, the corrosion resistance, the metal pretreatment process used to clean the product and the powder coating regime. These aspects dramatically impact the cost of the fencing materials but also the whole of life cost of the product, including the safety of the product in service. In the absence of an Australian Standard we have developed this pro-forma specification to assist specifiers and to lift and make more uniform the product in the market for various applications.*

*There is an Australian Standard for steel tube and for powder coating and these are incorporated below.*

This specification may be used in conjunction with a separate installation specification which sets the requirement for issues like post footings and clearances of the fence from climbing aids.

*The italic paragraphs and notes throughout this document serve to highlight the functional or performance requirement of the product that that particular section of the specification sets out. They may also give the reader some background to the reason for a particular requirement. Purchasers using this specification may wish to delete the italic sections from the document before providing it to potential suppliers.*

*Please note: This flat top product is recommended for child safe applications. Loop top products are not recommended as the loops represent a potential hanging point.*

## 2. FENCE COMPONENTS

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### 2.1. FENCE PANELS

Panel Length: Maximum 2400mm

Panel Height: 1200mm

Pickets: Ø19mm x 1.2mm Circular Hollow Section (CHS).

Rails: 40mm x 40mm x 1.6mm Square Hollow Section (SHS)

Style: Flat Top

Picket Spacing: Maximum 106mm Centre to Centre (child safe)

Panel Configuration: Vertical pickets are to be inserted into punched rails. Pickets shall be welded into a punched bottom rail but not protrude above the top rails and below the bottom of that rail.

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*This 'through rail' configuration provides an inherently stronger configuration because the picket is located neatly within the rail and can better withstand attack. This 106mm picket spacing achieves a child/ pool safe outcome and ensures there is not too greater flex in the pickets.*

### **2.2. FENCE POSTS**

Post: 65mm x 65mm x 1.6mm SHS

Post length: Post shall be sized according to the footing design of the proposed fence installation. Typically the post shall be no shorter than 1800mm for installations in natural ground.

Posts may be fixed to a hard surface with a base plate welded to the base of the post. Base plate shall be galvanised.

### **2.3. PANEL BRACKETS**

A one-piece security bracket shall be used to attach the panel to the post. The bracket shall be configured so that it is fixed to the inside of the post wherever possible to increase tamper resistance. The bracket shall also be configured so that it can be fixed in 3 places. One point to fix the bracket to the rail of the panel and two points to fix the bracket to the post.

### **2.4. GATES**

Both Single and Double Gates shall be manufactured to the following specifications noting latch and drop bolt configurations for single and double gates may vary slightly.

Gate Width: Maximum 2400mm

Gate Height: 1200mm

Pickets: Ø19mm x 1.2mm Circular Hollow Section (CHS).

Rails: 40mm x 40mm x 1.6mm SHS

Stiles: 40mm x 40mm x 2mm SHS

Rail Configuration: Manufactured with a single bottom rail configuration (2 rails total). Pickets are welded into punched bottom rail but not protrude through bottom of that rail. Each picket to be welded on both sides of the picket.

*The two rails of at the bottom of the gate and the welding regime significantly enhance the strength of the gate.*

Gate Hinges: Supplied and fitted with a suitably sized ball bearing hinge (Goliath or equivalent) that can be lubricated. Hinges to be orientated so that the female piece cannot collect water. Hinge to be bolted to the gate post and gate stile with at least one M8 bolt and shear nut.

Self closing Hinges: Where a gate is to be self closing it shall be supplied and fitted with a suitably sized self-closing hinge with adjustable tension that complies with relevant Australian Standards. The gate shall also be fitted with a gate stop to prevent the gate leaf over-swinging resulting in damage to the hinge.

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*For heavier duty applications we would recommend the following gate stile and hinge arrangement. The large profile stiles are stronger and allow a heavy duty hinge to be used.*

Rails:	65mm x 65mm x 1.6mm SHS
Stiles:	65mm x 65mm x 2.5mm SHS
Gate Hinges:	Supplied and fitted with a suitably sized grease packed ball bearing hinge at top (that allows adjustment of the level of the gate) and lubricated tapered roller bearing hinge at bottom. Hinges to be screwed with M10 stainless steel screws with anti-tamper drive or bolted through the gate post with a suitably sized bolt. Bolts shall be supplied with anti-tamper 'shear nuts' or similar.
Gate Latch:	Gates shall be supplied and fitted with a horizontal slide bolt. Slide bolt is lockable in both the open and closed positions and to be made from 20mm diameter steel. The latch shall have a female receiver for the slide bolt which to be elongated in height and to be screwed/ bolted to the closing post or the adjacent gate stile in the case of a double gate.

*Locking in the open position prevents the gate being moved to the closed position and being locked closed. Elongation of the receiver allows for some settlement of the gate.*

Magnetic Latch:	Gates with self-closing hinges shall be supplied and fitted with a child safe magnetic latch.
Drop Bolt:	Security Pin type Ø16mm - 500mm lockable drop bolt that is screwed to the gate (on site). A suitably sized drop bolt receiver that can be placed in the ground is to be supplied with drop bolts.
Drop Bolt Receiver:	A steel drop bolt receiver unit shall be supplied for double gates that is suitable for cleaning away debris. The unit shall be of a design so as to receive both drop bolts in the closed (down) position in the one unit. Ferrules or pipe are not acceptable.

### **2.5. GATE POSTS**

Post Size:	The size of the gate post shall be determined by the width of the gate leaf it supports as per the table below. i.e. a 3000mm Double gate is comprised of two (2) 1500mm gate leaves.
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<b>Gate Leaf Width</b>	<b>Post Size</b>
Up to 2000mm wide	75x75x3mm SHS 1800mm long
Greater than 2401mm wide	100x100x4mm SHS 2000mm long

Post length:	Post shall be sized according to the footing design of the proposed fence installation. Typically the post shall be no shorter than 1800mm for installations in natural ground.
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*We recommend posts of this profile size, gauge and length due to the loads that are place on gates. If the gates post deflects under the load then the gate will likely become inoperable. Similarly if the footing fails the gate will become inoperable.*

### **2.6. POST CAPS**

All posts are to be capped with galvanised steel caps that are powder coated.

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### **2.7. FASTENERS**

Fasteners supplied shall be anti-tamper design. As a minimum 12 gauge teks screws shall be used per post and panel assembly.

Tek Screws shall comply with AS 3566.1-2002 : Self-drilling screws for the building and construction industries - General requirements and mechanical properties - Class 3 (or better.)

## **3. STEEL**

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### **3.1. PRECISION STEEL HOLLOW SECTIONS**

Fencing components: Panel (uprights and rail), posts and gates (stiles, rails and uprights) in section sizes up to 65x65x2.5mm shall be manufactured using premium grade [GalvaBond® tube supplied by Orrcon Steel](#) or equivalent complies with the following standards as a minimum:

- AS 1450 – Steel tubes for mechanical purposes - Product Designation AS 1450/**C250**/ERW; and
- Tube manufactured using strip in accordance with AS 1397 – Steel sheet and strip – Hot-dip zinc-coated or alu/zinc coated - Product Designation AS 1397/G2/**Z275**.

Precision Tube shall be coated with a light mill oil for moisture protection during transportation and storage.

*Reference to Australian Standards is not sufficient because the standards allows for numerous grades of product including product below current industry standards for fencing. Imported steel may not comply with Australian Standard and can be of significantly inferior quality.*

*The material specified above has a zinc coating mass of 275g/m<sup>2</sup> (as denoted by 'Z275') which offers the highest corrosion protection in pre-galvanised steel hollow section (SHS) material. Other materials can have dramatically lower zinc mass coatings making the finished product more exposed to corrosion.*

### **3.2. STRUCTURAL STEEL HOLLOW SECTIONS**

Fencing components: Posts in section sizes greater than 65x65x2.5mm shall be manufactured using [AllGal® tube supplied by Orrcon Steel](#) or equivalent that comply with the following minimum standards:

- AS 1163 – Structural steel hollow sections – Product Designation AS 1163 **C350**LO.

*The material specified above has a minimum yield strength of 350mpa (as denoted by 'C350') which makes it suitable for more structural applications.*

Galvanized (zinc coated inside and outside) in accordance with:

- AS 4750-2003 – Electro-galvanised (zinc) coating on ferrous hollow and open sections – Product Designation AS 4750 ZE 50/50; or
- AS 4792 Hot-dip galvanized (zinc) coatings on ferrous hollow sections, applied by a continuous or a specialized process AS 4792 IB 50/50; or

The steel tube shall have a minimum zinc coating mass of 100 g/m<sup>2</sup> (combined coating mass inside and out). The steel tube shall be coated with a light mill oil (if being powder coated) for moisture protection during transportation and storage.

## **4. FABRICATION AND ASSOCIATED PROCESSES**

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### **4.1. CUTTING**

Cuts shall be generally free of sharps and burrs.

### **4.2. GRINDING**

Grinding of fencing components during fabrication shall be kept to minimum. Where grinding of weld zone is required care shall be taken to ensure galvanising is not removed from material surfaces.

### **4.3. WELDING**

All welds are silicone bronze. Note hinges and associated parts may use structural weld electrode as required but they must be galvanised after fabrication to prevent corrosion. Welds are to be formed in neat consistent bead with good penetration. Care should be taken to ensure splatter is minimised during welding and any splatter is removed. Silicone based anti spatters shall not be used.

*Silicone bronze is used to reduce damage to the galvanised coating on the SHS and enhance the corrosion resistance of the weld zone. Silicone based anti spatters may lead to de-wetting of the powder resulting in poor powder adhesion to the steel substrate.*

## **5. POWDER COATINGS**

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### **5.1. CLEANING AND CHEMICAL PRE-TREATMENT**

The following applies for all fencing panels, posts and gates prior to application of the specified coating system. New galvanised surfaces are examined for welding flux residues, light roll forming oils, dirt and grit and other foreign matter, all of which are removed prior to powder coating. Surfaces that show local areas of white storage stain (white rust) or other types of corrosion products are to be rejected. Powder application shall occur within 24 hours of substrate pre-treatment.

Pre-treatment systems are maintained and tested in accordance with AS 4506.2005 Metal finishing - Thermoset powder coatings and the pretreatment chemical supplier's recommendations.

*White rust can lead to adhesion problems or out-gassing of the powder coating. Leaving products for more than 24hrs after pretreatment increases the likelihood of coating failure.*

### **5.2. OPTION 1 - STANDARD COATING SYSTEM**

This option will consist of a polyester powder coating (or other approved exterior grade powder) in the nominated colour and gloss finish, applied in accordance with AS4506.2005 Table 2.1 Atmospheric Classification C2 – Moderate (Exterior) Medium.

*Polyester type coatings are the industry standard in Australia for external finishes and are manufactured extensively in Australia specifically for Australian conditions. Atmospheric Classification C2 covers all installation locations except those in tropical, high marine, industrial or worse environments.*

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Testing of powder coated products shall be carried in accordance with AS 4506.2005 Section 2 for the stated atmospheric classification. In addition to the requirements of AS 4506 products will be required to:

1. Have minimum thickness of 80 micron; and
2. Achieve 500 hrs Neutral Salt Spray Performance.

*The 80 micron thickness specification is higher than the 60 micron minimum specified by AS4506.2005 to ensure consistent colour, gloss and an extended coating life in accordance with industry best practice. 500 hrs Neutral Salt performance is the accepted industry standard for Atmospheric Classification C2 conditions.*

### **5.3. OPTION 2 – CORROSION PROTECTION COATING SYSTEM**

This Coating System can be applied as a primer coat in addition to an Option 1 top coat as directed. A zinc rich epoxy primer is applied to the pre-treated substrate in accordance with AS 4506.2005 Table 2.1 Atmospheric Classification D High Marine / Industrial. Curing (or partial curing) of the zinc rich coating shall be carried out prior to application of the top coat in accordance with the powder coating suppliers recommendations.

Testing of powder coated products shall be carried in accordance with AS 4506.2005 Section 2 for the stated atmospheric classification. In addition to the requirements of AS 4506 products will be required to:

1. Have a minimum thickness of 60 micron for the Zinc Rich Primer coat;
2. Have minimum thickness of 80 micron for Option 1 top coat; and
3. The combined coating system shall achieve 1000 hrs Neutral Salt Spray Performance.

*This coating of a zinc rich primer dramatically enhances the corrosion resistance qualities of the product to withstand more corrosive environments like sites in close proximity to large salt water bodies.*

## **6. QUALITY ASSURANCE**

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### **6.1. QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The manufacturer and powder coater shall ensure Quality Management Plan is maintained in respect of the product fabrication and powder coating processes, which includes Inspection and Test Plans (ITP's). The manufacturer may be required to produce copies of relevant ITP to demonstrate compliance with the requirement of this Technical Specification.

### **6.2. CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE**

Certificate of Compliance must be provided by the manufacture and powder coating applicator at the completion of the supply of the materials as follows.

1. A Certificate of Conformance from the manufacturer of the Precision Tube certifying that all Precision Tube meets or exceed the requirements of Section 3.1 – Precision Tube.
2. A Certificate of Conformance from the manufacturer of the Structural Steel Hollow Sections certifying that all Structural Sections meet or exceed the requirements of Section 3.2 – Structural Steel Hollow Sections.

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3. A Certificate of Conformance from the powder coat applicator certifying that all coatings meet or exceed the requirements of AS 4506 – 2005 Metal finishing - Thermoset powder coatings and the specific requirements for the specified coating option as per Section 4 of this document.

*When considering the veracity of a Certificate of Compliance the purchaser should consider whether or not the party making the statement is reputable, has its own Quality Assurance System ideally certified to be in accordance with ISO 9001, and its relationship to the supplier of the fencing. Consideration should also be given to whether or not materials used are imported.*

## 7. COPYRIGHT

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## 8. REVISIONS

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REV.	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	DATE	AUTHORISED BY
A (original)		6/8/13	S. Belfield
B	Updated to current specifications and corrected broken hyper links	31/01/23	B. Searle