



Playpark Safety

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The aim of this policy is to ensure all play parks under the Organisation's control are maintained in a safe and secure condition and without significant risk to users.
- 1.2 The procedures detailed within this section are intended to facilitate the effective management of play parks, ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to comply with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Children Act (1989) Scotland, and all other relevant pieces of legislation.

2. Definitions

Competent Person – *“a person, suitably trained and qualified by knowledge of the safety, inspection and maintenance of play park areas and equipment.”*

Hazard – *“something which has the potential to cause harm.”*

Risk – *“the chance or probability that a person will be harmed or experience an adverse health effect if exposed to a hazard.”*

3. References (see also Section 8.11 - Guidance)

- BS EN 1176
- BS EN 1177
- Children Act (1989) Scotland
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995,
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
- The Children Act (Scotland) 1995
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

4. Risk Assessments

- 4.1 A risk assessment programme will be carried out, and reviewed regularly, to identify and assess potential hazards within playpark and children's recreational areas. The assessment will also be reviewed when new equipment is installed or if there are any changes to the layout of the park.

- 4.2 An assessment will also be carried out to assess the suitability for use by disabled persons.
- 4.3 Risk assessments will be carried out by a competent person who has the suitable knowledge and who has attended a RoSPA training course (or equivalent) on the principles of Risk Assessment concerning children's play parks.
- 4.4 If any defects are identified, the Organisation will use a competent external contractor to carry out the repairs immediately.

5. New Equipment

- 5.1 All new playground equipment will adhere to the current British Standard, BS EN 1176.

6. Inspections

Post Installation

- 6.1 A post installation inspection will be carried out by an independent inspector (such as a member of RoSPA) to identify any defects with the installation of equipment or surfacing. Upon successful inspection, the facility will be formally 'approved' in writing as suitable for use and compliant with all relevant requirements.

Routine Inspections

- 6.2 Routine inspections will be carried out and recorded at least weekly by a member of the Organisation. Inspections will include:
 - visually checking the equipment for any obvious faults or hazards that can be a danger to children, parents or carers;
 - ensuring the safety surface and surrounding areas are free from debris which could cause injury or be a hazard to health or the environment, for example, litter, glass or animal fouling.
- 6.3 Staff carrying out routine inspections will have attended a 1 day "Routine Inspections and Maintenance" course applicable to play parks.
- 6.4 If members of staff identify animal faeces in the play park, it will be disposed of correctly using dog bags and dog/litter bins.

Maintenance Inspections

- 6.5 Maintenance inspections will be carried out every 3 months. These will include:

- all aspects of routine inspection;
- checking that fixings are secure;
- lubrication of bearings;
- touching-in any scratches to paintwork using the appropriate paint;
- repairing safety surfaces and other elements that form the rest of the site.

Those carrying out maintenance inspections will have a Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) qualification (or equivalent).

Annual Inspections

6.6 An overall inspection of all aspects of the site will be carried out annually by an independent inspector (such as a member of RoSPA) to ensure all legal requirements are met. Records will be maintained of the inspection.

Retaining Records

6.7 All inspections will be accurately recorded and retained for 3 years.

Remedial Action

6.8 Where any inspection identifies failures or other aspects which could result in the facility presenting a risk to users, the facility will be put out of action without delay, appropriately secured and sign-posted and remedial action arranged. Any remedial action will be formally recorded and the facility re-inspected prior to being re-opened.

7. Protective Surfacing

7.1 The Organisation will use protective surfacing in play parks (such as grass and wood chips) to reduce the severity of injury from falls.

7.2 Routine inspections will identify any hazards associated with the surfacing and repairs will be carried out by a competent person immediately.

8. Fencing and Gates

8.1 All play parks under the Organisation's control will be enclosed by a fence at least 1 meter high. All gates will be a minimum width of 1 meter to allow access for wheel chairs and push chairs.

8.2 The Organisation will ensure that there is adequate access for the emergency services.

9. Security

9.1 The Organisation recognises the importance of security measures in play parks. Adequate lighting will be provided to prevent accidents and to increase the safety of users. If the play park is subject to high levels of vandalism, the Organisation may install CCTV.

10. Use of Chemicals

10.1 The Organisation will aim to use non - chemical methods (such as hand weeding) where appropriate for the treatment of weeds and algae. When the use of chemicals cannot be avoided, users will be clearly notified that chemicals have been used in the area.

11. Dogs in Play Parks

11.1 The Organisation recognises that dogs may be present in parks. However, “no dogs allowed signs” will be clearly displayed on the entrance to the enclosed play area containing the play equipment.

11.2 “No dog fouling” signs will be clearly displayed around the park.

11.3 Dog bins will be provided in all play parks under the Organisation’s control.