



Be Smart, Be Safe.

A guide to making the right
play safety choices.

rp11



Look for the official Seal

and be safe with the RPII

Playing safe

When building or maintaining a playground, it's important to factor in safety and usability. Children need to play in a stimulating environment to help development and imagination, but the environment needs to be controlled in such a way that they can do this safely and securely, without the risk of serious injury. When play areas are built, dependent on the type, they should adhere to certain regulations in order to provide the safest opportunity for children.

The RPII were set up in order to ensure play areas meet these standards consistently and that any problems are fixed. They accredit inspectors with qualifications to carry out these necessary inspections.

What needs inspecting?

What needs inspecting, how often and by who depends on a variety of factors such as location, levels of use and history of vandalism. There are different types of play areas and different standards for each, but all areas where children play have a requirement

for inspection. Play facility managers have a legal and moral responsibility of care to children using the site - and at the same time need to meet the expectations of the courts.

Although it is not a legal requirement to conform to standards, it is considered best practice. Following best practice ensures protection for both you and the children who use the play area. Inspectors will look at vandalism, minor and major wear, long-term structural problems, changes in the Standards compliance and design practices, risk assessment etc. It is worth noting that standards are not retrospective, so just because a structure was built to an older standard, this does not mean that major changes will need to be made; the inspector in these instances will use risk assessment to help make those judgments.

Outdoor Play

Annual and Post Installation Inspections of outdoor play areas should only be inspected by an RPII Outdoor Annual Inspector, and it is strongly recommended that this takes place. Outdoor play areas are covered



by BSEN 1176 and BSEN 1177. RPII Annual Inspectors are also qualified to undertake inspections of Skate Facilities (BS EN 14974) and Multi Use Games Areas (BS EN 15312)

Indoor Play

Children's Fully Enclosed Play Equipment (FEPE)

Annual and Post Installation Inspections of indoor play areas should only be inspected by an RPII Indoor Annual Inspector, and again it is strongly recommended that this takes place. Indoor play areas should conform to British and European Safety Standards (in this case BSEN 1176 pt10) and the BS 8409 Code of Practice is also applicable.

Inflatable

This is required for inflatable play areas such as bouncy castles, and inspectors should check inflatable play areas adhere to the guidelines (BSEN 14960:2006). These inspections should only be carried out by an RPII Inflatable Inspector.

The right inspector for the job

Each type of play area needs to be inspected by someone suitably qualified to carry out the inspection. Whilst someone may be trained and accredited by the RPII to carry out an outdoor operational inspection, for example, this does not mean they are able to carry out annual inspections. Each level requires a different amount and type of training specific to the area they

wish to work with. Finding an inspector with expertise in the equipment you have is the best way to ensure safety. Only qualified annual inspectors are issued a seal by the RPII, so you should always check these first before you get the job done. For more information, see the Seal Awareness Flyer.

You can find inspectors on the RPII Website (www.playinspectors.com) using the postcode finder; however this only shows the nearest inspector, and it is worth noting that some inspection companies offer a nationwide service so it is a good idea to ring around before making your final choice.

All RPII Annual Inspectors are issued with a special RPII Seal to enable easy identification of the appropriate qualification, so for your safety and the children using your play area, make sure you find the right inspector for the job.



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