

Information Pack for Registration as an RP II Operational Inspector

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Introduction

As there was no acknowledged independent accreditation and training process either for existing children's playground inspectors or for those who may aspire to the role, a number of well-known and experienced organisations joined together to fill this gap by providing independent accreditation. This scheme enables inspectors, who are on the Register, to demonstrate their competency to carry out the tasks required.

The organisations involved comprise of the Association of Play Industries (API), Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM), The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)

Aims

- ◆ To accredit and certify individual playground inspectors who have shown the required level of knowledge and demonstrated competence to the required standard.
- ◆ To provide a Register of those playground inspectors who reach the required standard and agree to the terms and conditions of registration.
- ◆ To market the Register and make it widely available to organisations and individuals who may require the services of such inspectors.

Objectives

- ◆ To accredit organisations that satisfy the requirements of the Board with approval to organise and run playground Inspectors Courses for those people who wish to learn the necessary knowledge and skills.
- ◆ To approve a syllabus and methodology for delivering the course content.
- ◆ To ensure adequate resources and finance to meet the above aims
- ◆ To ensure candidates who wish to be included on the Register have a range of opportunities to demonstrate skills, knowledge and competencies to the necessary standards.
- ◆ To advertise the existence and purpose of the Register so that playground operators and installers may avail themselves of the services of accredited inspectors.
- ◆ To ensure Registered Inspectors continue to update their professional development to keep abreast of changes within the industry and safety requirements.

OPERATIONAL INSPECTORS SYLLABUS

PRINCIPLE

- To assess at one to three monthly intervals a detailed inspection of the playground and its fitness for use. The inspection is advised as necessary for safety throughout the 33+ countries in Europe by the European Standard EN1176 for playground equipment. Within the UK, whilst not a legal requirement such inspections are advised by all the organisations and government bodies concerned with playground provision and safety including the Health and Safety Executive.
- The actions need to be recorded and regularly returned to the management responsible for the operation of the playground. The management should use this information to address safety and other matters for the site and any other sites they have responsibility for.

EN1176 part 7 forms the basis of the RPII approach, however additional factors are included to ensure that the inspector has the necessary 'roundness' for the task they are involved in.

EN1176 part 7 section 6 2 b) advises the following;

N.B. these will be examined and will require a high level of knowledge

- That the 'routine' inspections are being satisfactorily undertaken
- That any repairs, maintenance or alterations have been correctly undertaken
- That each play equipment item has its operation and stability checked, especially for any wear
- That each play equipment item is checked in accordance with its manufacturers instructions especially with reference to 'sealed for life' parts

The RPII additionally require that the inspector is able to demonstrate their competence for the following areas; the levels of knowledge vary between high, moderate and low:

The RPII will assess the competence of the candidate by a written paper and the candidate carrying out a 'on site' operational inspection. The following will be assessed to varying degrees by both the written paper and 'on site' examination.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

		Level of required knowledge
1	Child development	Low
2	The importance of play	Low
3	Accidents, their type, frequency and severity	Moderate
4	Legal, the appropriate Acts of Parliament, and how they may affect the operator and directly the inspector. Examples of case law should be provided to ensure awareness of negligence.	Moderate
5	Provision recommendations for playgrounds, play value, Audit Commission indicators, local authority structure plan	Low

OPERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

6	European Standard EN1176 - how part 7 section 6. 2b) operates and interrelates with the other advised EN1176 inspection regimes, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.1, 7.2, on accident prevention and actions in connection with serious defects • 8.2.3 on documentation • 8.2.4 on signage and general safety measures • 8.2.5 procedures in the case of defects, safety matters and immobilisation or removal of equipment • 8.2.6 routine maintenance procedures • 8.2.7 corrective maintenance procedures 	High
7	Documentation, reporting and the importance of record keeping	High
8	The incorporation of information resulting from routine and annual main inspections.	High

THE RPII CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ELEMENTS TO BE NECESSARY

9	A logical and systematic approach to inspecting, importantly including risk assessment	High
10	Firstly to inspect the approaches to the playground, signs, traffic, road barriers	Moderate
11	Secondly to inspect the immediate playground surround, signs, vegetation, fencing, gates	High
12	Thirdly to inspect the playground itself, i.e. the active playground area within the fenced surround, seats, litter bins, vegetation, lighting, other furniture and non play items.	High
13	Fourthly to inspect the specific play equipment or play features (including Impact Absorbing Surfacing). The range of equipment that will be considered within the examination will replicate that most commonly found within the area of the examination. It will primarily include equipment found commonly within the UK.	High
14	The checking of maintenance and other playground actions	High

RPII operational examinations are able to be undertaken by anybody upon payment of the examination fees to RPII who will notify the dates and locations for exams. Training bodies may also apply on behalf of prospective candidates.

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that they have the appropriate knowledge before taking the exams and the RPII are able to provide name of bodies that provide courses. The RPII do not evaluate or oversee these independent courses. They do however regularly audit their examinations and obtain evaluation of the training courses from the candidate. It is for the candidates to satisfy themselves regarding the appropriateness of the course and competence of the course providers.

All candidates are advised to review the RPII reading list

The RPII examination is in two parts:

The written examination and the questions are set specifically by the RPII. The written examination will last 60 minutes and will require candidates to answer approximately 40 to 50 questions.

The practical examination is individual to the candidate and will last approximately 20 minutes and is undertaken on a playground. The examiner will use standard RPII papers that are issued to each candidate and standard RPII marking papers.

The examiner is required by the RPII not to reveal any information on the result of the exams; this is the responsibility of the RPII who will forward the results and certificates as appropriate to the candidate. The course provider will be advised separately of candidates pass or fail. No additional information will be provided.

Viva Voce

Examiners may use a viva voce to enable the candidate to express knowledge, competence and/or elaborate on areas on which there appears to be uncertainty or ambiguity.

Appeals

Any candidate who wishes to appeal against the decision of the examiners should, in the first instance, lodge a written appeal directly with the examiner. Should the appeal be rejected the candidate will have the right to send a written appeal to the Board whose decision will be final.

Specimen Questions:

Q1. Why is play important for children? (circle the four most important for two marks)

- a. Exercise
- b. Entertainment
- c. Fun
- d. Occupies their time
- e. Development of co-ordination and movement
- f. Relating to other children
- g. Strength development
- h. Keeps them off the streets
- i. Part of their education

Q2. When checking for playground signs where should they be positioned? (circle one for one mark)

- a. Beside main entrance facing inwards so children can read them from inside
The playground
- b. Beside nearest pavement access point
- c. Beside seat inside playground
- d. At each playground entrance

Q3. What is the minimum size of hole damage in synthetic surfacing which should be reported for repair

- a. 5mm
- b. 10mm
- c. 15mm
- d. 25mm

Practical Inspection

The on-site inspection will be undertaken on a suitable playground or playgrounds. A 20 minute examination is anticipated as the candidate will have to explain matters to the examiner and answer questions as appropriate.

The inspection site(s) should include:

Ancillary items

Access
Fencing
Gate
Seat
Litter bin
Signage

Equipment (metal & timber) *must be included

*Swing
*Slide
*Rotating item
*Rocking item
Spring item
*Climbing frame (can be part of a multi play)
Multi-play

Surfacing

Wet Pour
Tiles
Loose-fill

Inspection Process

The candidate will be asked to undertake a practical on-site routine inspection and complete the documentation supplied. The inspection shall be non-dismantling and not involve the use of ladders.

**Attach
Photo**



Operational Inspectors Membership and Examination Application Form

Surname: _____ **Forename(s):** _____

Name as you would like it to appear on your RPII Badge: _____

Company Name (if applicable): _____

Contact Details (these will be entered on the publicly available Register)

Address: _____ Tel. No: _____

Postcode: _____ Fax No: _____
E-Mail: _____
Mobile _____

Home Details (these will not be made public but may be used by RPII to contact you).

Address: _____ Tel. No: _____

Postcode: _____ Fax No: _____
E-Mail: _____
Mobile _____

Preferred Examination Date: Day: _____ Month: _____ Year _____

(Examinations are held quarterly please indicate your preferred quarter. Every effort will be made to meet your preferred date and location but this cannot be guaranteed)

Examination and 3 years membership fee £175.00 Cheque attached
Payment must be included with application.
Cheques should be made payable to: **Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII)**

Signed: _____ Date: _____

The following list gives details of some publications covering play and play policy.

The examination questions will not necessarily be based on information contained therein.

Level: R= Routine, O=Operational, A=Annual, G=General

Title & Author	Level
Accessible and Inclusive Playspace (DDA Guide) This easy to read workbook offers a straightforward guide to the key issues and challenges facing playground managers with the Disability Discrimination Act. Available from: Orston Limited, 01949 851699, www.orston.org	G
Assessing Risk on Children's Playgrounds An essential guide to assessing risk on outside playgrounds to meet the requirements of the management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. Available from: RoSPA – 01367 820989, info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk	ROA
Entertainment Sheet No. 11 European standards for outdoor playground equipment Available from: HSE – hseinformationservices@natbrit.com	ROA
Growing Spaces for Play How to enhance children's development and get more from your playground. Discusses how to produce natural environments for children. Available from: RoSPA - 01367 820989, info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk	OA
Guide to the Design and Management of Children's Playspace John Hicks shares his many years of practical experience of playground inspection and management with you in this straight-forward guide incorporating hands-on inspection and risk assessment methods, as well as detailed practical guidance on playground design. Available from: John Hicks & Associates . Johhicks@lineone.net	G
Guide to the European Playground Standards Introducing BS EN1176 and BS EN1177. Contains an abbreviated version of the new standard where it may be checked on site. Available from: RoSPA - 01367 820989, info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk	A
Impact Absorbing Surfaces For Children's Playgrounds Information & guidance on the installation of impact absorbing surfaces in children's playgrounds. It describes the principal types of surfacing systems used and gives advice on the procedure for correct installation. Available from: NPFA, 02078 335360, npfa@npfa.co.uk	ROA
Making The Case For Play, gathering the evidence this document contains four detailed research reports – Something Good & Fun, The Value of Children's Play Provision, The Planning and Location of Play Provision in England, The State of Play. Available from: Children's Play Council, 0207 8436016	G
Making The Case For Play – building policies and strategies for school-aged children. Available from: Children's Play Council, 0207 8436016	G

<p>More than Swings and Roundabouts a guide to creating and improving opportunities for outdoor play and informal recreation for children and young people. Available from: Children's Play Council, 0207 8436016</p>	G
<p>New European Play Safety Standards (The) With the European Standard now in place and superseding BS5696 and DIN 7926, this new book gives guidance for playground operators on how to implement the Standards, order new equipment and what to do about existing equipment. The latest advice from Health and Safety Executive is also reproduced. Available from: NPFA, 02078 335360, npfa@npfa.co.uk</p>	A
<p>Regular Inspection of Children's Playgrounds Designed to help you undertake the regular inspection of playgrounds. Tells you what to look for and how to document it. Available from: RoSPA, 01367 820989, info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk</p>	R
<p>Safety Recommendations for Recreational Facilities for Young People Guide to proving sports and recreational facilities for older children on the playground. Available from: RoSpa, 01367 820989, info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk</p>	G
<p>Six Acre Standard (The) NPFA's widely – endorsed and revised policy on the minimum amount of play and recreation space which should be provided for every 1000 residents. Available from: NPFA, 02078 335360, npfa@npfa.co.uk</p>	G
<p>Six Acre Standard Review (The) A detailed review of the Questionnaire Responses and an analysis of the responses, including Summary Report and Conclusion. Available from: NPFA, 02078 335360, npfa@npfa.co.uk</p>	G
<p>Taking The Lead Practical advice on implementing a policy to keep play and sports clean, whilst making provision for dogs. Available from: NPFA, 02078 335360, npfa@npfa.co.uk</p>	G
<p>The Children's Playground A basic guide to proving a new playground or refurbishing and old one. Available from: RoSPA, 01367 820989, info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk</p>	G
<p>DDA 1995 Disability Discrimination Act Available from: www.drc-gb.org/org/law/dda.asp</p>	G
<p>Wicksteed Leisure A guide to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Available from: Wicksteed Leisure 01536 517028, sales@wicksteed.co.uk</p>	G
<p>The Playground Inspection and Maintenance Manual. Aimed at Operational and Routine Inspectors hoping to advance, incorporates recent changes and additions to BS EN1176. Available from: John Hicks & Associates. Johhicks@lineone.net</p>	R O

Training Providers

Active Risk Management Services Ltd – Jean Wenger, 50 Hurst Park Road, Tywford, Berkshire, RG10 0EY, Tel 07970 764804, Email activerms@hotmail.co.uk

Institute of Leisure & Amenity Management (ILAM) – Sue Taylor, ILAM House, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 9NE, Tel 01491 874800, Fax: 01491 874801, Email: info@ilam.co.uk

John Hicks & Associates – John Hicks, 41a Upland Road, Selly Park, Birmingham, B29 7JS, Tel: 01214 721276, Fax: 01214 74839, Mobile: 07762 232646, Email: johnhicks@lineone.net

Play Space & Safe Consultancy – Andy Wilson-Chalon, Lletty Cottage, Hendrerwydd, Denbighshire, LL16 4LL, Tel: 01824 790571, Mobile: 07711 412517, Email: andy.pssc@btinternet.com

Playground Management Ltd (RoSPA) – David Yearley, The Old Village Hall, Kingston Lisle Business Centre, Kingston Lisle, Oxfordshire, OX12 9QX, Tel/Fax 01367 820989, Email: info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk

Rynat Ltd – John Bedford Clark, 3 Holly Terrace, Balby, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN4 8RE, Tel: 01302 – 858358, Fax: 0870-0558507, Mobile: 07887 791834 Email: jbc@rynat.demon.co.uk

Skills Training Centre – Paul Buey, Mill Hill Depot, Bittacy Mill, London, NW7 1BL, Tel: 020 8359 5157, Fax: 020 8359 5028, Email info@skillstrainingcentre.co.uk

The Play Inspection Company Ltd – Keith Dalton, Rivers Lea House, 14 Ringwood Road, Dorset, BH22 9AN, Tel: 01202 590675, Fax: 0870 4283942 Mobile: 07966 096162, Email: keith.dalton@playinspections.co.uk

Register of Playground Inspectors International

Equal Opportunities Policy

The Register of Playground Inspectors International (RPII) firmly supports the principle of equal opportunities throughout its range of training services and opposes all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, class, age, religion or membership of a trade union.

RPII:

1. Seeks to comply fully with the requirements of the Race Relations Act 1976, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (as amended) and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and will take note of the various codes of practice dealing with the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunities. RPII has a positive commitment to equal opportunities beyond legislation and will seek to ensure that all its training services are available equally to all without discrimination.
2. Holds the principle of equal opportunities as central to its strategic development and to its planning and implementation strategies.
3. Recognises that equality is a key aspect of quality assurance and should be addressed as part of the company's standard quality assurance procedures.
4. Recognises that individuals are disadvantaged in society by sexist, racist and other stereotypical expectations.
5. Seeks to counteract this stereotyping and will offer positive images where possible. All staff will be encouraged to become aware of direct and indirect discrimination in their dealings with Candidates and in action planning and delivery.
6. Seeks to ensure that Candidates are placed on programmes which are appropriate to their needs so as to encourage them to meet their full potential and to ensure that all programmes are free from artificial barriers which restrict access and progression. As part of this commitment, RPII will seek to ensure that appropriate support is available to all Candidate

Check List

Have you included?

Completed and Signed Application Form (see page 9)

Passport Size Photo

The appropriate payment (see page 9)