

**Register of Play Inspectors International  
Ltd**



**Guidance Notes and Syllabus for  
Certification and Registration of  
Children's Playground Inspectors**

**Register of Play Inspectors International Ltd, Federation House,  
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2RF Tel: 024 76 693787  
Fax: 024 76 414990 E-Mail [rpii@playinspectors.com](mailto:rpii@playinspectors.com) Web:  
[www.playinspectors.com](http://www.playinspectors.com)**

## **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 have 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).

Details of the Scheme, its rationale, methodology and syllabus are as follows:

### **1.0 Aims**

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

### **2.0 Objectives**

- 2.1 By accrediting 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.
- 2.2 By the Board approving a syllabus and methodology for delivering the course content.
- 2.3 By ensuring adequate resources and finances to meet the above aims.
- 2.4 By ensuring candidates who wish to be included on the Register have a range of opportunities to demonstrate skills, knowledge and competencies to the necessary standards.
- 2.5 By advertising the existence and purpose of the Register so that playground operators and installers may avail themselves of the services of accredited inspectors.
- 2.6 By ensuring Registered Inspectors continue to update their professional development to keep abreast of changes within the industry and safety requirements.

## **Methodology**

There will be three routes to assessment for candidates who wish to apply for registration. These are as follows;

### **1. Recognition of Prior Experience (RPE)**

Candidates who can demonstrate satisfactory relevant experience gained in a working situation that is acceptable to the Board may be allowed to go forward for immediate examination.

1 **Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)** Candidates who can show that they have covered the course syllabus in another recognisable setting, e.g. a college or other suitable training course, and can demonstrate successful outcomes, that are acceptable to the Board, may also be allowed to go forward to the examination process.

2 **Accredited Training** Candidates who have neither of the above exemptions must undergo a training course recognised by the Board. Such a training course must, as a minimum, cover the syllabus and learning outcomes shown later. On successful completion of such a course candidates will be able to proceed to the examination process.

## **Examination**

An examiner who has no connection with the candidate will carry out the examination.

### ***Practical***

All candidates will be required to undergo a practical examination. Candidates may be asked questions by the examiners and will be expected to give a verbal commentary on what they are doing, looking for, etc. during the practical demonstration. At the end of the practical demonstration candidates will be expected to hand a copy of any hand-written notes to the examiners together with any short codes, abbreviations, etc. A full report, to client standard, must then be submitted within fourteen days of the demonstration.

### ***Accreditation of Prior Learning and/or Recognition of Prior Experience***

Candidates must provide written evidence of APL and/or RPE for submission to the Assessors/Board to enable the Assessors/Board to determine if exemption is justified.

### ***Examination (for those who cannot demonstrate APL/RPE only)***

Examinations for those candidates who attend a course of instruction will consist of a series of multi-choice questions. Other questions that require the candidate to provide descriptions or elaboration may be used at the discretion of the Board.

## **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.

## **Syllabus**

1. An introduction to EN 1176, EN 1177, BS7188 plus document on layout.

### *Learning Outcomes*

Candidates must demonstrate the ability to reference the standards and show adequate knowledge and understanding of the standards. This will include, but not exclusively, the major measurements., test methods for entrapment and the use of templates, rods and probes, materials, substances, protection against falling, means of access, free space, falling space and zoning, ropes and chains, stairs etc. It will also include dangerous substances, flammability, foundations and loading, structural design and use of eurocodes. Other subject areas are as follows:- additional requirements and test methods for swings, slides runways, carousels and rocking equipment, installations, different types and methods of inspection and schedules, reports and documentation, safety requirements and test methods for Impact Absorbing Surfaces

2. Hazard based 'risk assessment' and procedures

### *Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will build upon the knowledge and discussion from section 1 and show satisfactory knowledge and skills in this area.

3. Knowledge of faults, problems with playground equipment and surfaces

### *Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will build upon the requirements of section 1.and show they have theoretical knowledge and practical ability to identify faults and problems to the required standard.

4. Inspection and Record Keeping, principles and methodologies.

### *Learning Outcomes*

Once again candidates will build upon the requirements of section 1 and demonstrate an understanding of the needs for, and requirements of, inspection and record keeping.

5. Knowledge of BS3178, BS5696 and Din7926

*Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will demonstrate an adequate knowledge of the above standards, how to access them and what the major relevances are.

6. Legislation relating to children's playground provision

*Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will draw upon section 1 and develop their knowledge and analysis of the Health and Safety at Work Act, Occupants liability etc.

7. Impact Absorbing Surfaces, its principles –both past and present

*Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of IAS from section 1 and have the required level of knowledge of the surfaces available and the strengths and weaknesses of each type.

8. Faults and problems with ancillary equipment found in and around playgrounds

*Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will once again build upon section 1 and demonstrate a good and knowledgeable understanding of faults and problems with such equipment including, for example, fences, gates, litter bins etc.

9. The appropriateness of other flooring finishes and surfacing found within playgrounds.

*Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will be required to discuss the relevant merits and disadvantages of a range of surfacing and flooring materials.

10. Knowledge of playground equipment production processes, protective finishes and treatments

*Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will show an adequate understanding of the major production and treatment processes, together with their strengths and weaknesses.

11. Playground design and layout

*Learning Outcomes*

Candidates should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the design and layout principles of playgrounds and the ability to analyse and make constructive criticism on both proposed and existing playgrounds and/or plans. The need for separation of ages, movement flows and potential and actual dangers will need to be justified.

## 12. Maintenance and repair of playground equipment and surfacing

### *Learning Outcomes*

A reasonable knowledge of how to correct major and routine faults will be required together with the ability to identify where and when major faults need attention

## 13. Equipment, past and present

### *Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will demonstrate a good knowledge of the various ranges and manufacturers of equipment commonly in use and equipment that has been used or was popular in the past. An understanding of why trends may have changed, e.g. new safety requirements etc. will also need to be demonstrated

## 14. Playground accidents

### *Learning Outcomes*

There will be a requirement that candidates demonstrate knowledge of the different types, style, varying severity and frequency of accidents within the playground environment. This will include recognition of the type of accidents that may be likely from various types of equipment.

## 15. Relationships with the public and self management

### *Learning Outcomes*

Candidates will need to demonstrate a firm knowledge of how to deal with the public, children and self. They will need to recognise the vulnerable situations each of the foregoing may find themselves in and demonstrate ways of reducing risk and/or compromising situations.

## 16. Common poisonous plants

### *Learning Outcomes*

Candidates should have a reasonable knowledge and understanding of and be able to identify common plants and their relative dangers in or near to children's playgrounds. An understanding of the maintenance needs of such vegetation e.g. nettles, poisonous plants, prickly plants etc. is also required.

## 17. Philosophy and principles of children's play needs

### *Learning Outcomes*

Candidates must demonstrate a clear understanding of the general principles underpinning the philosophy of children's play. This should include the reasons why children's playgrounds are built, developmental needs of children etc.

## **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 examiners. Should the appeal be rejected the candidate will have the right to send the written appeal to the Board whose decision will be final.

## **SUMMARY**

The Register of Playground Inspectors will be available to operators and installers of children's playgrounds. This register will contain only inspectors who have demonstrated adequate skills, knowledge and competence to independent examiners. The examiners will have been appointed by an independent Board made up of knowledgeable people from widely known and respected organisations. Gaining entry to the Register via the routes shown in this document will demonstrate a commitment, by practitioners, to high moral, ethical and professional standards.