

Register of Play Inspectors International

Guidance Notes and Syllabus for Certification and Registration of Children's Inflatable Play Equipment Inspectors

Register of Play Inspectors International Ltd, Federation House,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2RF
Tel: 024 76 693787 Fax: 024 76 414990
E-Mail rpil@playinspectors.com Web: www.playinspectors.com

HSE Endorsed



Introduction

As there was no acknowledged independent accreditation and training process either for existing inflatable play equipment 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).

In addition to the above the Inflatable Play Manufacturers Association (IPMA), Association of Inflatable Manufacturers, Operators, Designers and Suppliers (AIMODS), National Association of Inflatable Hirers (NAIH), British Inflatable Hirers Association (BIHA) have been significantly involved in determining the syllabus and examination for inflatable play equipment inspectors.

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

1.0 Aims

- 1.1 To accredit and certify individual inflatable play equipment inspectors who have shown the required level of knowledge and demonstrated competence to the required standard.
- 1.2 To provide a Register of those inflatable play equipment 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 Inflatable Play Equipment 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 inflatable play equipment operators 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.

2. 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.

3. 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, on the form provided must then be submitted within 14 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 Examiner/Board to enable the Examiner/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. Candidates must demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding together with the ability to reference the Draft European Standard, ETIS 7 and PM76. This will include, but not exclusively inflatable play equipment:-
 - A. Terminology
 - B. Materials
 - C. Designs related to
 - Anchorage
 - Structural Integrity
 - Access-egress
 - Blowers
 - Entrapment
 - Hard objects, sharp angles and edges
 - Electrical installations
 - Siting
 - Containment
 - D. Supervision
 - E. Test Methods & Reports
 - F. Information to be provided by the supplier/manufacturer
 - G. General Product Information
 - H. Installation Information
 - I. Operating Information
 - J. Inspection and Maintenance Information
 - K. Alteration/Modification
 - L. Marketing
 - M. Documentation

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 inflatable play equipment

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 of competence.

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 need for, and requirements of, inspection and record keeping.

5. Legislation relating to children's inflatable play equipment provision

Learning Outcomes

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

6. Impact Absorbing Surfaces

Learning Outcomes

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a basic understanding of the types and physical characteristics of surfaces upon which inflatable are installed, together with any related hazards.

7. Faults and problems with inflatable play ancillary equipment

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, blowers, anchors, etc.

8. Knowledge of inflatable play equipment production processes, decorative finishes

Learning Outcomes

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

9. Inflatable play equipment design and layout

Learning Outcomes

Candidates should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the design and layout principles of inflatable play equipment and the ability to analyse and make constructive criticism on both proposed and existing inflatable play equipment 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 inflatable play equipment

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. Inflatable play equipment 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 inflatable play equipment environment. This will include recognition of the type of accidents that may be likely from various types of equipment.

15. Relationships

Learning Outcomes

Candidates will need to demonstrate knowledge of self management and how to deal with the public and children. 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.

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 and Inflatable Play Inspectors will be available on the internet at www.playinspectors.com.

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.