

Information Pack for Registration as an RPII



Annual Inspector Fully Enclosed Play Equipment (FEPE)



Register of Play Inspectors International Ltd (RPII)

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Steps to becoming a Registered Play Inspector

Annual Inspector Fully Enclosed Play Equipment (FEPE)

Am I eligible?

To be eligible you will already have a good working knowledge of FEPE play inspections. You will probably already have carried out regular maintenance inspections and may have worked alongside an RPII Annual Inspector to gain some experience.

You will have a good working knowledge of all current applicable standards and some working knowledge of previous standards. You will also understand how children use play equipment and legal requirements for owner or operators of play facilities.

How do I apply?

Application should be sent to RPII at the address below, together with:

- a signed copy of the enclosed Membership and Examination Application Form
- one passport size photograph (or electronic version)
- the fee due

The written examination has an allocated time of one hour and consists of a series of questions; some requiring a more detailed response.

Practical Exam: You will be able to access reference material should you need to do so. However, a play facility will be inspected with a broad range of equipment and must be completed within a reasonable time.

At the end of the assessment your written notes will be photocopied and returned to you before you leave. You will then be required to submit your Inspection Reports within 2 weeks. Your reports will be compared with the notes made on site.

On satisfactory completion of the examination, payment of subscription, proof of Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) compliance, proof of insurance and signing of the RPII Code of Conduct your name will be entered onto the Register and your certificate, RPII Seal(s) and ID Badge provided.

Criteria for Membership

Membership of the Register shall be open to any person meeting the requirements of membership to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors.

Membership Requirements

- Provision of a satisfactory declaration of suitability for work with children (DBS).
- Public Liability Insurance £5,000,000 minimum
- Professional Indemnity Insurance

Note: if the inspector is engaged by an organisation in either a directly employed or self-employed capacity, the insurance held by the organisation will be accepted as proof.

Acceptance of membership shall be for a period of 12 months and continued membership will be on condition of attending a number of nominated CPD events throughout the year.

HSE statement

"HSE welcomes the initiative by the Register of Play Inspectors International Ltd to maintain a register of playground inspectors. The scheme allows inspectors to demonstrate their competence to carry out post installation, annual or regular visual inspections as appropriate. The use of registered inspectors will help local authorities and other playground providers to comply with their duties under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The Register is an important step forward to achieving higher standards of playground safety through industry self-regulation".

H.M Inspector of Health and Safety

Code of Conduct

1. Introduction

The Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) aims to promote the highest standards of professional practice, responsibility and ethics within the play inspection and associated professions. All members of the RPII are required to endorse and affirm the Code of Conduct and uphold the standards prescribed in this document.

2. Code of Conduct

At all times members and registrants shall uphold the good standing and reputation of the RPII and in fulfilling their daily responsibilities shall:

- comply with all statutory and other legal requirements of the country in which they work
- not misuse their authority or office for personal or other gain
- ensure that the health and safety of children using the play facility is the primary purpose for any inspection.

Members shall observe the following standards:

General Conduct

Members and registrants shall always conduct themselves in such ways as are appropriate for gaining the respect of the general public, their clients, their employers and members of their own and other organisations with whom they come into contact.

Reputation of the RPII

Members and registrants shall uphold the reputation of the RPII and refrain from acting in any way likely to bring the RPII into disrepute. All members and registrants shall actively promote the interests and reputation of the RPII.

Application of Skills

Members and registrants shall use their professional skills with integrity. They shall carry out all inspections and duties to the best of their ability and not undertake work for which they are not competent. Members and registrants are only qualified to undertake the inspection types not exceeding their qualification level. Specifically:

- Outdoor Routine inspectors may only undertake routine visual inspections on outdoor playgrounds,
- Schools & Nursery inspectors may only undertake routine visual and operational inspections on school and nursery playgrounds,
- Outdoor Operational inspectors may only undertake routine visual and operational inspections on outdoor playgrounds,
- Outdoor Annual inspectors may only undertake inspections on outdoor playgrounds, including routine visual, operational, annual main and post-installation inspections,
- Indoor Annual inspectors may only undertake inspections on fully enclosed playgrounds,
- Inflatable Annual inspectors may only undertake inspections on inflatable play equipment and
- Inflatable Operator / Attendants may only perform tasks prescribed in their General Instructions and Operating Manual.

Members and registrants shall ensure that they have at all times copies of the current standards and manuals applicable to the work or inspections they are undertaking and shall further ensure they have the appropriate equipment (e.g., probes, anchor-puller, weights) to carry out a competent inspection.

Confidentiality

Members and registrants shall treat all information shared with their client or employer as confidential unless

- this should compromise the primary purpose of the inspection which is to ensure the health and safety of children using the play facility; or
- where the public interest is paramount; or
- permission has been given to divulge by those with the appropriate authority to give such permission.

Declaration of Interests

Members and registrants shall declare to their client or employer any personal interest that may impinge on, or be deemed by others to impinge on, their impartiality in performing their duties.

Inducements to Influence Proper Professional Judgment

Members and registrants shall neither offer nor accept any gift, favour or hospitality that is intended as, or which may be deemed by others to have the effect of, bribery and corruption.

Remuneration

Members and registrants shall only accept fees or remuneration in connection with services rendered to their client or employer.

Transparency of the Inspection Process

The inspection and advice provided shall be independent of any commercial, financial, or other pressures and reflect the interests of the commissioning agency and the users of the play facility.

Where the Inspector is employed by a commercial company it shall be clear that the Inspector is independent from sales, spare parts and maintenance services.

Members and registrants or their company/organisation shall not allow commissioned inspections to be undertaken by other parties (e.g., employees or business partners) who are not accredited as competent to inspect at that level by the RPII.

Prejudicing the Interests of Others

Members and registrants shall not maliciously or recklessly damage or attempt to damage the reputation or prospects of others.

Responsibility

Members and registrants shall accept responsibility for all work undertaken by them or under their supervision or direction and shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that those working under their supervision or direction are competent to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

Equal Opportunities

Members and registrants shall have regard for equality of opportunity for all in carrying out their professional duties and shall not discriminate directly or indirectly on the grounds of sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion or disability.

Health and Safety

Members and registrants shall ensure that they give full consideration to health and safety in carrying out their professional duties and avoid any action that may endanger the health and safety of any person.

Environment

Members and registrants shall take all reasonable steps to avoid waste of natural resources and damage to the environment.

Continuing Professional Development

Members and registrants shall take all reasonable steps to maintain and develop their professional competence. Members shall ensure that they maintain up to date awareness of developments in the field of play safety and ensure that they have systems for maintaining and demonstrating professional competence.

Training

Members and registrants shall encourage those under their supervision or direction to improve their performance in the tasks assigned to them and to develop their potential by undergoing suitable training/examination.

Members and registrants or their company/organisation shall not allow commissioned inspections to be undertaken by other parties (e.g., employees or business partners) who are not accredited as competent to inspect at that level by the RPII unless they are accompanied and under the direct supervision of an inspector with the appropriate level of qualification at all times.

Insurance

Members and registrants shall ensure that they are covered by appropriate levels of Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance as advised by the Board of the RPII.

3. Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Any complaint against a member or registrant which constitutes an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct must be reported to the Chair of the Board of RPII. There will then be an investigation to determine if there is a prima facie case to answer. If there is a prima facie case the complaint will be considered by a Disciplinary Committee, in accordance with the RPII's Disciplinary Procedure. The respondent will have a right of appeal to an Appeal Committee.

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Guidance Notes and Syllabus

Introduction

The RPII is the only recognised organisation that provides examinations for existing inspectors or for those who may aspire to the role. This scheme enables Annual 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) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

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

Aims

To accredit and certify individual play 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 meet 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.

Examination

An approved examiner will carry out the examination.

Areas of Required Competence

An Inspector will be required to demonstrate his/her competence within the following areas. The areas of knowledge required will be based upon the following.

H = High level of knowledge; M = Medium level of knowledge; L = Low level of knowledge

- H BS EN 1176 Parts 1-10 (as relevant to FEPE), BS 8409
- H Hazard based 'risk assessment' principles and procedures
- H Knowledge of faults, problems within FEPE play equipment
- H Inspection and record keeping, principles and methodologies
- H Legislation relating to children's play provision
- H BSEN 1177/ Impact Attenuating Surfaces
- H The appropriateness of other surfaces found within play facilities
- H FEPE design and layout
- M Knowledge of equipment production processes, protective finishes and treatments
- M Principles and techniques involved in the maintenance and repair of play equipment and surfacing
- M Knowledge of type, style, frequency and varying severity of play accidents
- M Manufactured equipment ranges previously and currently installed within the UK
- M Philosophy and principles behind a child's play needs

Examination Contents

BS EN 1176 Parts 1-10 (as relevant to FEPE), BS 8409

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, probes, materials, protection against falling, means of access, free space, falling space and zoning, ropes and chains, etc. It will also include dangerous substances, flammability, different types of inspection and schedules, reports and documentation.

Hazard based 'risk assessment' and procedures

Candidates must be able to demonstrate understanding of the methodology of Risk Assessment

Knowledge of faults, problems with playground equipment and surfaces

Candidates must be able to demonstrate understanding of the requirements of section 1 and demonstrate they have theoretical knowledge and practical ability to identify faults and problems to the required standard.

Inspection and Record Keeping, principles and methodologies.

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

Legislation relating to children's playground provision

Candidates will must be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of current legislation relating to Children's Play Provision

Knowledge of play spaces equipment production processes, protective finishes and treatments

Candidates will able to demonstrate an understanding of the major production and treatment processes

Playground design and layout

Candidates should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the design and layout principles of play spaces.

Maintenance and repair of play space equipment and surfacing

Candidates should be able to demonstrate reasonable knowledge of how to correct major and routine faults.

Equipment, past and present

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a good knowledge of the various ranges and manufacturers of equipment commonly in use.

Playground accidents

Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the different types, severity and frequency of accidents within the play space environment.

Relationships with the public and self-management - Personal Safety

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge of how to deal with and ensure their personal safety.

Philosophy and principles of children's play needs

Candidates must demonstrate a clear understanding of the general principles underpinning the philosophy of children's play and the development needs of children

Practical Inspections

The on-site inspections will be undertaken and may include the following items

All types of FEPE installations.

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:

- Seeks to comply fully with the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 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.
- Holds the principle of equal opportunities as central to its strategic development and to its planning and implementation strategies.
- Recognises that equality is a key aspect of quality assurance and should be addressed as part of the company's standard quality assurance procedures.
- Recognises that individuals are disadvantaged in society by sexist, racist and other stereotypical expectations.
- 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.
- 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 Candidates.

Check List

Have you included?

- a signed copy of the enclosed Membership and Examination Application Form
- one passport size photograph (or electronic version)
- the fee due