ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT - 2017



Active Risk Management Services Ltd.

- Assessing the safety of play and recreation provision through risk assessment, not dogma. -

Client: City of London

Site: Inspector West Ham Park Play area and Fitness equipment Jean Wenger RPII_{AM} (Registration Number 1002A)



Inspection date 09/05/2017

Report date 18/05/2017

Site departure time 1204

This report details the inspection findings at the time of inspection.

INSPECTION SUMMARY - Refer to the following report for more detail. The final page of this report provides information on the methodology; inspection procedures; risk assessment process.

•	ISSUES FOUND - Totals of: Number of issues found where remedial action could be delayed (Safe To Use) / Number of problems found where Immediate action or further Checks are needed. I = IMMEDIATE ACTION NECESSARY The risk is not acceptable, action needs to be taken straight away, to fully secure the element/item from use, undertaking rectification later. Removal or surrounding with 'Herras' fencing may be necessary. Ensure any actions, however short-term, meet BSEN1176. T = TEMPORARY Risk Assessment has been provided as further checks need to be undertaken by the client to complete the inspection and to update the temporary risk assessment The Risk Assessment incorporates a Risk Benefit Assessment. RISK- Number of problems with that risk level (with guidance on maximum time delay before remedial action is undertaken). MAINTENANCE - Action is advised for safe operation, worn or broken parts, extension of service life, appearance etc. Maintenance is not related to upgrading to meet the current safety level advised by Standards etc.	TOTALS of PROBLEMS or ISSUES FOUND Safe To Use? 0 / 0 = No issues found & safe to use 2 / 0 = 2 issues found & safe to use 0 / 1 = 1 Immediate issue & not safe to use	RISK I = Immediate action is necessary T= Temporary until further checks undertaken Action – Refer to the first column.	RISK High/Action Necessary Action - analyse ASAP review and implement rectification. Ensure any temporary actions meet EN1176 Monitor and if repair period > 3 months removal is advised	RISK Medium / Tolerable	RISK Low / Acceptable	Maintenance Maintenance is advised
1-C	arousel ability whirl	2/0			1	1	2
1-C 2-S	arousel ability whirl patial net climber	2/0 5/0	Т	1	1	1	2 5
1-C 2-S 3-C	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve	2/0 5/0 2/0	T	1	1 4 2	1	2 5 2
1-C 2-S 3-C 4-C	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1	T	1	1 4 2 1	1	2 5 2 2
1-C 2-S 3-C 4-C 5-S	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova ocial play and 2 slides A B Wendy house corner	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1 2/0	T	1	1 4 2 1	1	2 5 2 2 2
1-C 2-S 3-C 4-C 5-S 6-R	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova ocial play and 2 slides A B Wendy house corner ocker springers x 4	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1 2/0 1/0	T	1 2 1	1 4 2 1 1	1	2 5 2 2 2 1
1-C 2-S 3-C 4-C 5-S 6-R 7-A	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova ocial play and 2 slides A B Wendy house corner ocker springers x 4 gility balance course – Zig Zag Bridge	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1 2/0 1/0 3/0	T I T	1 2 1 1	1 4 2 1 1 2	1	2 5 2 2 2 1 3
1-C 2-S 3-C 4-C 5-S 6-R 7-A 8-A	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova ocial play and 2 slides A B Wendy house corner ocker springers x 4 gility balance course – Zig Zag Bridge gilty traverse - stilts	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1 2/0 1/0 3/0 2/0	T I T T	1 2 1 1 1	1 4 2 1 1 2 1 2 1	1	2 5 2 2 2 1 3 2
1-C 2-S 3-C 5-S 6-R 7-A 8-A 9-S	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova ocial play and 2 slides A B Wendy house corner ocker springers x 4 gility balance course – Zig Zag Bridge gilty traverse - stilts ocial play steel drum seats	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1 2/0 1/0 3/0 2/0 1/0	T I T T	1 2 1 1 1	1 4 2 1 1 2 1	1	2 5 2 2 2 1 3 2 1 3 2 1
1-C 2-S 3-C 5-S 6-R 7-A 8-A 9-S 10-/	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova ocial play and 2 slides A B Wendy house corner ocker springers x 4 gility balance course – Zig Zag Bridge gilty traverse - stilts ocial play steel drum seats Agility traverse – Dance activity circuit	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1 2/0 1/0 3/0 2/0 1/0 2/0	T I T T T	1 2 1 1 1	1 4 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 1	1 	2 5 2 2 2 1 3 2 1 2 1 2
1-C 2-S 3-C 4-C 5-S 6-R 7-A 8-A 9-S 10-/ 11-I	arousel ability whirl patial net climber arousel - Revolve arousel - supanova ocial play and 2 slides A B Wendy house corner ocker springers x 4 gility balance course – Zig Zag Bridge gilty traverse - stilts ocial play steel drum seats Agility traverse – Dance activity circuit Mullti play component with towers and slides	2/0 5/0 2/0 1/1 2/0 1/0 3/0 2/0 1/0 2/0 5/0	T I T T T	1 2 1 1 1	1 4 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 5	1 	2 5 2 2 2 1 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 5

50, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 0EY Tel 07970 764 804 Web www.ActiveRMS.org Email info@ActiveRMS.org



13-Swing 1 bay 2 flat seat	3/0	Т	1	1	1	3
14-Swing 1 bay birds nest seat				2		2
15-Swing 1 bay 2 cradle seat 'gorilla' units			3	1		1
16-Swing for Wheelchair	1/0				1	1
17-Slide helter skelter	3/0		1	2		2
18-Rocker springer - Jeep	1/0					1
19-Social play - train	4/0		1	3		2
20-Educational play panel	0/0					
21-Social play house	2/0			1	1	2
22-Fencing and gates	4/0			3	1	2
23-Agility multi structure	6/0	Т	3	3		6
24-Agility unit - Stompa	3/0		2	1		3
25-Slide log cabin	5/0			4	1	3
26-Slide embankment style	4/0			3	1	3
27-Paddling pool	1/0		1			1
ADULT FITNESS EQUIPMENT						
28-Parallel bars	5/0		2	3		2
29-Back Bars	3/0		1	2		2
30-Monkey bars	4/0		2	2		1
31-Ground beam	3/0		1	2		
32-Chest press	2/0		1	1		
33-Recumbent bike	1/0		1			
34-Hand bike	1/0		1			
35-Cross Trainer	1/0		1			
36-Lat pull down & shoulder press	1/0		1			
37-Pull up & assisted pull up	1/0		1			
39-Double Nordic skier	1/0		1			
40-Site sign	1/0			1		
Totals	96/1	Tx8 lx1	34	55	7	68

THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PLAYGROUND OPERATOR AND OF THE INSPECTOR

SUMMARY

- The playground **operator** is solely responsible for managing risks in play areas and of playground equipment and is required by law to carry out a 'suitable and sufficient assessment' of the risks associated with a site or activity.
- BS EN 1176 (2008) is the relevant National Standard from which such assessments of safety are made and it includes provision that the **operator** carries out an Annual Main Inspection of the playground equipment.
- The inspector will contribute to the Annual Main Inspection by carrying out an Annual RPII Inspection for the operator within the limits of his training and competence and will provide specialist advic^e to the operator concerning risk levels in order to assist the operator in the undertaking of their risk assessments.
- The National Standard additionally includes for the Annual Main Inspection to be carried out to the manufacturer's instructions and the **operator** should provide relevant inspection information to the **inspector** in advance of the Annual Inspection so that any additional checks can be considered.

STATUS OF THE INSPECTION AND REPORT

This Inspection report provides the operator (the Client) with the inspector's findings at the time of inspection. Issues from the company's previous year inspection report are re-inspected and if still present the original finding with any photograph is reissued, adjusted with additional guidance as necessary. If the previously reported issue has been resolved then no finding is recorded.

The various British and European equipment standards covering children's play, youth sport and adult fitness provide recommendations and guidance, based on BS EN 1176-7:2008, that **operators** carry out an Annual Main Inspection to establish ongoing safety: Playground equipment and surfacing BS EN 1176:2008; Sports and recreational equipment – Parkour equipment – Safety requirements and test methods BS EN 16899:2016; Free access multi-sports BS EN 15313:2007; Facilities for users of roller sports BS EN 14974:2010; Permanently installed outdoor fitness BS EN 16630:2015. These and specifically the Annual Main Playground Inspection BS EN 1176-7:2008 focus on:

- The overall level of safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces
- Compliance with the relevant parts of the relevant standard
- The effectiveness of all safety measures and any changes made to safety measures
- Effects of weather, presence of rotting or corrosion
- Any change in the level of safety of the equipment as a result of repairs made, or of added or replaced components

In order to achieve this BS EN 1176-7:2008 advises playground operators that

- 1. Inspections of equipment should be undertaken by competent persons
- 2. Inspections may involve excavation or dismantling of certain parts
- 3. The manufacturer's inspection and maintenance instructions should be followed, and
- 4. Additional measures may be necessary to detect other possible deterioration.

The Annual RPII Inspection should be considered as solely contributing to the **operator**'s discharge of this responsibility as set out in 1 above.

The **inspector** is a qualified outdoor annual inspector by the Register of Play Inspectors International RPII, Registration Number 102A by written and practical examination and to maintain his qualification is required to attend RPII continuous professional courses every four months. His level of competence as determined and assessed by RPII is limited within the RPII inspection competence framework to: vandalism, minor and major wear, long-term structural problems, changes in the Standards compliance and design practices, risk assessments etc.

In order to undertake the annual inspection within this competence framework the **inspector** uses visual and manual inspection and manipulation of equipment and components, and applies his knowledge of the relevant BS EN standards.

He is not qualified or competent to carry out any inspections which require the use of tools including those for calibration, tolerance and torque, intrusive examination of materials, structural measurements or excavation or dismantling of components. Where the operator has need for these in order to complete the Annual Main Inspection requirements a suitably competent person is required.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The **operator** is responsible, for managing risks and Regulation 3 of The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 impose a legal duty on providers to carry out a *'suitable and sufficient assessment'* of the risks associated with a site or activity. The risk assessments provided by the **inspector** should therefore be considered as specialist advice as defined within the Health and Safety Executive Management of Health And Safety At Work Code of Practice information and guidance (1992) paragraph 16, to assist the operator in the undertaking of their risk assessments.

MANUFACTURER'S INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS

The Annual Main Inspection requires that the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance requirements are followed (see 3 above). The **operator** therefore needs to provide relevant information to the **inspector** in advance of the Annual RPII Inspection so that any additional checks can be considered otherwise the **inspector**'s advice is strictly limited to the equipment as found and inspected on site and the inspection cannot be considered as fully standard compliant and the risk assessments given can only be considered as provisional.

INSPECTOR'S ADVICE

The inspection practices undertaken by the **inspector** and described above are capable of identifying most circumstances which could result in an injury. However some elements of play equipment cannot be sufficiently checked using these procedures, for example because they are: concealed from view such as below the playing surface; at a height not able to be seen from the ground or item's platform; and/or are not responsive to manual inspection or manipulation or are sealed-for-life. In the event of this occurrence a temporary risk assessment will be given in this report with advice on what further actions should be undertaken by the **operator** in order to complete the risk assessment.

To assist the **operator** in their onward decisions it is advised that records of the equipment and any impact attenuating (absorbing) surfacing are held, including: certification of compliance and test to the relevant standards; the item's installation date; any changes or repairs undertaken; the manufacturer's warrantee and operating lifespan of the item.

Equipment operating lifespan

This varies. An operational life may have been stated by the manufacturer. For BS EN 1176:2008 compliant equipment, unless otherwise advised, with regular maintenance, repair and no vandalism: timber approximately 10 years, metal/plastics approximately 20 years, after which replacement is advised; this lifespan may however need to be reduced due to intensity of use, degradation (ground conditions, weather, rot, corrosion etc.). Items where the structural strength is reliant solely on a single, twin or line of posts should be regularly monitored at operational inspections (every 3 months) for degradation and if necessary considered for removal before the end of their operating life (BSEN 1176-1 (2008), 4.2.14).

Timber in playgrounds

Timber performs well within playgrounds providing that its structural strength is not affected by rot (fungal growth), often this occurs through water penetration. Rot or indicators of rot may be noticeable, however rot hidden within the timber is unable to be observed and reported. Rot is not solely an issue where water has entered from the surrounding ground; water may also enter further up a post, for example at a connection, or along a diagonal or horizontal beam, collecting at a high position in the timber, or at or below the playing surface or at the post's foundation.

Timber meeting the preservative and design requirements of the Playground equipment standard BS EN 1176-1:2008 is considered to have suitable rot protection. Due to increasing concerns with timber rot at and below the 'playing surface' (ground rot) it is advised that any structural timber post that is not installed into a 'post shoe' or other construction method (BS EN 1176-1,4.1.3 b):2008) that keeps the timber above the 'playing surface' requires a more detailed consideration by the operator. Unless advised otherwise by the manufacturer's Inspection Instructions (these should be checked) an annual investigation by the operator for timber rot below the playing surface down to the top of the posts foundation is advised. It may be appropriate to consider the items remaining lifespan, the replacement of any IAS (particularly synthetic) surrounding the post, the provision of metal 'shoes' and equipment stability issues.

The presence of the manufacturer's identification label (BS EN 1176:2008,7.1:) recording that it meets EN 1176-1:2008, the equipment reference and date of manufacturer will confirm this. However, timber being a natural product is subject to vagaries which can adversely affect its resistance to rot and its structural strength. It is therefore advised that any operational life stated by the manufacturer should not be exceeded and unless otherwise advised that the **lifespan** timber equipment is approximately 10 years.

The manufacturer's information, which should have been provided by the supplier for the equipment's inspection and maintenance (BS EN 1176-1:2008, 6.1.4) should be reviewed by the **operator** for any necessary actions. In addition, it is advised that timber equipment is checked at the '**Operator**'s operational Inspection' (at least every 3 months) for rot and indications of possible rot. Rot can result in structural failure in less than one year.

Indicators of rot include: significant movement of an in-ground post or timber at a connection; colour change; fungal growth. Plus, the following which can allow water and fungi to penetrate and cause rot: softening of the outside of the timber; significant water saturation of the timber; openings such as cracks, splits or shakes occurring or expanding within the timber's surface; missing caps to post tops or unused connection holes; vandalism such as initial carving; arson; strimmer damage.

removing grass from the base of items by allowing grass cutting line strimmers to touch the timber is not advised as
structural damage occurs by progressively removing the outer surface. A portable barrier used when cutting grass, such as
a flat or curved 'trenching spade', may be a solution. The use of herbicides to address the issue will require a person
qualified to carry out a COSHH assessment. Regular use of systemic herbicides is not advised as this can, on killing the
plant roots, reduce the structural stability of foundations of play equipment, gates and fencing.

If any of these indicators are found further actions need to be undertaken by the operator or where appropriate competences are not held, the manufacturer or a playground maintenance company, to determine whether rot is present and if it is to carry out remedial action. The careful light prodding with a blunt instrument to investigate for any timber softening or the presence of rot may assist such determinations. Actions include:

- regularly, at least every 3 months, monitor the indicators for rot
- checking the exterior of the timber relative to the position where indicators of rot are present; if these are near the playing surface level and the timber is installed into the ground, checks beneath the playing surface down to the timber post's foundation are advised.
- where hidden rot is suspected, for instance where an adjacent post has rot, the use of using specialist investigative equipment such as internal examination by needle drilling electronic 'resistograph' systems may assist the operator in their decisions. Such investigations are common in the telecommunications industry on single upright telephone poles. It is © Active Risk Management Services Ltd. 21/03/2017 Page 4 of 52

advised however that the use of such specialist investigations are not widely understood within the playground industry, that commonly uses different constructions involving multiple components, or structures involving dynamic movement, rather than single pole items; it is additionally advised that their use can be financially costly and not necessarily conclusive. A decision may therefore be need to be taken to remove the element or equipment.

Where rot is detected, or a cracking sound is heard when manipulating an in-ground post or timber element, or the outer surface of the timber is penetrated by the prodding instrument this shows that its structural security is affected and the element needs to be replaced or the equipment removed. It is advised that other timber equipment installed at the same time be checked. Decisions on necessary actions may be assisted by determining: remaining lifespan; other affected elements or equipment; financial costs.

Where the posts are installed into a concrete foundation there is an increased risk of rot. The structural stability of the unit is particularly of concern where there is a dynamic loading such as in the case of swinging, or a sideways leaning movement on a crossing chain unit or traverse wall. BS EN 1176-1:2008, 4.2.14 advises of dynamic stability risks on equipment dependant on a single, twin or rows of single cross section posts and the operator is reminded of the recommendation in BS EN 1176-7:2008, 6.3.2, that if necessary such items should be considered for decommissioning before the end of their operating life.

The final page of this report provides further information.