

## PLAYGROUND EVALUATION GUIDE

### Reference:

COMNAVMED P-5010-2  
CPSC Handbook

#### A. Requirements:

1. Is playground enclosed by a fence that would prevent children from running into the street while playing? (Yes No)
2. Is playground reasonably leveled and drained to ensure dryness a maximum number of days? (Yes No)

#### B. Recommendations:

1. Is a facility folder kept to identify the manufacturer, model number and month/year of purchase in case repairs are required? (Yes No)
2. Is equipment firmly anchored in concrete below the ground? (Yes No)
3. Is playground apparatus placed away from ball fields to prevent a child playing in a ball game from accidentally running in front of exit area of slides, swings, or other equipment? (Yes No)
4. Are ends of tubing on equipment covered with protective caps? (Yes No)
5. Are ends of bolts on equipment covered with protective caps that cannot be removed by hand? (Yes No)
6. Is paint on equipment in good condition (no peeling or chipping)? (Yes No)
7. Are wood structures in good condition (no cracking or splitting)? (Yes No)
8. Is playground equipment free of projection which could entangle a child's clothing? (Yes No)
9. Are ends of "S" hooks pinched closed? (Yes No)

10. Is playground free of tripping hazards such as roots, rocks, or other obstacles? (Yes No)
11. Are moving parts that could pinch or crush concealed on gliders, seesaws, and merry-go-rounds? (Yes No)
12. Are moving parts of equipment lubricated? (Yes No)
13. Is damaged equipment roped off and tagged as "off limits" if it cannot be immediately removed or repaired? (Yes No)
14. Are covered trash receptacles provided? (Yes No)
15. Slides:
- a. Are slides equipped with side borders 4 inched high for the entire length of the slides? (Yes No)
  - b. Do slides have a protective barrier at the top to prevent falls while a child is changing from climbing to sliding position? (Yes No)
  - c. Is the horizontal platform at top of slides at least 22 inches in length and as wide as the slide? (Yes No)
  - d. Do slides have continuous hand rails on both sides of steps that allow a child to stand erect over each step? (Yes No)
  - e. Are slides constructed so that the average incline of the sliding surface does not exceed 30 degrees and a child will not lose contact with the sliding surface? (Yes No)
  - f. Are slides constructed with no spaces or gaps between the platform and the start of the sliding surface? (Yes No)
  - g. For slides four foot and less in height, is the exit region no more than 11 inches from the ground or protective surface? (Yes No)

- h. For slides over four feet in height, is the exit region at least 7 inches but not more than 15 inches above the ground or protective surface? (Yes No)
16. Swings
- a. Are swinging exercise rings, animal figure swings, multiple occupancy swings (except for tire swings) and free swinging ropes not installed in the playground? (yes No)
- b. On single axis swings, is there a minimum clearance of 30 inches between the swing and frame structure? (Yes No)
- c. On multi-axis swings, is there a minimum clearance of 30 inches between the swing and frame structure? (Yes No)
- d. Are seats of swings constructed of light-weight material such as plastic, rubber or canvas and are seat edges rounded or smoothly finished? (Yes No)
- e. Are ends of "S" hooks pinched closed? (Yes No)
- f. Is there no more than two single axis swings per bay? (Yes No)
- g. Is there no more than one multi-axis swing per bay? (Yes No)
17. Climbing Equipment
- a. Are balance beams no higher than 12 inches above the protective surface? (Yes No)
- b. Are vertically suspended climbing ropes securely anchored to a footing to prevent the rope from being looped back on itself and forming a noose? (Yes No)
- c. Are climbers free of climbing bars or other structural components in the interior of the structure onto which a child may fall from a height of greater than 18 inches? (Yes No)

- d. On horizontal ladders, are rungs spaced greater than 9 inches apart but do not exceed 15 inches from center to center of each rung? (Yes No)
  - e. Is the 1<sup>st</sup> handhold on either end of upper body equipment not placed directly above the platform or climbing rung used for mount or dismount? (Yes No)
  - f. Is the distance between a sliding pole and the edge of the platform or other structure used for access to the sliding pole a minimum of 18 inches and a maximum of 20 inches? (Yes No)
  - g. Does the sliding pole extend at least 38 inches above the level of the platform of other structure used for access to the pole? (Yes No)
  - h. Is the sliding pole diameter no greater than 1.9 inches? (Yes No)
18. Merry-Go-Rounds
- a. Is the merry-go-round approximately circular circular with a difference between the minimum and maximum radii of a non-circular platform no greater than 2.0 inches? (Yes No)
  - b. Do merry-go-rounds have handrails that do not protrude beyond the edge of the base on which children sit or stand? (Yes No)
19. Seesaws
- a. Are partial car tires or some other shock-absorbing material embedded in the ground underneath the seats or secured on the underside of the seats? (Yes No)
  - b. Are handholds provided that do not turn when grasped and do not extend beyond the sides of the seat? (Yes No)
20. Entrapment Requirements
- a. Are playground equipment openings between the interior opposing surfaces less than 3 1/2 inches or greater than 9 inches? (Yes No)

- b. If playground equipment openings are greater than 3 1/2 inches or less than 9 inches, do they pass the entrapment procedures as described in Appendix B of the CPSC Handbook? (Yes No)
- c. Is the angle of any vertex formed by adjacent Components greater than 55 degrees? (Yes No)
- d. If the angle of any vertex formed by adjacent Components is less than 55 degrees does the lower leg of the vertex point in a horizontal or downwards direction? (Yes No)
- e. If the angle of any vertex formed by adjacent Components is less than 55 degrees and the Lower leg is above horizontal or projects Upwards, is there a rigid shield placed in the Apex to prevent a large head template from Touching the sides of the vertex? (Yes No)

21. Fall Zones

- a. Is playground equipment located over an impact-absorbing surface? (Yes No)
- b. Is the surface material approximately 6 inches to 12 inches deep or made of shock absorbent rubber matting depending on the critical height of the equipment? (Yes No)
- c. Have 6 foot fall zones been established for stationary equipment? (Yes No)
- d. Does the fall zone extend to the front and rear of a single axis swing a minimum distance of 2 times the height of the pivot point above the surfacing material? (Note: the fall zone to the sides is to be 6 feet.) (Yes No)
- e. For multi-axis swings, does the fall zone extend in any direction from a point directly beneath the pivot point for a minimum distance of 6 feet plus the length of the suspending numbers? (Note: In addition, the fall zone shall extend a minimum of 6 feet from the perimeter of the supporting structure.) (Yes No)

- f. Do the fall zones in front of the exit of slides extend a minimum distance of 6 feet from the end of the slide chute or for a distance of  $H + 4$  feet whichever is the greater? (H is the height of the slide platform.) (Yes No)

22. Guardrails and Protective Barriers

- a. Is elevated playground equipment properly guarded as per the following requirements for pre-school age children. Surfaces 20 inches above the underlying surface must be protected by a guardrail or protective barrier; surfaces 30 inches above the underlying surface must be protected by a protective barrier; for guardrails the minimum height of the top rail is 29 inches and maximum height of the bottom rail is 23 inches; for protective barriers the minimum height of the top rail is 29 inches and maximum height of the bottom rail is less than 3.5 inches. (Yes No)
- b. Is elevated playground equipment properly guarded as per the following requirements for school age children surfaces 30 inches above the underlying surface must be protected by a guardrail or protective barrier; surfaces 48 inches above the underlying surface must be protected by a protective barrier; for guardrails the minimum height of the top rail is 38 inches and maximum height of the bottom rail is 26 inches; for protective barriers the minimum height of the top rail is 38 inches and maximum height of the bottom rail is less than 3.5 inches. (Yes No)