

REPORT INTRODUCTION

EUROPEAN STANDARDS

The Equipment has been assessed in accordance with the most recent version of the relevant EN Standard:

EN 1176 2008: Playground equipment and surfacing
EN 1177 1998: Impact absorbing playground surfacing
EN 14974 2006: Facilities for users of roller sports
EN 15312 2007: Free access multi-sports equipment

The European Standards are regularly updated and the existing standards are withdrawn. There are a number of areas where existing equipment may fail new standards. This **does not** mean that the equipment has suddenly become dangerous or that remedial action is required. It should be noted that standards are not retrospective.

During an inspection compliance failures are noted and a risk assessment made of the failure.

In addition to inspecting the equipment and surfacing, the inspection has also looked at ancillary items and general design features where relevant to safety.

EN 1176 2008: Playground equipment and surfacing

EN1176 2008 has been issued and supersedes EN1176 1997, however changes made within the new standard do not need to be implemented by equipment manufacturers or suppliers until May 2009. As inspectors we will always inspect to the latest standard, in this case EN1176 2008, and report accordingly, but will always mark the findings and tasks as no action required. After May 2009 we will be recommending that the manufacturers/suppliers be consulted as this would then be a failure to EN1176:2008.

It should be noted that the majority of chains installed before January 1st 1999 will fail EN1176 in relation to the gap in the links being in excess of 8.6mm. ***Chains should be replaced when broken or worn as usual with chains meeting the new requirements.***

EN1176 also requires a manufacturers label to be affixed to all equipment stating the year of manufacture, product name and reference number and EN1176 certification. Prior to 1999 very few manufacturers affixed a label to their products and as such all equipment would fail this part of the standards, with this in mind it is our policy not to record this failure within our reports and accept that all items installed up to that date in fact fail. This is not detrimental to the equipment and we are able to provide you with the full product and manufacturers information if you so wish. Likewise the requirement within EN1176 to have a ground level marked on all items will not be reported unless a ground clearance failure is present.

Wear to shackle pins on swings is difficult to detect on non-dismantling inspections. Checks are made to identify excessive movement in the "D" shackle and where dry bearings are obvious. Whilst this action can identify serious defects it does not preclude the possibility in rare circumstances, of shackle pin failure. ***It is recommended that random inspection by removal of the "D" shackle pin be carried out as a regular maintenance feature.***