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Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use¹

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INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety performance specification establishes nationally recognized safety standards for public playground equipment to address injuries identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

During 1999 the CPSC estimated that about 156 000 victims were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with public playground equipment. About three fourths of these injuries resulted from falls, primarily to the surface on which the equipment was located. Other hazard patterns involved impact by swings and other moving equipment and contact with protrusions, crush or shear points, and sharp edges. Fatalities reported to the CPSC resulted from falls; entanglement of clothing or similar items on equipment; entanglement in ropes tied to or caught on equipment; head entrapment; impact by equipment that tipped over or otherwise failed; and impact by moving swings. This consumer safety performance specification does not eliminate the need for supervision of children on public playground equipment. It is intended to minimize the likelihood of life-threatening or debilitating injuries, such as those identified by the CPSC.

There has been significant harmonization of this performance specification and CAN/CSA-Z614.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety performance specification provides safety and performance standards for various types of public playground equipment. Its purpose is to reduce life-threatening and debilitating injuries.

1.2 The range of users encompassed by this consumer safety performance specification is the 5th percentile 2-year-old through the 95th percentile 12-year-old.

1.3 Home playground equipment, toys, amusement rides, sports equipment, fitness equipment intended for users over the age of 12, public use play equipment for children 6 to 24 months, and soft contained play equipment are not included in this specification.

1.4 Products or materials (site furnishings) that are installed outside the equipment use zone, such as benches, tables, independent shade structures, and borders used to contain protective surfacing, are not considered playground equipment and are not included in this specification.

1.5 This specification does not address accessibility, except as it pertains to safety issues not covered in the DOJ 2010 Standard for Accessible Design.

1.6 This consumer safety performance specification includes the following sections:

Title	Section Number
Scope	1
Referenced Documents	2
Terminology	3
Materials and Manufacture	4
General Requirements	5
Performance Requirements	6
Requirements for Access/Egress	7
Equipment	8
Playground Layout	9
Accessibility	10
Installation	11
Structural Integrity	12
Maintenance	13
Signs or Labels, or Both	14
Manufacturer Identification	15
Keywords	16
Figures	Annex A1

1.6.1 The requirements in this specification are designed to mitigate the hazards typically presented by various types of equipment. New equipment may not specifically fit into the designated types listed in the specification; however, the designer or manufacturer, or both, shall use professional judgment to perform and document a hazard analysis and follow appropriate requirements to mitigate the hazards.

¹ This consumer safety performance specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.29 on Playground Equipment for Public Use.

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