

Update to CSA Standards for Playground Equipment

In March 2007, the Canadian Standards Association released the latest revision of its playspace standard – CSA Z614-07. Below is a short synopsis of some of the changes. Copies of this standard (List ID #2019468) can be purchased by contacting the CSA at: www.ShopCSA.ca or by calling - 1-800-463-6727.

Compliance

- Probes, gauges and templates are to have a standard deviation of no more than 0.5%; deviations of 2.0% remain acceptable for other dimensions used in the Standard. (see Sections 6.2; 12.1.1)
- An annual inspection, in addition to the monthly inspections is not required if the 12 monthly inspections are bound and include a summary page. (see Section 11.3.4)

Surfacing and Fall Heights

- The Protection Surface Depth Charts have been expanded to include comparisons of various surface materials and critical fall heights. (see Section 10; Table D.1 and Table D.2)
- Grass and soil are acceptable as surface materials (see Section 10.3.3), but “hard-pan” surfacing remains unacceptable. (see Section 10.4.5)

- Play equipment that is used solely at ground level (e.g. sandbox), does not require an individual protective surface zone. (see Section 14.2.1.2)
- Acceptable fall heights for children aged 18 months to 5 years is now 725mm and for children aged 5 to 12 yrs is now 950mm. (see Section 15.1.6.2)

Handrails

- Stairways and ramps are required to have a minimum of four continuous handrails per side, one set at a minimum height for children 18 months to 5 years, and the other set for children 5 yrs to 12 yrs. Protective barriers are an acceptable substitution. (see Section 13.1.4.1)

Swings

- Multi-user to-fro swing seats are allowed if each of six criteria are met. (see Section 15.6.2.3.2)