



**Certified  
Playground  
Safety Inspector**

# **CPSI Candidate Handbook**

The CPSI Candidate Handbook should be read before arriving for the CPSI certification exam.

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# Introduction

## WELCOME

The Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) program is offered by NRPA under the authority of the National Certification Board (NCB).

The purpose of the CPSI Course is for those certified to be able to complete the following:

1. Identify hazards on public playground equipment and the playground
2. Rank the hazards according to injury potential
3. Apply the knowledge to remove the hazards and establish a system of inspections

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*The desired outcome is that a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) is capable of establishing the basics of a sound risk reduction program establish a system of repair, retrofit and removal of hazardous equipment and establish a routine inspection system for their own agency or playground owner-client.*

The NRPA understands that achieving the CPSI certification does not make one an expert in the implementation of the public use playground standard of care. However, the NRPA does recognize all program participants should acquire the knowledge and specific competencies necessary to attain certification as identified by the CPSI Certification and Exam Committees. This knowledge properly and consistently applied in the field will help to create an experience level necessary to be considered a playground safety expert.

## EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT

A national job analysis was most recently conducted in 2020, to identify the important core components of the playground safety field. The analysis conducted by the CPSI Certification Development Committee culminated the exam specifications that are included in this handbook. The exam content outline serves as the blueprint for constructing the examination. The examination is designed to be a comprehensive, job-related, and objective measure of a playground safety professional's knowledge in areas identified by the exam content outline. All examination items (questions) have been written and reviewed by subject-matter experts representing playground safety experts and practitioners from many geographical regions. These individuals provide the job-related perspective and expertise that underlies valid examinations.

Individuals seeking certification as a CPSI must receive a passing grade on the CPSI certification examination. Maintenance of the CPSI certification requires at least a passing grade on the CPSI certification examination every three (3) years.

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## ABOUT THE TESTING AGENCY

PSI Services LLC (PSI) is the professional testing agency contracted by the NRPA to assist in the development of the examination based on the test specifications developed by the NCB in consultation with the testing agency. The testing agency is responsible for the security and proctoring of the paper pencil exam, and administration of the computer-based exam at test centers throughout the US and worldwide.

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# Section I:

## Administrative Policies and Rules For Examination

### SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The NRPA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act by ensuring that no individual with a disability is deprived of the opportunity to take an examination solely by reason of disability.

A candidate who has a disability may request a special accommodation; the request must be submitted in writing at the time of registration. Please contact your course host or if taking the computer-based exam please contact PSI (1-888-519-9901) to make this request. To properly accommodate all persons with disabilities it is recommended that all requests be made 45 days prior to the course and exam.

### SERVICES FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CANDIDATES

**Time extension** — If a candidate's primary language is not English and they wish to request a time extension for the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) exam, they must submit the ESL Request Form (available online at [www.nrpa.org/CPSI](http://www.nrpa.org/CPSI)) which includes additional fee information and the signature of a supervisor, professor, or the employee's human resources representative. The ESL Form must be submitted to the host site/NRPA at least two weeks prior to the examination. Once the request form and fees have been submitted the testing company will add 90 minutes to the time allowed for the exam.

**Translation Dictionary** — If a candidate's primary language is not English and they wish to provide and use a strict translation dictionary (word to word and in book form only, no electronic dictionaries allowed), they must submit an ESL Request Form (available online at [www.nrpa.org/CPSI](http://www.nrpa.org/CPSI)) to NRPA at the time of application to request the use of the strict translation dictionary. The ESL Request Form must include the signature of a supervisor, professor, or the employee's human resources representative. The ESL Form must be submitted to the host site/NRPA at least two weeks prior to the examination. Unless a time extension is also requested the candidate will be required to complete the exam within the standard 2 hours. If the request is approved, the applicant will receive a confirmation email from the NRPA, and the testing company will recognize the request when scheduling the exam. The dictionary must be provided by the candidate and will be inspected prior to use to ensure exam security.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER OR EMERGENCY

In the event of inclement weather, other acts of God or unforeseen emergencies on the day of an examination, NRPA and PSI will determine whether circumstances warrant the cancellation, and subsequent rescheduling of an examination. The examination will usually not be rescheduled if the host location personnel are able to open the host location.

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Candidates may call the host directly (paper pencil examination) or visit PSI's website at <https://www.psonline.com/openings> (computer based examination) to determine if the location will open during inclement weather or an emergency. Every attempt is made to administer examinations as scheduled; however, should an examination be canceled at a host location, all scheduled candidates will be contacted regarding a rescheduled examination date or reapplication procedures.

## **AGE AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENT**

Candidates sitting for the CPSI Certification examination must be 18 or older and have a high school degree or equivalent. Your legal identification will be verified upon entry into the examination site.

## **COPYRIGHTED EXAMINATION QUESTIONS**

All examination questions are copyrighted property of the NRPA. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute or display these examination questions by any means, in whole or in part. Doing so may subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties.

## **RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

The NRPA is committed to protecting the confidentiality of candidate records and have adopted policies to ensure their privacy. NRPA does not release candidates' examination scores to third parties absent permission from the candidate or special, compelling circumstances. Successful candidates are added to the NRPA CPSI registry available online at [www.nrpa.org/CPSI](http://www.nrpa.org/CPSI) within 6-8 weeks of examination.

## **NO-SHOWS/FAILING THE EXAMINATION**

Candidates who fail to appear for an examination or fail the examination are not entitled to a refund, nor will fees be applied to the next exam administration. The candidate should reference re-examination process below to schedule the examination.

## **FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION AND SCORING OF RESULTS**

The testing agency will notify NRPA of your score approximately three to four (3-4) weeks following the examination. NRPA will provide your exam results and an exam score report via email once the scores are received. The passing score for the examination reflects the amount of knowledge that a committee of experts has determined to be appropriate for certification. A criterion-referenced standard setting procedure and expert judgment was used to evaluate each item on the examination to identify the passing point.

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## APPEALS

Applicants desiring to appeal to the certification committee may submit a CPSI Appeal Application to the CPSI Certification Committee c/o NRPA. To request an appeal application please email [certification@nrpa.org](mailto:certification@nrpa.org) In the application, candidates should state reasons for the appeal. Appeals will be reviewed at the quarterly CPSI Certification Committee meeting and letters will be sent to all appealing professionals following decision of the committee.

## RE-EXAMINATION

Candidates that were unsuccessful in passing the CPSI exam may apply to retake the exam either at a classroom course location or through Computer based testing (CBT) at a local testing facility. Candidates will need to go through the same procedures as outlined above for the administration of the examination.

## SCORES CANCELLED

NRPA's testing agency is obligated to report scores that accurately reflect the performance of each candidate. For this reason, the testing agency maintains test administration and test security standards that are designed to assure that all candidates are provided the same opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and to prevent some candidates from gaining an unfair advantage over others due to testing irregularities or misconduct. The testing agency will routinely review irregularities and test scores suspected of unusual or non-standard circumstances and report such to NRPA.

NRPA reserves the right to withhold or cancel test scores if, in its sole opinion, there is reason to question their validity. Scores considered for cancellation by NRPA may be grouped into two categories:

- Suspected candidate misconduct. In such cases, NRPA may initially withhold test scores and notify the candidates that they have the opportunity to provide additional information as requested by NRPA. NRPA may also undertake a confidential review if the circumstances giving rise to the questionable score validity. If it is determined that there is sufficient cause to question score validity, NRPA may cancel the score(s) and inform the involved parties.
- Irregularities. Scores may be withheld and/or cancelled because of circumstances beyond candidate's control, such as defective test materials or mistiming. In such cases, candidates will be informed and offered an opportunity to retake the examination if NRPA determines that scores must be cancelled.

In addition to the reasons listed above, NRPA may withhold or cancel examination results if, upon investigation, violation of NRPA policies outlined in this publication has been committed.

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## **YOUR STATUS AS A CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTOR**

If you pass the CPSI Examination, you will be awarded the CPSI designation as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Your certification is valid for three (3) years beginning the day you pass the examination and ending the first day of the month following examination date, three years later. CPSIs are required to maintain knowledge of the current standards/guidelines described in the CPSI examination references. NRPA will provide information about maintenance of certification with your certificate. To facilitate communications Certified Playground Safety Inspectors are required to advise NRPA of address, phone and email changes.

### **RECERTIFICATION**

Renewal of the CPSI Certification is to ensure that professionals are knowledgeable of the current best practices in the field of playground safety. Individuals wishing to renew their CPSI certification must successfully complete the CPSI examination prior to their expiration date.

Expiring CPSI's will receive a renewal reminder prior to their expiration date. It is an individual's responsibility to keep NRPA updated with current contact information.

### **CERTIFICATION EXTENSION POLICY**

Additional time is granted (commensurate with deployment/active-duty time) to active duty military, reservists, civilian employees recalled to active duty and civilian employees deployed into war/hostile fire zone, or any equivalent area designated by the armed forces, for renewal of their certification. It is the responsibility of the individual to request an extension and to provide official documentation regarding the circumstance. Extension requests, along with all documentation, should be provided to NRPA within 30 days before certification deadline.

If a serious health condition or extreme personal emergency has prevented an individual from completing all recertification requirements, a request for extension may be submitted along with a letter from the treating physician confirming return to full duty. Extension requests, along with all documentation, should be provided to NRPA within 30 days before certification deadline.

If an extension is granted, a letter will be sent to the individual stating their new certification deadline as up to one year from the present deadline.

### **STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The National Recreation and Parks Association, National Certification Board and the testing company shall not discriminate on the basis of race, disability, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, covered veterans status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis. This policy is in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

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## Section II: Paper Pencil – Exam Administration

- Arrive during the scheduled check-in period. Do not arrive late. You will not be allowed into the room if you arrive after the test has begun. You must have permission from the test administrator to leave the room during the examination. You will not be allowed additional time to make up for time used.
- Proper identification that matches the information provided to host/NRPA must be presented to enter examination. All candidates must present two (2) forms of identification, one of which must be a valid (current) form of government-issued identification that includes your name, signature and photograph. Acceptable forms include a current driver's license with photograph, a current state identification card with photograph, a current passport or passport card, Green card, Alien registration, Permanent resident card or National identification card. Employment ID cards, student ID cards, and any type of temporary identification are not acceptable.
- The secondary form of identification must display your name and signature for signature verification (e.g., credit card with signature, social security card with signature).
- Failure to provide appropriate identification at the time of the examination is considered a missed examination. There will be no refund of examination fees.
- Candidates will not be allowed to have access to the following types of personal items during the test: cellular/smart phones, hand-held computers/personal digital assistants (PDAs) or other electronic devices, pagers, watches, wallets, purses, hats, bags, coats, books and notes. If any personal items are observed or heard (e.g., cellular/smart phones, alarms) in the testing room after the examination is started, you will be dismissed, and the administration will be forfeited.
- The Exam Administrator will keep the official time and ensure that you are given the allotted time of 2 hours for the exam. If the candidate leaves the room to take a break (for example use the restroom) the exam time will not stop.
- If the candidate experiences problems that affect their ability to take the exam, they must notify the administrator **immediately**.
- Exam Administrators and exam supervisors are employed proctors and cannot answer questions concerning the content of the examination. Listen carefully to the instructions given by the Exam Administrator and read all directions in the examination booklet thoroughly.
- The Exam Administrators may dismiss a candidate from the examination for any of the following reasons:
  - If a candidate creates a disturbance, is abusive or otherwise uncooperative;
  - If a candidate gives or receives help, or is suspected of doing so;
  - If a candidate attempts to remove test materials or notes from the testing location;
  - If a candidate attempts to take the examination for someone else;
  - If the candidate displays and/or uses a cellular/smart phone or other prohibited electronic device during the Examination, if a cellular/smart phone or other prohibited electronic device is heard during the examination;
  - If the candidate attempts to use unauthorized aids; and/or
  - If the candidate fails to follow Examination regulations



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- Questions or concerns about a test item may be written on the back of the exam answer sheet.
  - The examination has two components: the examination booklet and a separate answer sheet. Both must be returned to the Exam Administrator at the completion of the exam or at the end of the exam period. All examination answers must be on the answer sheet at the end of the exam period, or they will not be counted.

## Section III: Study Guide

### GENERAL EXAMINATION PREPARATION

The study and test-taking advice described here may be helpful as you prepare for the examination. Try to be objective about yourself and your individual learning needs when you are deciding how best to proceed with your study.

### STUDY ADVICE

Determine how you study best. Some students seem to learn faster by hearing the information, while others need to see it written or illustrated, and still others prefer to discuss material with colleagues. A combination of these alternatives can often produce the most effective study pattern. If you had success in lecture courses with little outside review, it may be that you need to hear information for best retention. If you find that you prefer to read material, then you might consider jotting down important facts on 3x5 index cards. You can refresh your memory by periodically reviewing these cards. This technique is especially effective if you write the material thoughtfully and concisely, allowing you to digest the material through both reading and writing. You may wish to organize a study group or find a study partner. Once you decide on the method most effective and comfortable for you, focus on that preference and use the other techniques to complement it.

Plan your study schedule well in advance. Use learning techniques, such as reading or audio-visual aids. Be sure you find a quiet place to study where you will not be interrupted.

1. Read all instructions carefully.
2. The actual examination will be timed.
3. For best results pace yourself by periodically checking your progress. This will allow you to make any necessary adjustments. Remember, the more questions you answer, the better your chances of achieving a passing score.
4. Be sure to record an answer for each question, even those of which you are uncertain. You can answer questions and mark them for review if time allows. Avoid leaving any questions unanswered; this will maximize your chances of passing. It is better to guess than to leave a question unanswered; there is no penalty for guessing.

### TEST-TAKING ADVICE

The advice offered here is presented primarily to familiarize you with the test directions.

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# Exam Content Outline

## CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTOR CONTENT OUTLINE

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>1. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION</b>   | <b>34 questions</b> |
| A. Playground related standards/guidelines (ASTM and CPSC)  |                     |
| B. Rationale for standards/guidelines   |                     |
| C. Causes of injury   |                     |
| D. Injury patterns  |                     |
| E. Identifying, ranking, and prioritizing hazards   |                     |
| F. Causes of entanglement hazards   |                     |
| G. Tools to identify entanglement hazards   |                     |
| H. Causes of protrusion hazards   |                     |
| I. Tools and gauges to identify protrusion hazards  |                     |
| J. Causes of entrapment hazards   |                     |
| K. Tools and probes to identify entrapment hazards  |                     |
| L. Causes of crush/shear hazards  |                     |
| M. Tools and dowels to identify crush/shear hazards   |                     |
| N. Miscellaneous hazards  |                     |
| O. Equipment-specific performance requirements  |                     |
| <b>2. SURFACING</b>   | <b>18 questions</b> |
| A. Surfacing related standards/guidelines (ASTM and CPSC)   |                     |
| B. Impact attenuation (critical height and accessibility lab test reports)                        |                     |
| C. Verification of compliance (e.g., field testing, laboratory testing, compliance documentation) |                     |
| D. Critical height  |                     |
| E. Fall height  |                     |
| F. Material selection   |                     |
| G. Maintenance requirements   |                     |
| <b>3. PLAYGROUND ENVIRONMENT</b>  | <b>17 questions</b> |
| A. Child growth and development   |                     |
| B. Age-appropriateness of equipment   |                     |
| C. Evaluation of playground environment including shade, drainage, site selection, etc.           |                     |
| D. Equipment materials and manufacturing  |                     |
| E. Play environment design, layout, and signage   |                     |
| F. Accessibility requirements   |                     |
| G. Use Zones  |                     |
| H. Industry trends, recalls, and alerts   |                     |
| <b>4. AUDIT, INSPECTION, AND MAINTENANCE</b>  | <b>15 questions</b> |
| A. Development and use of audit forms   |                     |
| B. Development and use of inspection forms  |                     |
| C. Factors affecting inspection frequency   |                     |
| D. Methods to evaluate equipment not listed in standards and guidelines                           |                     |
| E. Methods of corrective action and maintenance   |                     |
| F. Procedures for taking equipment out of service   |                     |
| <b>5. RISK MANAGEMENT</b>   | <b>11 questions</b> |
| A. Requirements for record keeping  |                     |
| B. Requirements for site history file   |                     |
| C. Compliance documents from equipment and surfacing manufacturer and installer                   |                     |
| D. Injury reporting and accident investigation  |                     |
| E. Standard of care policies and implementation   |                     |
| F. CPSI Code of Professional Conduct  |                     |
| <b>6. TEST DEVELOPMENT</b>  | <b>5 questions</b>  |
| A. Beta test questions included that are not calculated into the final score.                     |                     |

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The exam questions are taken from the following sources:

- **The Consumer Product Safety Commission's Public Playground Safety Handbook**

*(The CPSC Handbook is included in the Field Guide that accompanies this Course Manual and can also be found online free at [www.CPSC.gov](http://www.CPSC.gov) publication #325)*

Read every page of this document. Do not try to memorize Tables One and Two. Concentrate on understanding the meaning of the tables. Pay special attention to the sections relating to surfacing materials, use zones, equipment not recommended for public playgrounds, equipment not recommended for preschool age children, specific recommendations for types of equipment, and recommendations for guardrails and barriers.

- **The ASTM F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use**

*(This ASTM standard is included in the Field Guide that accompanies this Course Manual or can be purchased online at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org))*

Read every page of this document. Again, it is not necessary to memorize the tables. You must be very familiar with this document. The audit is based on the ASTM Standard. Much of the exam is based on this document.

- **The ASTM F2223 Standard Guide for ASTM Standards on Playground Surfacing**

*(This ASTM standard is included in the Field Guide that accompanies the CPSI Course Manual or can be purchased online at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org))*

- **Playground Safety is No Accident**

*(The electronic PDF version of the 6th Edition of PSINA is included on USB that accompanies this Course Manual or can be purchased at <http://www.internationalplaygroundsafetyinstitute.com/>)*

- **CPSI Code of Professional Conduct**

*(This is included in the CPSI Course Manual on page 22.)*

# Playground Safety Is No Accident – Developing a Public Playground Management and Operation Program (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)

The history of the Playground Safety Is No Accident book as part of the CPSI program goes back to the CPSI courses beginning. All registered course participants receive a PDF version of the book on Credit Card style USB Thumb Drive. This drive also includes Adobe formatted auto-fill-in inspection forms for future reference. The Thumb Drive also includes a PDF file of the 2010 CPSC Handbook, the DOJ 2010 ADA Standard for Accessible Design, and a PDF file of the PSINA 6th Edition book.

The following is a list of PSINA 6th Edition chapters and related page numbers that a CPSI exam candidate should read prior to their examination assuming they are not attending a CPSI Course. The remainder of the book is not required reading prior to taking the NRPA CPSI Certification Examination, but it is a great resource for those managing any playground operations after completing the CPSI exam. The book has a total of 390 pages, however participants are asked to read 113 pages.

Chapter Title*	Pages to Read for Exam Prep
Glossary of Terms	25 - 31
Part A: Developing a Comprehensive Public Playground Management and Operation Program	A.1-A.11
Part B: Introduction to Levels of Knowledge Competence For Specific Types of Playground Inspections	B.1-B.20
Part C: Maintenance Needs Assessment Process	None
Part D: Playground Inspections	D.1-D.10
Part E: Routine Visual Playground Inspection (High Frequency)	E.1-E.7
Part F: Operational and Annual Main Playground Inspection	F.1-F.2, F.5-F.6, F.17
Part G: Evaluating Access for All Barrier Free Accessible Use Playground Compliance Assessment	None
Part H: Comprehensive Playground Compliance Inspection and Assessment Process (Audit)	H.1-H.35
Part I: Comprehensive Playground Compliance Inspection and Assessment Form	I.2
Part J: Playground Compliance Inspection and Assessment (Short Form)	None
Part K: Procedures for Playground Area Corrective Action	K.1-K.2
Part L: Taking Equipment Out of Service	L.1-L.2
Part M: Employee Requirements Related to a Public Playground Management and Operation program	None
Part N: Record Keeping and Documentation	N.1-N.6
Part O: Playground Incidents/Accidents and Investigations	O.1-O.3
Part P: Playground Signage	None
Part Q: The Public Playground Replacement Dilemma	None
Part R: In Summary	R.1-R.5

\*Gray chapters listed above do not need to be read during examination preparation.

The following Table of Dimensions is included in the exam booklet.

TABLE OF DIMENSIONS USED IN ASTM F1487: EXAM VERSION (REV 7/17)			
ITEM	ENG.	MET.	REF.
Suspended Members / Swing Seats - minimum radius	0.25 in	6.4 mm	6.2.3
Steps and Rungs - spacing tolerance +	0.25 in	6.4 mm	7.2.1
Accessible Route - maximum vertical rise without 45° taper	0.25 in	6.4 mm	ADA
Vertical Rotating Equipment – maximum gap between platform and surfacing	0.312 in	7.9 mm	8.8.1.5
Wheelchair-Accessible Platforms - maximum opening	0.50 in	13 mm	ADA
Accessible Route - maximum vertical rise with 1/4" 45° taper	0.50 in	13 mm	ADA
Ramp and Barrier without Curb - maximum space allowed	1.0 in	25.4 mm	7.5.5.6
Non-Rigid Component Suspended Between Two Play Units or Between Play Unit and Ground Within 45° of Horizontal - minimum diameter	1.0 in	25.4 mm	6.6
Sliding Pole - maximum diameter	1.9 in	48 mm	8.4.4
Vertical Rotating Equipment – difference between minimum. and maximum. radii	2.0 in	51 mm	8.8.1.2
Designated Playing Surface - minimum width and length < 30° from horizontal	2.0 in	51 mm	3.1.10
Wheelchair Accessible Ramps Where Guardrails or Barriers Not Extending within 1" of Ramp Surface; or ramps with Two Rails and No Barrier; or Ramps with Barrier Beyond Ramp Edge - minimum curb height	2.0 in	51 mm	7.5.5.6
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Rigid Platforms not Flush to Surfacing – minimum of clearance range not > 9" between the underside of equipment and surfacing without abrupt rigid changes below the platform	2.38 in	60.5 mm	8.8.1.6
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Protective Skirt – minimum of clearance range not > 9" between skirt and surfacing	2.38 in	60.5 mm	8.8.1.6
Seesaw and Spring Rocker Handgrip Intended to be Gripped by 1 Hand - minimum length	3.0 in	76 mm	8.10.4.1 8.11.2
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Rigid Platforms not Flush to Surfacing – maximum of clearance range not > 9" between underside of equipment and surfacing without abrupt rigid changes below the platform	3.5 in	89 mm	8.8.1.6
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Protective Skirt – maximum of clearance range between skirt and surfacing	3.5	89 mm	8.8.1.6
Spring Rocker Footrests - minimum length	3.5 in	89 mm	8.11.3
Large Projection Gauge - outside diameter	3.5 in	89 mm	6.4.3
Slide Sidewall - minimum height	4.0 in	102 mm	8.5.4.4
Suspended Rope, Cable, or Chain - minimum inside perimeter	5.0 in	127 mm	6.6.1
Seesaw and Spring Rocker Handgrip Intended to be Gripped by 2 Hands - minimum length	6.0 in	152 mm	8.10.4.1 8.11.2
Slides > 48" High - minimum exit height	7.0 in	178 mm	8.5.5.3
Rope, Cable, or Chain Attached at One End - maximum length	7.0 in	178 mm	6.6.2.3
Horizontal Ladder Accessed by Rung - minimum horizontal clearance to first rung	8.0 in	200 mm	8.3.2
Horizontal Ladder Rungs for Children > 4 years - minimum space	9.0 in	229 mm	CPSC 5.3.2.4
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Rigid Platforms not Flush to Surfacing – minimum clearance between underside of equipment and surfacing without abrupt rigid changes below the platform	9.0 in	229 mm	8.8.1.6
Horizontal Ladder Accessed by Rung – maximum. horizontal clearance to first rung	10 in	250 mm	8.3.2
Slides < 48" High - maximum exit height	11 in	280 mm	8.5.5.3
Slide Exit Region - minimum length	11 in	280 mm	8.5.5.1
Accessible Transition Platform - minimum height	11 in	280 mm	ADA

ITEM	ENG.	MET.	REF.
Balance Beam for Children 2-5 - maximum height	12 in	300 mm	8.1.1
Slides for Children 2-5 - minimum slide chute width	12 in	300 mm	8.5.4.3
To-Fro Swing Seats - minimum clearance from seat to surface	12 in	300 mm	8.6.5.1 (5)
Adjacent Platforms for Children 2-5 – maximum. height without an access component	12 in	300 mm	7.5.7.1
Wheelchair Ramps with Barriers - minimum lower handrail height	12 in	300 mm	7.5.5.5
Embankment Slide – maximum distance between chute bottom and surfacing	12 in	300 mm	8.5.8.1
Embankment Slide – maximum height above surfacing with no slide use zone	12 in	300 mm	9.6.4.2
Single Axis Swings – minimum seated hip breadth applied when testing for clearances	13.1 in	333 mm	8.6.5.1
Spring Rockers - minimum seat height	14 in	360 mm	8.11.5
Slide Transition Platform - minimum depth	14 in	360 mm	8.5.2.2
Slides > 48” High - maximum exit height	15 in	380 mm	8.5.5.3
Horizontal Ladders for Children 5-12 - maximum rung spacing	15 in	380 mm	8.3.1
Moveable Hanging Rings and Rungs - maximum distance between pivot point and bottom of handgrip device	15 in	380 mm	8.3.5
Wheelchair Ramps with Barriers - maximum upper handrail height	16 in	410 mm	7.5.5.5
Balance Beam for Children 5-12 - maximum height	16 in	410 mm	8.1.1
Slides for Children 5-12 - minimum slide chute width	16 in	410 mm	8.5.4.3
Upper Body Equipment for Children 2-5 - maximum landing structure height	18 in	460 mm	8.3.4
3-D Net Climber for Children 2-5 - maximum clear vertical path diameter	18 in	460 mm	8.2.5.3
Sliding Pole - minimum distance from structure	18 in	460 mm	8.4.1
Log Roll - maximum roller height	18 in	460 mm	8.12.3
Accessible Transition Platform - maximum height	18 in	460 mm	ADA
Adjacent Platforms for Children 5-12 - maximum height without an access component	18 in	460 mm	7.5.7.1
3-D Net Climber for Children 5-12 - maximum clear vertical path diameter	20 in	508 mm	8.2.5.3
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Circular Platform – minimum distance from axis of rotation to outmost perimeter	20 in	508 mm	8.8.1.2
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Non-Circular Platform – maximum dimension from axis of rotation to outermost perimeter	20 in	508 mm	8.8.1.3
Vertical Rotating Equipment Designed to Minimize Impact by Any Rigid Member and with Clearance to Surfacing – minimum diameter	20 in	508 mm	8.8.1.7
Vertical Rotating Equipment Exempt from 8.8.1.6 and 8.8.1.8 – maximum dimension measured from axis of rotation to outermost perimeter	20 in	508 mm	8.8.1.9
Vertical Rotating Equipment Exempt From Clearance Zone – maximum diameter measured from axis of rotation to outermost perimeter	20 in	508 mm	8.8.1.10
Vertical Rotating Equipment Exempt from Speed Limiting Devices – maximum dimension measured from axis of rotation to the outermost perimeter and has a108” use zone	20 in	508 mm	8.8.3.4
Sliding Pole - maximum distance from structure	20 in	508 mm	8.4.1
To-Fro Swing Hangers - minimum splay distance	20 in	508 mm	8.6.5.1 (4)
Vertical Rotating Equipment – clearance zone free of rigid and non-rigid components	21 in	530 mm	8.8.1.10
Handrail - minimum height	22 in	560 mm	7.2.6.5
Tube Slides - minimum interior diameter	23 in	580 mm	8.5.4.7
Fully-Enclosed Bucket Swing Seat - minimum clearance from seat to surface	24 in	610 mm	8.6.5.1 (5)
To-Fro Swings - minimum horizontal clearance between adjacent swing chains, measured 60” above surface	24 in	610 mm	8.6.5.1 (2)
Wheelchair Ramp - maximum length for width reduction (32-36”)	24 in	610 mm	7.5.3
Ground Level Flexible Manipulative Components – maximum length	24 in	610 mm	6.6.2.5
Wheelchair Ramp with Barriers - minimum upper handrail height	26 in	660 mm	7.5.5.5

ITEM	ENG.	MET.	REF.
Ground Level Flexible Manipulative Components – maximum height	27 in	686 mm	6.6.2.5
Wheelchair Ramp with Barriers - maximum upper handrail height	28 in	710 mm	7.5.5.5
Spring Rockers - maximum seat height	28 in	710 mm	8.11.5
Vertical Rotating Equipment < 20" - height of both pieces of equipment at which overlapping use zones are permitted	30 in	760 mm	9.3.1
Horizontal Rotating Equipment - height with no use zone overlap	30 in	760 mm	9.3.6
Wheelchair Parking Space - minimum width	30 in	760 mm	Fig A1.46
To-Fro Swings - minimum horizontal clearance between support structure and swing chain, measured 60" above surface	30 in	760 mm	8.6.5.1 (3)
Slide Exit Region - minimum radius of curvature	30 in	760 mm	8.5.5.4
Rotating Swing - minimum clearance zone (Y = vertical distance between pivot point and top of swing seat)	Y + 30 in		9.4.2.4
Wheelchair Ramp - minimum width reduction (24" maximum. length)	32 in	810 mm	7.5.3
Track Ride Elevated Landing Structure - minimum width	32 in	810 mm	8.13.3
Upper Body Equipment for Children 5-12 - maximum landing structure height	36 in	910 mm	8.3.4
Track Ride Elevated Landing Structure - minimum length	36 in	910 mm	8.13.3
Wheelchair Ramp Landings - minimum circulation width	36 in	910 mm	7.2.5
Wheelchair Ramps - minimum clear width	36 in	910 mm	7.5.3
Handrails - maximum height	38 in	970 mm	7.2.6.5
Embankment Slide – minimum fall height	40 in	1016 mm	8.5.8.4
Roof line clearance within the use zone of a swing – minimum distance from the pivot point to surfacing	X + 42 in	1065 mm	8.14.3
Overhead Clearance – minimum clearance between swing pivot point and surfacing	X + 42 in	1065 mm	9.8.4.1
Wheelchair Parking Space - minimum length	48 in	1220 mm	Fig A1.46
Parallel Track Rides - minimum clearance center to center	48 in	1220 mm	8.13.6
Wheelchair-Accessible Overhead Equipment - maximum height	54 in	1370 mm	8.3.3
Wheelchair-Accessible Landings - minimum clear space	60 in	1524 mm	Fig A1.46
Fulcrum Seesaws - maximum seat height	60 in	1524 mm	8.10.6
Sliding Pole - minimum height above access structure	60 in	1524 mm	8.4.3
Upper Body Equipment for Children 2-5 - maximum height	60 in	1524 mm	8.3.3
Non-Spiral Slides - clear height above bedway	60 in	1524 mm	8.5.6.1
Track Ride Hand gripping Component - minimum height	64 in	1630 mm	8.13.2
Track Ride – minimum use zone	72 in	1830 mm	9.9.1
Adjacent Play Structures < 30" high – maximum use zone overlap	72 in	1830 mm	9.2.3
3-D Climbing Net - maximum vertical clearance between rungs	72 in	1830 mm	8.2.5.2
3-D Climbing Net > 72" - minimum fall height	72 in	1830 mm	8.2.5.2
Track Ride Hand gripping Components - maximum height	78 in	1980 mm	8.13.2
Upper Body Equipment for Children 5-12 - maximum height	84 in	2130 mm	8.3.3
Overhead Clearance – minimum clearance of outside obstructions above designated play surface for equipment outside the use zone	84 in	2130 mm	9.8.4.1
Non-Rigid Component Suspended Between Two Play Units or Between Play Unit and Ground Within 45° of Horizontal - minimum height	84 in	2130 mm	6.6
Roofs that are an Integral Part of the Structure – maximum height that contains no designated play surfaces	84 in	2130 mm	8.14.2
Roofs that are an Integral Part of the Structure – minimum distance between the pivot point and surfacing	84 in	2130 mm	8.14.1
Wheelchair Ramp - maximum length per run	144 in	3660 mm	7.2.4

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## Section IV: Certified Playground Safety Inspector – Code of Professional Conduct

This code sets forth the standards of professional conduct to be observed by CPSIs upon confirmation by the NCB as they act in the capacity of that certification. Individuals shall, in their professional activities, sustain and advance the integrity, honor and veracity of their certification by:

- holding the safety of playground users paramount in all professional services;
- utilizing the most current standards of care (as delineated by the American Society for Testing and Materials Standards on Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Public Use, Playground surfacing, and Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 months through 23 months, as well as the US Consumer Product Safety Commissions Public Playground Safety Handbook);
- maintaining currency and competency in playground safety inspection procedures including use of testing tools and knowledge of current safety criteria;
- identifying and documenting all situations which are in non-compliance with the standards of care along with the citation of the specific reference portion of the criterion document, using a standard playground safety inspection process;
- prioritizing all identified non-compliances according to a standard norm of foreseeable consequences;
- advising employers or clients of seriously dangerous conditions in the most prompt manner as well as part of a written report, omitting no adverse findings from the official documentation of the safety inspection;
- never conducting a safety audit or inspection without the knowledge and consent of the playground owner;
- never conducting a safety inspection/audit of a playground with the intent to discredit an inspector, owner or manufacturer or to promote sale of other equipment or products;
- never providing findings of an inspection to anyone other than the playground owner unless authorized by the owner to do so;
- perform our duties as a CPSI in compliance with all federal, state and local laws in accordance with the highest standards; and avoid any involvement in illegal, fraudulent, unethical or improper conduct; and
- serving all individuals fairly and assuring that there is equity in the distribution of services. Individuals should receive services without regard to on the basis of race, disease/disability, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, covered veteran's status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, political affiliation, source of income, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.

Individuals failing to practice these professional standards shall be subject to loss of professional certification upon a negative finding by a review process and enforcement procedures established by the Executive Committee of the Certified Playground Safety Inspector Certification Committee.