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Playground equipment and surfacing – Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods



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EUROPEAN STANDARD
NORME EUROPÉENNE
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English Version

Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Equipements et sols d'aires de jeux - Partie 1 : Exigences de sécurité et méthodes d'essai générales

Spielplatzgeräte und Spielplatzböden - Teil 1: Allgemeine sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren

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SS-EN 1176-1:2008 (E)**Foreword**

This document (EN 1176-1:2008) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 136 “Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by November 2008, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2009.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 1176-1:1998.

This European Standard consists of a number of parts as follows:

EN 1176-1, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods*

EN 1176-2, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 2: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for swings*

EN 1176-3, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 3: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for slides*

EN 1176-4, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 4: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for cableways*

EN 1176-5, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 5: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for carousels*

EN 1176-6, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 6 : Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment*

EN 1176-7, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 7: Guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation*

EN 1176-10, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 10: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for fully enclosed play equipment*

EN 1176-11, *Playground equipment and surfacing — Part 11: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for spatial network*

This part of EN 1176 should be read in conjunction with:

EN 1177:2008, *Impact attenuating playground surfacing — Determination of critical fall height.*

For inflatable play equipment see:

EN 14960, *Inflatable play equipment — Safety requirements and test methods.*

The principal changes from the previous edition of this part of EN 1176 are as follows.

- a) This part of EN 1176 now includes requirements for surfacing based on those that were previously specified in EN 1177.

- b) The inclusion of additional requirements for barriers and steep play elements.
- c) The requirements relating to entrapment are now for all age groups and the test for partially bound openings has been clarified, with new requirements included dependent on the angle of insertion.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

SS-EN 1176-1:2008 (E)**Introduction**

It is not the purpose of the requirements of this standard to lessen the contribution that playground equipment makes to the child's development and/or play, which is meaningful from an educational point of view.

This standard acknowledges the difficulties of addressing safety issues by age criteria alone because the ability to handle risk is based on the individual users' level of skills and not by age. Also users other than the intended age range will almost certainly make use of the playground equipment.

Risk-taking is an essential feature of play provision and of all environments in which children legitimately spend time playing. Play provision aims to offer children the chance to encounter acceptable risks as part of a stimulating, challenging and controlled learning environment. Play provision should aim at managing the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from serious harm.

The principles of safety management are applicable both to workplaces in general as well as to play provision. However, the balance between safety and benefits is likely to be different in the two environments. In play provision exposure to some degree of risk may be of benefit because it satisfies a basic human need and gives children the chance to learn about risk and consequences in a controlled environment.

Respecting the characteristics of children's play and the way children benefit from playing on the playground with regard to development, children need to learn to cope with risk and this may lead to bumps and bruises and even occasionally a broken limb. The aim of this standard is first and foremost to prevent accidents with a disabling or fatal consequence, and secondly to lessen serious consequences caused by the occasional mishap that inevitably will occur in children's pursuit of expanding their level of competence, be it socially, intellectually or physically.

Refusal of admittance and access as a safety precaution is problematic due to, for example, breach in supervision or help by peers. Requirements of significant importance, such as, for example, head and neck entrapment and protection against inadvertent falls, have been written with this in mind. It is also recognised that there is an increasing need for play provision to be accessible to users with disabilities. This of course requires play areas to provide a balance between safety and the offer of the required level of challenge and stimulation to all possible groups of users. However, for the purposes of protection against head and neck entrapment, this standard does not take into account children with an increased size of the head (e.g. hydrocephalus or Downs Syndrome) or wearing helmets.

1 Scope

This part of EN 1176 specifies general safety requirements for public playground equipment and surfacing. Additional safety requirements for specific pieces of playground equipment are specified in subsequent parts of this standard.

This part of EN 1176 covers playground equipment for all children. It has been prepared with full recognition of the need for supervision of young children and of less able or less competent children.

The purpose of this part of EN 1176 is to ensure a proper level of safety when playing in, on or around playground equipment, and at the same time to promote activities and features known to benefit children because they provide valuable experiences that will enable them to cope with situations outside the playground.

This part of EN 1176 is applicable to playground equipment intended for individual and collective use by children, but excluding adventure playgrounds. It is also applicable to equipment and units installed as children's playground equipment although they are not manufactured as such, but excludes those items defined as toys in EN 71 and the Toys Safety Directive.

NOTE Adventure playgrounds are fenced, secured playgrounds, run and staffed in accordance with the widely accepted principles that encourage children's development and often use self-built equipment.

This part of EN 1176 specifies the requirements that will protect the child from hazards that he or she may be unable to foresee when using the equipment as intended, or in a manner that can be reasonably anticipated.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 335-2:2006, *Durability of wood and wood-based products — Definition of use classes — Part 2: Application to solid wood*

EN 350-2:1994, *Durability of wood and wood-based products — Natural durability of solid wood — Part 2: Guide to natural durability and treatability of selected wood species of importance in Europe*

EN 351-1:2007, *Durability of wood and wood-based products — Preservative-treated solid wood — Part 1: Classification of preservative penetration and retention*

EN 636, *Plywood — Specifications*

EN 1177, *Impact attenuating playground surfacing — Determination of critical fall height*

EN 1991-1-2, *Eurocode 1: Actions on structures — Part 1-2: General actions – Actions on structures exposed to fire*

EN 1991-1-3, *Eurocode 1: Actions on structures — Part 1-3: General actions – Snow loads*

EN 1991-1-4, *Eurocode 1: Actions on structures – Part 1-4: General actions – Wind actions*

EN 13411-3, *Terminations for steel wire ropes – Safety – Part 3: Ferrules and ferrule-securing*

EN 13411-5, *Terminations for steel wire ropes – Safety – Part 5: U-bolt wire rope grips*

EN ISO 2307, *Fibre ropes – Determination of certain physical and mechanical properties (ISO 2307:2005)*

EN ISO 9554, *Fibre ropes – General specifications (ISO 9554:2005)*