



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

Certified Playground Safety Inspector Test Center Candidate Handbook

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**Certified
Playground
Safety Inspector**

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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:

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

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

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.

About the Testing Agency

PSI Services (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 proctoring the paper pencil exam, and administration of the computer-based exam at test centers throughout the US and worldwide.

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. All registration materials must include a statement regarding special accommodations.

A candidate who has a disability may request a special accommodation; the request must be submitted in writing at the time of exam registration. Please contact PSI at 1-888-519-9901 to make this request. In order to properly accommodate all persons with disabilities it is recommended that all requests be made 45 days prior to the exam.

Services for English as a Second Language Candidates

Time extension - If a candidate's primary language is not English and they want to request a time extension to take the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) exam, they must submit the *ESL Request Form* available at <https://www.nrpa.org/certification/CPSI/resources-and-links/> which includes additional fee information and requires the signature of a supervisor, professor, or the employee's human resources representative. The ESL Form must be submitted to NRPA at least two weeks prior to the examination. Once the request form and fees have been submitted the testing company will add 60 minutes to the time allowed for the exam.

Translation Dictionary – If a candidate's primary language is not English and they want 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 at <https://www.nrpa.org/certification/CPSI/resources-and-links/> to NRPA at the time of application. 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 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 and after the examination 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 test center personnel are able to open the Test Center.

Candidates may visit PSI's website at <http://online.goamp.com/CandidateHome/CandidateInformation.aspx> 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 Test Center, 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 diploma or equivalent. Your legal identification will be verified upon entry into the examination site.

Rescheduling of Examination

A candidate may reschedule ONE appointment for examination at no charge by calling PSI at least **one** full business day prior to the scheduled testing session (i.e. if your exam is scheduled for Monday then you must contact PSI by 3:00PM Central on the previous Thursday). If you wish to reschedule your examination you **must** do so by contacting PSI directly at 1-833-518-7455. A candidate who wishes to reschedule an examination but fails to contact PSI at least one business day prior to the scheduled testing session forfeits the application and all fees paid to take the examination. The candidate will need to fill out a new application and reapply to sit for the exam.

***You must schedule and complete the examination by the date on the e-mail and/or letter or you will forfeit your payment.**

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 the fees be applied to the next exam administration. The candidate will need to fill out a new application and reapply to sit for the exam.

Exam Extension

It is NRPA's policy to grant a 30 day exam period extension for the CPSI Computer Based Test in the event that the candidate submits the exam extension application and fee to NRPA prior to their current exam expiration date. For an extension to be granted, individual must either not have a currently scheduled testing session or have the ability to reschedule their current testing session. Only one extension per exam will be permitted.

If a serious health condition or extreme personal emergency has prevented a candidate from sitting for the examination, a request for an extension with a fee waiver may be submitted, along with official documentation regarding the circumstance and a date for the individual's return to full duty. Exam extension applications and fee waiver requests are available on the NRPA website at <https://www.nrpa.org/certification/CPSI/resources-and-links/>. Extension requests, along with all documentation, will be considered if submitted prior to the current exam expiration date. If an extension is granted, an email will be sent to the individual stating their new exam expiration date.

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 at <https://www.nrpa.org/certification/CPSI/cpsi-online-registry/>, within 6-8 weeks of examination.

Following the Examination and Scoring of Results

Your results will be provided on screen and an official score report will be sent to your email address as a PDF after the examination session ends. 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 in order to identify the passing point.

Appeals

Applicants desiring to appeal to the certification committee may submit a CPSI Appeal Application to the CPSI Certification Committee c/o NRPA. In the application, candidates should state reasons for the appeal. Written appeals must be received within sixty (60) days of the examination date for the appeal to be considered. 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 at a local computer based testing (CBT) 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:

1. **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.

2. **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.

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 current knowledge of the 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

It is NRPA's policy to grant additional time (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.

SECTION II: Testing at a PSI Test Center

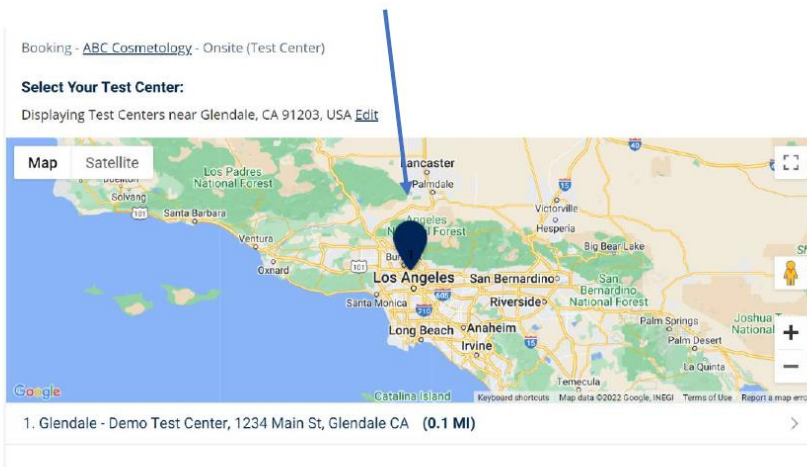
[PSI Test Center Experience Video](#) – Please view this video for an overview of your upcoming PSI Test Center experience.

Scheduling your examination

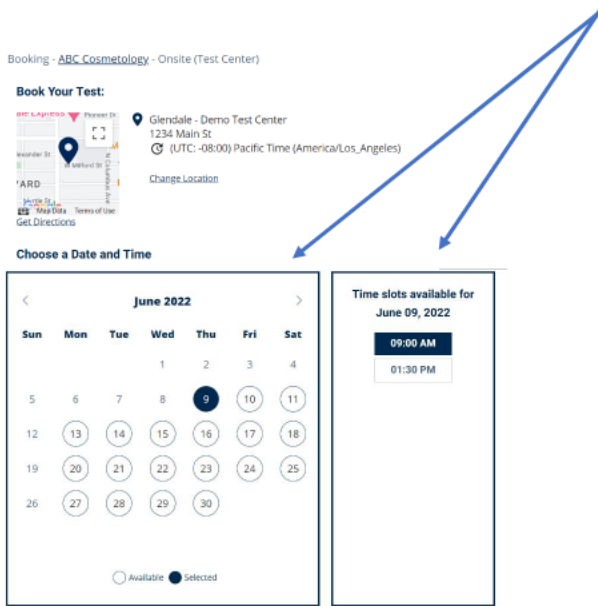
The CPSI Examination is delivered at approximately 300 PSI Test Centers geographically located throughout the United States. A current listing of PSI Test Centers, including addresses and driving directions, may be viewed at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/nrpa> by selecting “Candidates.” The examinations are administered by appointment only, Monday through Saturday. Appointment starting times may vary by location.

Online Scheduling: Go to <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/nrpa>

1. First time users of PSI’s online scheduling must select “New User.”
2. Enter the information requested to create an account. When finished, select the “Continue” button to proceed.
3. If account creation is successful, a page requesting you to confirm/enter your contact information will appear. Enter the required information. When finished, select the “Next” button to proceed.
4. Select three security questions and provide answers which can be used to verify your identity when retrieving a username or password. Click the “Submit” button to proceed to the scheduling page where you first will choose the exam delivery mode. Select Test Center and “Continue.”
5. Select “Tests” and any tests you are eligible for will be displayed. Choose the relevant test
6. Select your test format “Onsite (Test Center)”
7. Enter your City or Postal Code and select “Find”.
8. Select the relevant Test Center near your chosen location.



9. Select date and time to take your test.



You are now scheduled and will receive a message confirming your test format, your booked date and time. Please review the booking **before** selecting “Confirm”. Once confirmed, select “Done”. You will be emailed a full booking summary with directions to the test center, guidance on Identification requirements and your Test Day.

EXAMINATION DAY - Please read the following information carefully so that you are fully prepared on the Examination Day

Test Center

Report to the Test Center no later than your scheduled testing time. A CANDIDATE WHO ARRIVES MORE THAN 15 MINUTES AFTER THE SCHEDULED TESTING TIME WILL NOT BE ADMITTED

No personal items, valuables or weapons should be brought to Test Center. Only wallets and keys are permitted.

Large coats and jackets must be left outside the testing room. You will be provided a soft locker to store your wallet and/or keys with you in the testing room. The proctor will lock the soft locker prior to you entering the testing room. You will not have access to these items until after the examination is completed. Please note watches, hats, wallets, and keys will not be allowed in the testing room except securely locked in the soft locker.

Once you have placed your personal belongings into the soft locker, you will be asked to pull out your pockets to ensure they are empty. If you bring personal items that will not fit in the soft locker, you will not be able to test. The site will not store or be responsible for your personal belongings. 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.

PSI administration and security standards are designed to ensure all candidates are provided the same opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. The Test Center is continuously monitored by audio and video surveillance equipment for security purposes. The following security procedures apply during the examination:

- Examinations are proprietary. No cameras, notes, tape recorders, pagers or cellular/smart phones are allowed in the testing room. Possession of a cellular/smart phone or other electronic devices is strictly prohibited and will result in dismissal from the examination.
- No guests, visitors or family members are allowed in the testing room or reception areas.

Identification

To gain admission to the Test Center, a candidate needs to present two forms of identification, one with a current photograph. Information provided to NRPA on the certification application must match the candidate's name on the identification. Both forms of identification must be current and include the candidate's current name and signature. The candidate will also be required to sign a roster for verification of identity.

Acceptable forms of photo identification include: a current driver's license with photograph, a current state identification card with photograph, a current passport, or a current military identification card with photograph. 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). **YOU MUST HAVE PROPER IDENTIFICATION (THAT MATCHES THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO NRPA) TO GAIN ADMISSION TO THE TEST CENTER.**

Testing by Computer-based Examination at a Test Center

After your identification has been confirmed, you will be directed to a testing corral. You will be instructed on-screen to enter your identification number. Your photograph, taken before beginning the examination, will remain on screen throughout your examination session. This photograph will also print on your score report. Prior to attempting the examination, you will be given the opportunity to practice taking an examination on the computer. The time you use for this practice examination is NOT counted as part of your examination time or score.

When you are comfortable with the computer testing process, you may quit the practice session and begin the timed examination. Two (2) hours are allotted to complete the examination. Following the practice examination, you will begin the timed examination. Before beginning, instructions for taking the examination are provided on-screen. Please review these carefully, as they will assist you with completing the examination.

The computer monitors the time you spend on the examination. The examination will terminate if you exceed the time allowed. You may click on the "Time" box in the lower menu bar on the screen to monitor your time. A digital clock indicates the time remaining for you to complete the examination. The Time feature may be turned off during the examination.

Only one examination question is presented at a time. The question number appears in the lower right of the screen. Choices of answers to the examination question are identified as A, B, C or D. You must indicate your choice by either typing in the letter in the response box in the lower left portion of the computer screen or clicking on the option using the mouse. To change your answer, enter a different option typing in the letter in the response box or by clicking on the option using the mouse. You may change your answer as many times as you wish during the examination time limit.

To move to the next question, click on the forward arrow (>) in the lower right portion of the screen. This action will move you forward through the examination question by question. If you wish to review any question(s), click the backward arrow (<) or use the left arrow key to move backward through the examination.

An examination question may be left unanswered for return later in the examination session. Questions may also be bookmarked for later review by clicking in the blank square to the right of the Time button. The table of dimensions will be provided with the number listing for the questions.

To identify all unanswered and/or bookmarked questions, click on the double arrows (>>). When the examination is completed, the number of examination questions answered is reported. If not all questions have been answered and there is time remaining, you may return to the examination and answer those questions. Be sure to provide an answer for each examination question before exiting the examination. There is no penalty for guessing.

Examination Restrictions

- Pencils will be provided during check-in.
- Candidates will be provided with one piece of scratch paper at a time to use during the examination; you must return the scratch paper to the proctor at the completion of testing or you will not receive your score report.

- No documents or notes of any kind may be removed from the Assessment Center.
- No questions concerning the content of the examination may be asked during the examination. Eating, drinking or smoking is not permitted in the Assessment Center.
- You may take a break whenever you wish, but you will not be allowed additional time to make up for time lost during breaks.
- During the examination, comments may be provided for any question by clicking on the Comment button to the left of the Time button. This opens a dialogue box where comments may be entered. Comments will be reviewed, but individual responses will not be provided.

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 a 3x5 card. 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.

Test-Taking Advice

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

- 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.**

Exam Content Outline

Certified Playground Safety Inspector Content Outline	
1. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION	34 questions
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	
2. SURFACING	18 questions
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	
3. PLAYGROUND ENVIRONMENT	17 questions
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	
4. AUDIT, INSPECTION, AND MAINTENANCE	15 questions
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	
5. RISK MANAGEMENT	11 questions
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	
6. TEST DEVELOPMENT	5 questions
A. Beta test questions included that are not calculated into the final score.	

Reference materials

- **The Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety** (*The CPSC Handbook is available for download at no charge from their website, [Public Playground Safety Handbook | CPSC.gov](#)*
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 pre-school age children, specific recommendations for types of equipment, and recommendations for guardrails and barriers.
- **The ASTM F1487-21 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use** (*The ASTM standard is available to download, however there is a fee, 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.
- **ASTM F1292-18e1 Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment** (*The ASTM standard is available to download, however there is a fee, www.astm.org)*
- **ASTM F2223-19a Standard Guide for ASTM Standards on Playground Surfacing** (*The ASTM standard is available to download, however there is a fee, www.astm.org)*
- **ASTM F3313-20 Standard Test Method for Determining Impact Attenuation of Playground Surfaces Within The Use Zone of Playground Equipment as Tested in the Field** (*The ASTM standard is available to download, however there is a fee, www.astm.org)*
- **Playground Safety Is No Accident- Sixth Edition** (*This book can be purchased at <http://www.internationalplaygroundsafetyinstitute.com>*)
- **Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas:** (*This publication can be downloaded for free at <https://www.access-board.gov/files/ada/guides/play-areas.pdf>*)
- **CPSI Code of Professional Conduct**

TABLE OF DIMENSIONS USED IN ASTM F1487 (REV 1/2024)

ITEM	ENG.	MET.*	REF.**
Designated Playing Surface - minimum width and length <30° from horizontal	2 in	51 mm	3.1.10
Force requirements for Non-rigid openings(applied to head or torso probes)	50 lbf	222 N	6.1.2.1
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
Non-Rigid Component Suspended Between Two Play Units or Between Play Unit and Ground Within 45° of Horizontal - minimum diameter	1 in	25.4 mm	6.6.2.6

Section 6: All Equipment Performance Test Requirement Dimensions

ITEM	ENG.	MET.*	REF.**
Crush and Shear Probe – for common hazards neoprene rod diameter	0.62 in	15.7 mm	6.5
Ground-Level Flexible Manipulative Components – maximum connector length	24 in	609 mm	6.6.2.5
Ground-Level Flexible Manipulative Play Components – max. attachment height	27 in	686 mm	6.6.2.5
Head Probe – diameter	9 in	229 mm	Fig A1.3
Small Projection Gauge – height	0.25 in	6.4 mm	Fig. A1.10
Small Projection Gauge – inside diameter	0.50 in	12.7 mm	Fig A1.10
Small Projection Gauge – outside diameter	1 in	25.4 mm	Fig. A1.10
Middle Projection Gauge – height	0.75 in	19.1 mm	Fig. A1.10
Middle Projection Gauge – inside diameter	1.50 in	38.1 mm	Fig A1.10
Middle Projection Gauge – outside diameter	2 in	50.8 mm	Fig. A1.10
Large Projection Gauge – height	1.5 in	38.1 mm	Fig. A1,10
Large Projection Gauge – inside diameter	3 in	76.2 mm	Fig A1.10
Large Projection Gauge – outside diameter	3.5 in	88.9 mm	Fig A1.10, 6.4.3
Partially-Bounded Opening Probe – neck length	3 in	76 mm	6.1.4.6
Partially-Bounded Opening Probe – neck width	1.875 in	47.6 mm	6.1.4.2
Partially-Bounded Opening Probe (A) – width	6.1 in	155 mm	6.1.4.6
Partially-Bounded Opening Probe (B) – shoulder width	8.5 in	216 mm	6.1.4.6(3)
Partially-Bounded Opening Probe (B) – thickness	0.75 in	19.1 mm	6.1.4.5
Rope, Cable, or Chain Attached at One End – maximum length allowable	7 in	178 mm	6.6.2.3
S-Hook – maximum opening	0.04 in	1 mm	6.4.5
Slide Non-Entanglement /Clearance Zone – minimum side clearance	21 in	530 mm	Fig. A1.27
Suspended Members / Swing Sets – minimum radius	0.25 in	6.4 mm	6.2.3
Suspended Rope, Cable, or Chain – minimum inside perimeter of loop	5 in	127 mm	6.6.1
Torso Probe – thickness	3.5 in	89 mm	Fig A1.2
Torso Probe – width	6.2 in	157 mm	Fig A1.2
Vertical Projection Gauge – thickness (1/8")	0.12 in	3 mm	6.4

Section 7: Requirements for Access/Egress

ITEM	ENG.	MET.*	REF.**
Adjacent Platforms for Children 2-5 - maximum height without an access component	12 in	300 mm	7.5.7.1
Adjacent Platforms for Children 5-12 - maximum height without access to component	18 in	460 mm	7.5.7.1
Barriers for Children 2-5 - minimum height of upper rail	29 in	740 mm	7.5.6.4
Barriers for Children 5-12 - minimum height of upper rail	38 in	970 mm	7.5.6.4

Barriers on Upper Platform of Adjacent Platforms - maximum height difference for children 2-5	30 in	760 mm	7.5.7.4
Barriers on Upper Platform of Adjacent Platforms - maximum height difference for children 5-12	48 in	1220 mm	7.5.7.4
Elevated Structures for Children 2-5 - maximum height without barriers	30 in	760 mm	7.5.6.1
Elevated Structures for Children 2-5 - maximum height without guardrails	20 in	508 mm	7.5.5.1
Elevated Structures for Children 5-12 - maximum height without barriers	48 in	1220 mm	7.5.6.1
Elevated Structures for Children 5-12 - maximum height without guardrails	30 in	760 mm	7.5.5.1
Guardrails for Children 2-5 - maximum height of lower rail	23 in	580 mm	7.5.5.4
Guardrails for Children 2-5 - minimum height of upper rail	29 in	740 mm	7.5.5.3
Guardrails for Children 5-12 - maximum height of lower rail	28 in	710 mm	7.5.5.4
Guardrails for Children 5-12 - minimum height of upper rail	38 in	970 mm	7.5.5.3
Guardrails on Upper Platform of Adjacent Platforms - maximum height difference for children 2-5	20 in	508 mm	7.5.7.4
Guardrails on Upper Platform of Adjacent Platforms - max. height difference for children 5-12	30 in	760 mm	7.5.7.4
Handrails - minimum diameter	0.95 in	24 mm	7.2.6.4
Handrails - maximum diameter	1.55 in	39 mm	7.2.6.4
Handrails - minimum height above step	22 in	560 mm	7.2.6.5
Handrails - maximum height above step	38 in	970 mm	7.2.6.5
Maximum clear opening without a top horizontal guardrail	15 in	380 mm	7.5.5.2 (1)
Ramp and Barrier without Curb - maximum space allowed	1 in	25 mm	7.5.5.6
Steps and Rungs - spacing tolerance ±	0.25 in	6.4 mm	7.2.1
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 in	51 mm	7.5.5.6
Wheelchair Ramp - minimum width reduction (24" maximum length)	32 in	810 mm	7.5.3
Wheelchair Ramp - maximum length for width reduction (32-36")	24 in	610 mm	7.5.3
Wheelchair Ramp - maximum length per run	144 in	3660 mm	7.2.4
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
Wheelchair Ramp with Barriers - minimum upper handrail height	26 in	660 mm	7.5.5.5
Wheelchair Ramp with Barriers - maximum upper handrail height	28 in	710 mm	7.5.5.5

Section 8: Specific Equipment Types Performance Requirements

ITEM	ENG.	MET.*	REF.**
3-D Climbing Net - maximum vertical clearance between rungs	72 in	1829 mm	8.2.5.1
3-D Climbing Net > 72" - minimum fall height	72 in	1829 mm	8.2.5.2
3-D Net Climber for Children 2-5 - maximum clear 72" vertical path diameter	18 in	457 mm	8.2.5.1
3-D Net Climber for Children 5-12 - maximum clear 72" vertical path diameter	20 in	508 mm	8.2.5.1
Adjacent Seated type trolley rides – center to center distance minimum	80 in	2032 mm	8.13.6.3
Adjacent suspended elements – minimum distance between each other	60 in	1524 mm	8.13.6.5
Adjacent Upper body type trolley rides – minimum center to center distance	48 in	1219 mm	8.13.6.2
Balance Beam for Children 2-5 - maximum height	12 in	300 mm	8.1.1
Balance Beam for Children 5-12 - maximum height	16 in	410 mm	8.1.1
Embankment Slide - maximum distance between chute bottom and surfacing	12 in	305 mm	8.5.8.1
Embankment Slide - minimum fall height	40 in	1016 mm	8.5.8.4
Fulcrum Seesaws - maximum seat height	60 in	1524 mm	8.10.6

Fully Enclosed Bucket Swing Seat - minimum clearance from seat to surface	24 in	610 mm	8.6.5.1 (5)
Hand gripping Components (non-rigid) - minimum diameter	0.62 in	16 mm	8.2.1
Hand gripping Components – (rigid) - minimum diameter	0.95 in	24.1 mm	8.2.1
Hand gripping Components – (rigid & non-rigid) maximum diameter	1.55 in	39.4 mm	8.2.1
Horizontal Ladder Accessed by Rung - minimum horizontal clearance to first rung	8 in	200 mm	8.3.2
Horizontal Ladder Accessed by Rung - maximum horizontal clearance to first rung	10 in	250 mm	8.3.2
Horizontal Ladder Rungs for Children ≥ 4 years - minimum space	9 in	229 mm	CPSC 5.3.2.4
Horizontal Ladders for Children 5-12 - maximum rung spacing	15 in	381 mm	8.3.1
Log Roll - maximum roller height	18 in	460 mm	8.12.3
Merry-Go-Rounds - size of crush / shear test probe (5/16")	0.30 in	7.5 mm	CPSC 5.3.4
Moveable Hanging Rings and rungs - maximum distance between pivot point and bottom of handgrip device	15 in	381 mm	8.3.5
Non-Spiral Slides - clear height above bedway	60 in	1520 mm	A1.27
Parallel Track Rides - minimum clearance center to center	48 in	1220 mm	A1.66
Roller Slides - size of crush/shear test probe (3/16")	0.19 in	5 mm	8.9.2.1
Roof line clearance within the use zone of a swing - distance from the pivot point to surfacing	X + 42 in	1065 mm	8.14.3
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 height from the roof line that allows the roof to be any angle	84 in	2130 mm	8.14.1
Rungs on Rigid Climbing Apparatus - maximum diameter	1.55 in	39.4 mm	8.2.1
Seated type trolley ride - under seat clearance minimum	12 in	305 mm	8.13.2.3
Seated type trolley rides – minimum clearance zone	48 in	1219 mm	8.13.6.1(2)
Seesaw and Spring Rocker One-Handed Handgrip - minimum length	3 in	76 mm	8.10.4.1 & 8.11.2
Seesaw and Spring Rocker Two-Handed Handgrip - minimum length	6 in	152 mm	8.10.4.1 & 8.11.2
Single Axis Swings – minimum seated hip breadth when testing for clearances	13.1 in	333 mm	8.6.5.1
Slide Exit Region - minimum length	11 in	280 mm	8.5.5.1
Slide Exit Region - minimum radius of curvature	30 in	760 mm	8.5.5.4
Slide Non-Entanglement /Clearance Zone - minimum side clearance	21 in	530 mm	Fig. A1.27
Slide Sidewall - minimum height	4 in	102 mm	8.5.4.4
Slide Transition Platform - minimum depth	14 in	360 mm	8.5.2.2
Slides < 48" High - maximum exit height	11 in	280 mm	8.5.5.3
Slides > 48" High - minimum exit height	7 in	180 mm	8.5.5.3
Slides >48" High - maximum exit height	15 in	380 mm	8.5.5.3
Slides for Children 2-5 - minimum slide chute width	12 in	300 mm	8.5.4.3
Slides for Children 5-12 - minimum slide chute width	16 in	410 mm	8.5.4.3
Sliding Pole - maximum diameter	1.9 in	48 mm	8.4.4
Sliding Pole - minimum distance from structure	18 in	460 mm	8.4.1
Sliding Pole - maximum distance from structure	20 in	508 mm	8.4.1
Sliding Pole - minimum height above access platform	60 in	1524 mm	8.4.3
Spring Rocker Footrests - minimum width	3.5 in	89 mm	8.11.3
Spring Rockers - minimum seat height	14 in	360 mm	8.11.5
Spring Rockers - maximum seat height	28 in	710 mm	8.11.5
Stepping forms – maximum height without hand support- 2-5 years old	20 in	508 mm	8.15.3
Stepping forms – maximum height without hand support – 5-12 years old	30 in	760 mm	8.15.3

Stepping forms – minimum designated play surface	10 in	250 mm	8.15.1
Stepping Forms for Children 2-5 - maximum distance between forms	12 in	300 mm	8.15.6
Stepping Forms for Children 5-12 - maximum distance between forms	18 in	460 mm	8.15.6
To-Fro Swing Hangers - minimum splay distance	20 in	508 mm	8.6.5.1 (4)
To-Fro Swing Seats - minimum clearance from seat to surface	12 in	305 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)
To-Fro Swings - minimum horizontal clearance between support structure and swing chain, measured 60° above surface	30 in	762 mm	8.6.5.1 (3)
Track Ride Elevated Landing Structure - minimum length	36 in	914 mm	8.13.3.1
Track Ride Elevated Landing Structure - minimum width	32 in	813 mm	8.13.3.1
Track Ride Hand gripping Component - minimum height	64 in	1626 mm	8.13.1.2
Track Ride Hand gripping Component - maximum height	78 in	1981 mm	8.13.1.3
Trolley ride cable – distance above underlying surfacing minimum	84 in	2134 mm	8.13.8.3
Trolley ride landing – clear space minimum length	36 in	914 mm	8.13.3.1
Trolley ride landing – clear space minimum width	32 in	813 mm	8.13.3.1
Tube Slides - minimum interior diameter	23 in	580 mm	8.5.4.7
Upper Body Equipment for Children 2-5 - maximum height	60 in	1524 mm	8.3.3
Upper Body Equipment for Children 2-5 - maximum landing structure height	18 in	460 mm	8.3.4
Upper Body Equipment for Children 5-12 - maximum height	84 in	2130 mm	8.3.3
Upper Body Equipment for Children 5-12 - maximum landing structure height	36 in	910 mm	8.3.4
Upper body type trolley ride – hand gripping component minimum height in loaded condition	64 in	1626 mm	8.13.1.2
Upper body type trolley ride – maximum hand gripping height (track/rigid path)	78 in	1981 mm	8.13.1.3
Upper body type trolley ride – maximum hand gripping height (cable/non-rigid path)	96 in	2438 mm	8.13.1.4
Upper body type trolley rides – minimum clearance zone	36 in	914 mm	8.13.6.1(1)
Vertical Rotating Equipment - clearance area without rigid structural components	72 in	1829 mm	8.8.1.10
Vertical Rotating Equipment - clearance zone free of rigid and non-rigid components	21 in	533 mm	8.8.1.10
Vertical Rotating Equipment - difference between minimum and maximum radii	2 in	50 mm	8.8.1.2
Vertical Rotating Equipment - maximum gap between platform and surfacing	0.312 in	7.9 mm	8.8.1.5
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
Rotating Equipment: (Vertical) maximum dimension measured from axis of rotation to outermost perimeter is exempt from speed limiting device	20 in	508 mm	8.8.3.3
Vertical Rotating Equipment Exempt from Speed Limiting Devices - maximum dimension measured from axis of rotation to the outermost perimeter and has a 108° use zone	20 in	508 mm	8.8.3.4
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Circular Platform - minimum distance from axis of rotation to outermost 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 with Protective Skirt - maximum of clearance range between skirt and surfacing	3.5 in	88.9 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

Vertical Rotating Equipment with Rigid Platforms not Flush to Surfacing - minimum of clearance range not > 9' between 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 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	88.9 mm	8.8.1.6
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	228.6 mm	8.8.1.6
Wheelchair-Accessible Overhead Equipment - maximum height	54 in	1370 mm	8.3.3

Section 9: Specific Equipment Use Zone Requirements

ITEM	ENG.	MET.*	REF.**
Adjacent Play Structures < 30" High - maximum use zone overlap	72 in	1830 mm	9.2.3
Adjacent Play Structures > 30" High - maximum use zone overlap	108 in	2740 mm	9.2.3
Embankment Slide - maximum height above surfacing with no slide use zone	12 in	305 mm	9.6.4.2
Horizontal Rotating Equipment – No overlapping use zones with fall height > than	30 in	760 mm	9.3.6
Horizontal Rotating Equipment - use zone	72 in	1829 mm	9.3.5
Overhead Clearance - minimum clearance between swing pivot point (X) and surfacing plus	X + 42 in	1065 mm	9.8.4.1
Overhead Clearance - minimum clearance of outside obstructions above designated play surface for equipment outside and above the use zone	84 in	2130 mm	9.8.4.1
Rotating Multi-axis Swing - minimum clearance zone (Y=vertical distance between pivot point and top of swing seat)	Y + 30 in	760 mm	9.4.2.4
Rotating Swing - minimum non-overlapping use zone (Y=vertical distance between pivot point and top of swing seat)	Y + 72 in	1830 mm	9.4.2.1
Rotating Swing Support Structure - minimum side use zone	72 in	1830 mm	9.4.2.3
Sitting Rocking/Swinging Equipment - minimum use zone	72 in	1830 mm	9.5.1.1
Slide Exit Region - minimum use zone	72 in	1830 mm	9.6.2.1
Slide Exit Region - maximum use zone	96 in	2440 mm	9.6.2.1
Standing Rocking Equipment - minimum non-overlapping use zone	84 in	2130 mm	9.5.2.1
Stationary equipment-minimum use zone	72 in	1830 mm	9.2.1
To-Fro Swing (Support Structure) - minimum use zone	72 in	1830 mm	9.4.1.5
Vertical Rotating Equipment - height of rotating or adjacent equipment >30" - use zone	108 in	2740 mm	9.3.1
Vertical Rotating Equipment < 20" - height of both pieces of equipment at which overlapping use zones are permitted	30 in	760 mm	9.3.1
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Dimension Measured from the Axis of Rotation to the Outermost Perimeter < 20" - use zone	72 in	1829 mm	9.3.1
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Maximum Dimension > 20" Measured from the Axis of rotation to the Outermost Perimeter and Which Do Not Exceed the Speed Limitation - use zone	72 in	1829 mm	9.3.2
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Maximum Dimension > 20" Measured from the Axis of rotation to the Outermost Perimeter and Which Exceed the Speed Limitation - non overlapping use zone	72 in	1829 mm	9.3.3
Vertical Rotating Equipment with Maximum Dimension > 20" Measured from the Axis of Rotation to the Outermost Perimeter and Which Exceed the Speed Limitation - use zone	108 in	2743 mm	9.3.3

Accessibility Requirements			
ITEM	ENG.	MET.*	REF.**
ADA: Accessible Route - maximum vertical rise with 1/4" 45° taper	0.50 in	13 mm	PSINA G-9, Q1.6
ADA: Accessible Route - maximum vertical rise without 45° taper	0.25 in	6.4 mm	PSINA G-9, Q1.6
ADA: Accessible Route - minimum width	60 in	1524 mm	PSINA G-9, Q1.1
ADA: Elevated Wheelchair Accessible Route by Ramp - minimum width	36 in	915 mm	PSINA G-11, 3.2
ADA: Accessible Route - minimum overhead clearance	80 in	2030 mm	PSINA G-10, Q2.4
Accessible Transfer Platform - minimum height	11 in	280 mm	PSINA G-11, Q3.11
Accessible Transfer Platform - maximum height	18 in	457 mm	PSINA G-11, Q3.11
Wheelchair Accessible maximum ramp run (length)	144 in	3660 mm	ASTM 1487 Fig A1.46
Wheelchair Parking Space - minimum length	48 in	1220 mm	ASTM 1487 Fig A1.46
Wheelchair Parking Space - minimum width	30 in	760 mm	ASTM 1487 Fig A1.46
Wheelchair-Accessible Landings - minimum clear space	60 in	1520 mm	ASTM 1487 Fig A1.46
Wheelchair-Accessible Platforms - maximum horizontal opening	0.50 in	13 mm	PSINA G-5

* Metric conversions are based on numbers provided in the standards

** References do not need to be memorized

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 assessment or inspection without the knowledge and consent of the playgroundowner;
- never conducting a safety assessment or inspection 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.