


Parks Services Risk Assessments

Details	Ref: 3.30	
Activity:	Play Areas Inspections	
Plant :	Play area equipment and surfacing	
Location:	All Council Play Areas	
Initial risk rating	MODERATE RISK	
Risk rating following implementation of control measures, is classified as:	ACCEPTABLE RISK	

1. Identifying Risks and Hazards

1.1 Hazard Identification

Fall of Persons		Electrocution		Access Ladders Falling	
Fall of Materials		Hitting Live Services		Contact with Sharp Edges	
Fire		Explosive Materials		Work in Confined Spaces	
Plant Overturning		Storage of Flammable Substances		Equipment failure	✓
Collision of Plant and Equipment		Release of Substances		Work with Harmful Substances	
Contact with Parts of Machinery		Exposure to dust / particles		Damage to eyes	
Collapse of Structures	✓	Failure of Lifting Equipment		Loan / remote working	
Collapse of Excavations		Falls, Trips	✓	Exposure to Asbestos	
Discharge of Pollutants		Waste		HAV or Body Vibration	
Exposure to Winds		Drowning		Slippery ground conditions	✓
Fragile Roofs		Other Contractors		Wet Condition	
Manual handling		Noise		Operative fatigue	
General Public / Visitors	✓	Access Equipment Failure		Collision with other vehicles	

1.2 Initial Risk Rating (L x S)

Likelihood (L)		Severity (S)		Persons exposed [C]	
Remote Possibility	1	Nil – very minor	1	Employees	
Unlikely	2	Slight – First aid treat	2	Public	✓
Possible	3	Moderate – RIDDOR (>3 days)	3	Contractors	✓
Highly Likely	4	High – Death or Serious injury	4	Students	
Inevitability	5	Very High – Multiple deaths	5	Other persons	
Risk Rating =	0-5	Acceptable	MODERATE RISK		
	6-10	Moderate			
	11-15	High			
	16-25	Unacceptable			

2. Reducing Risk - Implementation

Control measures to be implemented by employees and the Council

2.1 Risk Reduction				
Can Risk be eliminated?		Can exposure to operatives be reduced?	Is specialist first aid required	
Can safer procedure be used?		Can a permit to work be used	Competent supervision	
Can a substance be Substituted?		Can a means of communication be used	Compliance with manufacturer's instructions	√
Can operatives be excluded?		Can an exclusion zone be used	Provision of safety signage	√



2.2 Control Measures				
Measure		Implementation responsibility		
		Employee / Operative	Supervisor / Management	Council
1	Equipment and surfacing shall conform to BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177		√	√
2	All equipment and surfacing to be regularly inspected and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.	√	√	
3	Inspections will be carried out on a weekly basis by a competent trained member of staff.	√	√	
4	All inspections, any findings, maintenance and repairs will be recorded.	√	√	
5	All maintenance and repairs will be carried out by a competent person and in a time frame relevant to any risk posed.	√	√	
6	Ancillary items within the play area, such as seats and litter bins will be included in the inspections and shall comply with positioning and construction to BS EN1176.	√	√	
7	An Annual inspection by an independent specialist shall be undertaken.	√	√	
8	Clear signage on-site, at all entrances, indicating ownership, appropriate age range and restrictions such as no smoking, no dogs etc.	√	√	
9	Play areas to be kept free of debris with regular litter picks and bin emptying.	√	√	√

2.3 Specific Control Measures				
Measure		Implementation responsibility		
		Employee / Operative	Supervisor / Management	Council
1	PPE to be supplied and worn by staff		√	√
2	Photographic I.D. to be worn by staff undertaking inspections.	√	√	
3	Any dangerous items will immediately be removed, repaired or have access denied via barriers/fencing until it can be made safe.	√	√	
4	During inspection, when recording repairs or damage using photographs, images of children are to be excluded where possible.	√	√	

2.4 Guidance Regulations

Measure		Implementation responsibility		
		Employee / Operative	Supervisor / Management	Council
1	The Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974	√	√	√
2	The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 2003	√	√	√
3	The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992	√	√	√
4	The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998	√	√	√
5	Environmental Protection Act 1990	√	√	√
6	Manufacturers 'Operator's handbook'	√	√	
7	BS EN 1176 (all parts) - Playground Equipment and Surfacing	√	√	
8	BS EN 1177 – Impact Attenuating Playground Surfacing Determination of Critical Fall Height.	√	√	
9	Isle of Man Government - Data Protection Act 2002	√	√	

2.5 Personal Protective Clothing / equipment

Measure		Implementation responsibility		
		Employee / Operative	Supervisor / Management	Council
1	PPE to be supplied		√	√
2	High visibility vest or jackets' worn 	√		
3	Safety footwear including steel cap and mid-sole protection worn 	√		

2.6 Training and Information

Measure		Implementation responsibility		
		Employee / Operative	Supervisor / Management	Council
1	Toolbox talk		√	
2	Manufacturer's instruction and information	√	√	
3	PPE assessment	√	√	
4	Training provided specific to the maintenance or repair		√	√
5	Manual handling	√	√	
6	First aid requirements	√	√	

3. Risk Rating Following Control Measure Implementation

3.1 Risk Rating following control measure implementation (L x S - CM)

Likelihood (L)			Severity (S)			Control Measures (CM)		
Remote Possibility	1		Nil – very minor	1		None (required)	1	
Unlikely	2		Slight – First aid treat	2		Low level (NOT fully implemented)	2	
Possible	3	√	Moderate – RIDDOR (>3 days)	3	√	Adequate to reduce risk (NOT fully implemented)	3	
Highly Likely	4		High – Death or Serious injury	4		Adequate to reduce risk (fully implemented)	4	√
Inevitability	5		Very High – Multiple deaths	5		High level (fully implemented)	5	
Risk Rating =	0-5	√	Acceptable			ACCEPTABLE RISK		
	6-10		Moderate					
	11-15		High					
	16-25		Unacceptable					

4. Monitoring and Review

4.1 Monitoring and Reviewing

Risk Rating Score	Action	Review Recommendation
0-5	Acceptable - Broadly no action required	Every 1-2 years
6-10	Moderate – reduce risk if reasonably practicable	Every 6–12 months
11-15	High risk – priority action to be undertaken but interim arrangements required immediately	After interim arrangements every 3 months
16-25	Unacceptable – Action must be taken immediately	Immediately

Date of Assessment:	29/06/23	Assessor:	Assistant Head of Parks (S)
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