



Playground inspection checklist

Routine visual and operational inspection – built on the structure of EN 1176 and EN 1177

SITE OR ORGANISATION

DATE

CARRIED OUT BY

TYPE OF INSPECTION

☐

Routine visual inspection

☐

Operational inspection

HOW TO TICK

OK – The point has been checked and is in order.

Observation – Not a defect yet, but heading that way – watch it until the next round.

Defect – Needs fixing. Note the corrective action, deadline and person responsible at the back.

Not applicable – The point does not exist on your playground.

If a defect is critical, the equipment is closed off or taken out of use until it is fixed.

V = routine visual inspection · O = operational inspection

Part 1 · The whole site

INSPECTION POINT	REF.	OK	OBSERVATION	DEFECT	NOT APPLICABLE
☒ Litter, glass and sharp objects across the whole site		☐	☐	☐	☐
☒ Animal faeces or other contamination		☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Fences and gates The fences are intact and the gates close and latch – particularly towards traffic and water.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Vegetation No poisonous plants, not overgrown, no hidden obstacles.		☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Lighting and visibility (where relevant)		☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Benches, tables and fixed furniture Stability and condition.		☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Access and surfacing Paving slabs, kerbs and trip hazards.		☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 2 · Common points – for every piece of equipment

INSPECTION POINT	REF.	OK	OBSERVATION	DEFECT	NOT APPLICABLE
☒ Foreign objects in the impact area Glass, litter, needles, twigs or other sharp or hard objects.		☐	☐	☐	☐
☒ Sharp edges, points or protrusions New damage, cracks or parts that have become sharp.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☒ Missing or loose parts Bolts, nuts, caps, covers and fixings that are visibly missing or have worked loose.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☒ Condition of the impact attenuating surfacing Sufficient depth and even distribution, no hard objects, not compacted or displaced in the landing area.	EN 1177	☐	☐	☐	☐
☒ Visible crushing and entrapment points Loose ropes, broken parts or openings that could trap the head, neck, fingers or clothing.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☒ Signs of vandalism, fire or graffiti		☐	☐	☐	☐

☒ General cleanliness and tidiness of the area		☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Stability and anchoring The equipment stands firm and is properly fixed, with no movement in the foundation.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Foundations and fixings Foundations are not exposed, loose or cracked.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Corrosion, rot and material fatigue Rust on metal, rot or cracks in timber, brittleness or discolouration in plastic.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Tightening of fasteners Bolts, nuts and screws are tightened and secured.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Drainage in the impact area No standing water or ice that reduces the impact attenuation.	EN 1177	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Signage and marking The manufacturer's plate, age marking and any instructions for use are legible.	EN 1176-1	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 3 · Points per equipment type

Tick per equipment type. If you have several of the same type, the row covers them all – note defects per item in the table at the back.

EQUIPMENT	LOOK PARTICULARLY FOR	OK	OBSERVATION	DEFECT	NOT APPLICABLE
Swing EN 1176-2	Chains and suspension, seat, closed S-hooks, bearings in the support beam, clearance to the ground and between seats, clear impact area in front and behind.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nest swing EN 1176-2	Net and ropes in the nest, ring and rope attachments, clearance to the ground and to the frame (measured from the ring), impact area all round the nest.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Slide EN 1176-3	Sliding surface free of cracks and sharp joints, side edges, access and starting section, length and height of the run-out, fixing of sections, sun-heated metal slides.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Climbing frame and climbing wall EN 1176-1	Grips and rungs, welds and joints, free height of fall and clear impact area, finger traps, fixing of panels and bolts.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Climbing nets and ropes EN 1176-1	Fraying and exposed core, knots and splices, rope clamps and end fixings, net tension, anchor points at the top and bottom.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Roundabout / spinner EN 1176-5	Platform and guardrails, smooth rotation without play or unusual noise, clearance under and around the platform, centre fixing and brake where fitted.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spring rider EN 1176-6	Seat, handles and footrests, spring and spring fixing, crushing point at the spring, anchoring in the ground.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Seesaw EN 1176-6	Seats and handles, pivot and bearings, impact attenuation under the seats, crushing points at the pivot.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Jumping mushroom EN 1176-1	The cap and the standing surface: cracks, slippery surface, secure on the post. Impact attenuating surfacing around and between the mushrooms – the free height of fall is taken from the tallest.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Balance equipment EN 1176-1	Walking surface, fixing and stability, impact area along the full length, wire rope or chain on suspended balance equipment.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Zip wire / cableway EN 1176-4	Seat or grip on the traveller, wire rope (wear and tension), traveller and suspension, braking and end stop, clear run along the full length, clearance under the seat with a user on it.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sandpit EN 1176-1	Condition and cleanliness of the sand, edge protection free of sharp edges and splinters, drainage, canopy and cover where provided.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trampoline (in-ground) EN 1176-1	Jumping mat, edge protection over the springs, springs or bungees, frame level with the ground and secure, clearance and impact area around the mat.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Multi-play units, towers and playhouses EN 1176-1	Floors, walls and roof, guardrails and barriers at height, stairs and ladders, elevated platforms, enclosed spaces, transitions between modules.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Themed play and play vehicles EN 1176-1	Body and decoration, moving parts (steering wheels, hatches, levers), fixing and stability, internal spaces with an unobstructed exit.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other play equipment EN 1176-1 and -7	Moving parts, free height of fall and extent of the impact area, openings that could trap, the manufacturer's own inspection instructions.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 4 • Defects and follow-up

One defect per line. Critical defects: close the equipment off or take it out of use first, before anything else.

EQUIPMENT OR PLACE	DEFECT	CORRECTIVE ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE

Sign-off

Signed by the person who carried out the inspection, and by the person responsible for the follow-up. File the sheet with your inspection records.

Carried out by (signature)

Reviewed by (signature)

Date

The checklist is built on the structure of EN 1176 (playground equipment) and EN 1177 (impact attenuating surfacing) without reproducing the standards. It does not replace the annual main inspection, which is carried out by a competent person. Points marked «where fitted», «where provided» or «where relevant» are ticked as not applicable when they do not apply.