

Appendix 2: Excerpt from EN1176 ‘Playground Equipment’

Section “7.6 *Inspection and Maintenance*” of the Standard recommends three types of inspection:

1. ROUTINE VISUAL INSPECTION

The purpose of this is to “*enable the identification of obvious hazards that can result from vandalism, use, or weather conditions, e.g. the hazards can take the form of broken parts or broken bottles*”.

The Standard suggests that daily inspections “*can be necessary*” where the playgrounds are “*subject to heavy use or vandalism.*”.

The implication of this is that daily inspections may not be necessary in all playgrounds. The consultant would suggest that, where there is no evidence or expectation of vandalism, weekly inspections are the minimum acceptable.

2. OPERATIONAL INSPECTION

This is a more detailed inspection to check “*the operation and stability of equipment, especially for any wear.*”

The Standard recommends that these be carried out “*every 1 to 3 months*”.

The Consultant suggests that for the majority of Belfast’s playgrounds, a quarterly operational inspection would be sufficient to meet the recommendation of BS EN 1176.

3. ANNUAL MAIN INSPECTION

This is to establish “*the overall level of safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces.*”

The Standard recommends that the annual inspection be carried out by “*competent persons*”.

