

# POST-INSTALLATION INSPECTION REPORT

Commissioned by : Plan 4 Sport Fitness Trails UK Ltd  
Site Name : Ifield School

01 July 2011



RoSPA inspections are an independent safety assessment of the site and equipment and are produced for  
RoSPA by

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## POST-INSTALLATION INSPECTION REPORT

Site Owner : **Plan 4 Sport Fitness Trails UK Ltd**  
Site Name : Ifield School  
Date of Inspection : 01 July 2011  
Inspected by : Mike Langsford



The present overall risk rating for the play space is **LOW**

If works and recommendations are undertaken the risk may be reduced.

Twelve pieces of agility trail located in rear playground of a special school. Evidence of high supervision of children while in playground and usual school secure access applies.

The agility trail is located on one section of the playground and offers a very good range of fitness activities. It was noted that there were no moving parts to the equipment, The equipment is made of recycled plastic and is of a high standard of construction. The equipment also has pictorial and written instructions on use located at the side of the agility trail.

**ANCILLARY ITEMS**

**Recommended Maintenance and Risk Assessment Evaluation**

Item	Type	Comments, action or control required	Risk Level †	Risk Score‡
<b>The overall risk for the ancillary items at the time of inspection:</b>				
† L = Low, LM = Low/medium, M = Medium, MH = Medium/high, H = High, U = Unacceptable ‡ For scoring system see Report Notes				

## Agility Trail - 12 Element

Default Risk Level : Low  
 Default Risk Score : 6  
 Free Height of Fall : 0.600 m  
 Surface Depth : 40 mm  
 Label to EN : No

### Equipment EN Compliance

The item meets with the requirements of the relevant standard where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

### Surfacing - Wet Pour - EN Compliance

The surface meets with the requirements of the relevant standard where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

### Recommended Maintenance and Risk Assessment Evaluation

	Comments, action or control required	Risk Level†	Risk Score‡
<b>Equipment</b>	No remedial maintenance work is required at this time.		
<b>Surfacing - Wet Pour</b>	No remedial maintenance work is required at this time.		
<b>The overall risk for this item at the time of inspection:</b>		Low	6

† For scoring system see Report Notes

## REPORT NOTES

These notes form an integral part of the inspection report.

1	<p>The equipment has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with BS EN 1176:2008 for Playground Equipment, BS EN 15312:2007 for Sports Areas or BS EN 14974:2006 for Roller Sports.</p> <p>Compliance with such standards is not mandatory in the UK. The Health and Safety Executive have made it clear that whilst compliance with standards is recommended, it is the risks associated with the equipment which are of paramount importance. Compliance with standards does not remove the operator's responsibility to ensure that equipment is safe; equally failure to comply does not necessarily mean that equipment is dangerous.</p> <p><b>The Courts have also made it clear that compliance with EN1176 does not remove the operator's obligation to have a safe area and that EN1176 compliance cannot necessarily be used as a defence in the event of litigation.</b></p>
2	<p>Equipment in this report has been assessed against the relevant standards. The site and equipment have also been assessed with the protection of the operator and contractor against litigation in mind.</p>
3	<p>Play is all about "doing" and by "doing" accidents will from time to time occur. Play is an essential part of a child's physical and mental development and RoSPA believes that it is essential that a level of assessed challenge and risk is provided to enable children to properly develop their survival skills. Risk Assessment is all about balancing risk against return. RoSPA believes that there are instances where even high risk is acceptable, provided that the risk cannot be further reduced and the development value to the child is high. (see also paragraph 8)</p>
4	<p>Risk Assessments are included in this report. Clients are reminded that there is no such thing as NO RISK. Consequently Low Risk is as low as you can get. <b>Where items are indicated as being Low Risk, clients may well wish to consider if any remedial action is economically justified in terms of improvement in safety.</b> Also where we have not indicated any suggested remedial action against medium, or even high risk, items, we feel that either these items have sufficient development value to justify the risk or that no remedial action is possible and the alternative of closing a site or removing an item of equipment poses a greater risk to the user. The operator may well wish to consider the same.</p> <p>Risks are banded as follows:          Score 1 to 7 is Low Risk          Score 8 to 12 is Medium Risk          Score 13 to 20 is High Risk          Scores over 20 are Unacceptable High Risk</p>
5	<p>EN1176 is not always a precise standard and includes such imprecise wording as "normally" etc. Furthermore there are some different interpretations in different EU states. This can lead to an item which appears to pass EN1176 in one country, appearing to fail EN1176 in another. <b>The client is therefore advised to use the Risk Assessment to make a judgement as to whether the indicated failure warrants remedial action.</b></p>
6	<p>EN1176 requires certain labelling information on equipment. Without it the item fails the standard. We do however separate this type of failure from any other failures in our report. Certain items, such as rubber seating, stepping items etc, are, with current technology, impossible to correctly label. The client may well therefore consider acceptance of such items without correct labelling.</p>

7	<p>Whilst normally “kite marks” and other forms of certification indicate that the equipment meets EN1176 there may be cases where due to either quality control problems in the factory, or in installation on site, dimensions etc. have changed and that the installed item does not meet EN1176. On certain items (roundabouts for example) the height on installation is an essential component of EN1176.</p>
8	<p>Professor David Ball’s report to the Health and Safety Executive stated that Play Areas are one of the safest places that children can be. In 2002 (last year figures are available) there were only approximately 12,000 visits to casualty department by children throughout the UK which needed treatment beyond a bit of TLC or a bit of “sticky plaster”. There are around 12,000,000 children under 16 in the UK and approximately 3,000,000 of these will visit casualty departments each year and around 1,000,000 of these will be for accidents in the home. Play Area accidents therefore represent less than 0.5% of accidents to children.</p>
9	<p>RoSPA has a duty of care to report all issues that might affect safety or quality, regardless of whether they are the responsibility of the contractor or not. We therefore normally report on the site as a whole. In most cases we are not aware if all ancillary items etc. are part of the contract or not and they may have been installed by a different contractor. <b>RoSPA recommend that where problems are identified that are not the responsibility of the contractor who has commissioned the report, these should not delay payment to that contractor.</b></p>
10	<p>The RoSPA report indicates the state of the area <i>at the time of inspection</i>. Subsequent events may change the condition of the site. Where major problems are identified it may be necessary to re-inspect the site. Where problems are relatively minor the report may reflect some remedial action where this has been certified as being completed by the installer.</p>
11	<p>RoSPA are aware that in some instances moneys are being held back from suppliers. RoSPA recommend that a maximum of 10% of the value of the installation contract be withheld against remedial work identified in this report and that this balance be immediately released on completion of the work. <b>Where any problems identified are the result of vandalism/use etc, RoSPA recommend that this should not be used to delay payment to the contractor.</b></p>

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**RoSPA provide a range of services. These include:**

1. Annual inspections of
  - \* Outdoor Play Areas
  - \* Indoor soft play facilities
  - \* Wheeled sports facilities (Skateboard, BMX etc)
  - \* Multi Sports Areas
  - \* Teenage areas
  - \* Village Ponds
  - \* Playing Fields
2. Post Installation Inspections of the above
3. Risk assessments of all the above
4. Individual site check lists
5. Play Value assessment of play areas
6. Access assessment under the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.
7. Full field surveys (whole playing fields)
8. Impact testing of surfaces
9. Advance checking of site plans
10. Staff training and training courses
11. Accident investigations and legal reports
12. Publications of play safety

For details of any of the above, or to enquire about other RoSPA services please contact us on:

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