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BS 8409:2009



BSI British Standards

Fully enclosed play facilities – Code of practice

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Summary of pages

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Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI and came into effect on 30 November 2009. It was prepared by Technical Committee SW/65, *Children's playground equipment*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This British Standard, together with BS EN 1176-10, supersedes BS 8409:2002, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

This British Standard is based on *Indoor Play Areas – Guidance on safe practice*¹⁾ [1]. It makes provisions for those involved in the indoor play industry to provide safe indoor play facilities. This standard covers the indoor play facility as a whole, because it is the combination of good design, materials and management that creates a safe facility.

This standard should be read in conjunction with the BS EN 1176 series of standards.

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, which has been updated to take into account the publication of BS EN 1176-10.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

The word "should" is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word "may" is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the clause. The word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

¹⁾ Published by the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management, ILAM House, Lower Basildon, Reading, RG8 9NE.

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This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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Play is the means by which children discover and understand the world in which they live and is an essential element in a child's physical and mental growth. Play provision aims to offer children the chance to encounter acceptable risks as part of a stimulating, challenging and controlled environment.

The principles of safety management are applicable both to workplaces in general as well as to play provision; however, the balance between safety and benefits is likely to be different in the two environments. In play provision, exposure to some degree of risk may be of benefit because it satisfies a basic human need and gives children the chance to learn about risk and consequences in a controlled environment.

Respecting the characteristics of children's play and the way children benefit with regard to their development, children need to learn to cope with risk and this may lead to bumps and bruises and even occasionally a broken limb.

It is important for the development of children that, through the medium of play, they arrive at an understanding of risk and can assess potential danger, which helps develop the basis for assessing risk in a variety of situations.

The balance between challenge and safety is an important consideration for all play environments. The best facilities and environments are those that, through careful design, management and maintenance, offer children good play experiences without compromising safety.

Fully enclosed play areas that offer children attractive opportunities are generally those presenting different levels of challenge and difficulty. Children can explore solutions to these challenges and practise their newly acquired abilities in competently designed and managed settings, where the levels of risk have been assessed and, through supervision or design, are managed.

Precautions need to be taken by play providers to reduce the severity of injuries if children make the wrong judgement but the possibility of harm cannot be completely removed.

This British Standard aims to help play providers develop facilities that children find enjoyable and reduce the risk of serious or disabling injury.

1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations for and guidance on supplier selection, safe operation and management of fully enclosed play facilities and associated buildings.

NOTE The design and manufacture of equipment for play facilities is given in BS EN 1176.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5925, *Code of practice for Ventilation principles and designing for natural ventilation*