



**CSA Z614:20**  
National Standard of Canada



# Children's playground equipment and surfacing



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# *National Standard of Canada*

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# Preface

This is the sixth edition of CSA Z614, *Children's playground equipment and surfacing*. It supersedes the previous editions, published in 2014, 2007, 2003, 1998, and 1990 under the title *Children's playspaces and equipment*.

Changes to this edition include the following:

- a) added a clause and supporting Annex [J](#) to allow for new play components that might not specifically fit into the prescriptive play component types listed in this Standard;
- b) modified the user age groups to account for children of different abilities;
- c) expanded on the developmental needs of children;
- d) changes to the acceptability of various surfacing materials where the fall height is not greater than 450 mm;
- e) climbing net structures requirements have been harmonized with ASTM F1487;
- f) updated Annex [H](#) to improve clarity and make changes to the elevated component counts;
- g) updated Table [G.1](#); and
- h) added a new annex on thermal comfort (Annex [K](#)).

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Children's Playgrounds and Equipment, under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Steering Committee on Health and Well-Being, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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# CSA Z614:20

## *Children's playground equipment and surfacing*

### **0 Introduction**

Playgrounds that comply with this Standard will not prevent all injuries; a shared responsibility exists among users, owners/operators, and manufacturers. Well-designed and well-constructed playgrounds in compliance with the requirements of this Standard can help improve safety. However, supervision of children is still vital to safe play. Similarly, proper maintenance of the playground, equipment, and appropriate protective surfacing materials will further reduce injuries.

### **1 Scope**

#### **1.1**

This Standard provides requirements for public-use playground equipment intended for use by children aged 18 months to 12 years, with anthropometric limits based on the 95th percentile.

##### **Notes:**

- 1) *The level of challenge required and desired by children varies enormously with age, physical development, and emotional development; therefore, it is almost impossible to design a piece of playground equipment that meets the needs of all children. Children younger than 18 months and children aged 13 years and older do not usually use the equipment covered in this Standard.*
- 2) *The sixth year of a child's life (when the child is five years old) is accepted as a transitional year. Consequently, the requirements in this Standard are split into two age groupings: 18 months to 5 years and 5 years to 12 years. The overlap of the 5-year-old child is deliberate and acknowledges the transitional nature of the sixth year of life.*

#### **1.2**

This Standard takes into account the physical size, special characteristics, and developmental needs of children so that appropriate and challenging play experiences are provided.

#### **1.3**

This Standard applies to outdoor public-use playground equipment found at schools, parks, childcare facilities, institutions, multiple-family dwellings, private resorts and recreation developments, restaurants, and other areas of public use. See Clause [3](#).

#### **1.4**

This Standard contains recommendations on technical requirements and practices applicable to the design, manufacture/construction, installation, maintenance, and inspection of public-use playground equipment and its related spaces. The provider of each of these areas is responsible for meeting the applicable requirements and recommendations of each, but it is the owner/operator's responsibility to confirm if the requirements and recommendations of this Standard are followed.