



Play Cert Ltd

rpII
Register of Play
Inspectors International



PORTLAW PLAYGROUND
PORTLAW
WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

16th FEBRUARY 2026 8.30am

INSPECTION - GRAHAM STEPHENS





PORTLAW PLAYGROUND

WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Play Cert Ltd, 48 Kilbarron Drive, Dublin 5, D05 N883, Ireland.

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Email- playcert@outlook.com

Website: www.playcert.ie

Site Address -

Waterford City & County Council

Portlaw Playground

Portlaw

Co Waterford

Annual Inspection next due - February 2027

This Annual Inspection was carried out by -



Graham Stephens - RPII Outdoor Annual Inspector

Weather conditions - wet

Refer to RPII Methodology for testing procedure carried out

Visual only surface testing carried out during inspection

	Priority action taken	Condition score
1	Action urgent -log call/email	10 = Good condition
2	Action required	5 = Average condition
3	Action recommended	2 = Poor condition
4	Action consideration	

Portlaw Playground - Annual Inspection February 2026										
No.	Item	Is item inclusive for all abilities	Scoring quality	Compliance to EN1176	Risk assesment for users	Inspection of equipment findings	Priority	Surfacing Risk assesment	Inspection of surfacing findings	Surfacing Priority
1	   Unit - Cradle Swings Manufacturer - Wicksteed EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - 2 Surface type - Tiles	No	7	Yes	L	Replace worn bushes.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps. Repair damaged kerbs.	2

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2	 Unit -Seesaw Manufacturer - Hags EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - 2 Surface type - Wet pour	No	8	Yes	L	Replace 2 worn tyre buffers.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps. Powerwash wetpour.	2

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3	 Unit - Play Panels Manufacturer -Wicksteed EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - 1+ Surface type - Tarmac	Yes	8	N/A	L	Round edges to cap.	2	L	Satisfactory	5

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4	  Unit - Counter Panel Manufacturer -Wicksteed EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - 1+ Surface type - Tarmac	Yes	8	N/A	L	Clean panel.	2	L	Satisfactory	5

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5	   Unit - Spinning Bowl Manufacturer - Hags EN Tag - No For ages - unavailable No users - unavailable Surface type - Wet pour	Yes	7	Yes	L	Replace corroded fixings at bearings. Maintain bearings.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps.	2

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6	 Unit - Rocker Manufacturer - Buglo EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - 1 Surface type - Tiles	Yes	5	No	L/M	Tighten loose anchor fixings.	2	L/M	SRepair shrinkage gaps. Repair damaged kerbs. Insufficient impact attenuating surfacing. Item requires >1m as per manufacturers guidelines- 600mm at present.	2

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7	 Unit - Senior Unit Manufacturer - Wicksteed EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - unavailable Surface type - Tiles	No	5	No	M	Tighten loose deck/ pole fixings. Replace missing caps throughout. Replace rotted decks. Replace missing slide/ deck fixings. Round edges min 3mm radius to ned decking. Toggle entrapmenrt evident sides of slide - remove. Head entrapments evident at rope net- adjust. Finger entrapments evident at posts/deck- remove.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps. Repair damaged kerbs. Repair sunken tiles.	2

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7	 Unit - Senior Unit Manufacturer - Wicksteed EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - unavailable Surface type - Tiles	No	5	No	M	Tighten loose deck/ pole fixings. Replace missing caps throughout. Replace rotted decks. Replace missing slide/ deck fixings. Round edges min 3mm radius to ned decking. Toggle entrapmenrt evident sides of slide - remove. Head entrapments evident at rope net-adjust. Finger entrapments evident at posts/deck-remove.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps. Repair damaged kerbs. Repair sunken tiles.	2

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8	    Unit - Mixed Swings Manufacturer - Wicksteed EN Tag - Yes For ages - unavailable No users - 2 Surface type - Tiles	Yes	6	No	M	Tighten loose seat fixings. Worn bushes- replace. Loose shackle pin - secure. Replace worn inclusive sear chains- 30% worn.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps. Repair damaged kerbs/ tar.	2

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9	 Unit - Basket Swing Manufacturer - Hags EN Tag - No For ages - unavailable No users - unavailable Surface type - Wet pour	Yes	7	No	M	Replace worn bushes. Replace worn seat ropes. Replace worn chains/shackles 30% worn. Raise seat 60mm to ensure 400m seat clearance.	2	M	Repair worn wetpour.	2

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10	 Unit - Balance Trail Manufacturer - Hags EN Tag - No For ages - unavailable No users - unavailable Surface type - Wet pour	No	7	No	L	Rot evident- replace rotted beam. Replace 2 worn step posts.	2	L	Repair worn wetpour. Powerwash wetpour.	2

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11	 Unit - Dog Rocker Manufacturer - Agapito EN Tag - No For ages - unavailable No users - 1 Surface type - Tiles	No	8	No	L	Top clamp loose-tighten fixings.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps. Repair damaged kerbs.	2

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12	 Unit - Toddler Unit Manufacturer - Wicksteed EN Tag - No For ages - unavailable No users - unavailable Surface type - Tiles	No	7	No	L	Rot evident- replace rotted bridges. Replace missing bridge fixings.	2	L	Repair shrinkage gaps. Repair damaged kerbs.	2

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Ancillary items		Condition quality score	Actions required	Surfacing Priority
13		6	Replace corroded fixings.	2
Seating				
14		4	Repair/replace damaged kerbs. Repair sunken tar. Repair shrinkage gaps.	2
Paths				
15		7	Remove cable ties. Protruding wire- remove. Replace missing fixings.	2
Fencing				
16		7	Corroded bin - replace door. Secure loose bin.	2
Bins				
17		6	Crush/ nip points - remove. Remove cable ties. Loose gate posts- repair.	2
Gate				
18		8	Remove cable ties.	2
Signage				
Total mean score		6.63		

Priority action taken

- 1 Action urgent -log call/email
- 2 Action required
- 3 Action recommended
- 4 Action consideration
- 5 Monitor

Quality score of equipment

- 10 = Good condition
5 = Average condition
2 = Poor condition

Mean score is calculated x the quality score divided by the number of items



Refer to RPII Methodology for testing procedure carried out
Visual only surface testing carried out during inspection



RPII Inspection Methodology



RPII Inspection Methodology

This document outlines the RPII position on inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed on the RPII Register of Inspectors for Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it is the date of the standard will be that current at the time of inspection with the exception of where overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information contained in reports is provided to assist the owner/operator in fulfilling their responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standard. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of the inspection.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this would include public parks, pay and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centres, farm parks etc. All equipment used or employed in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant standards (listed below):

BS EN 1176 Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Playground equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors & indoors.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - 'Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation' (this document gives guidance to the owners/operators of the facility on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playground equipment, excluding ancillary items).

In the United Kingdom the National Foreword forms an important part to the understanding and implementation of the recommendations set out in this document. It clarifies the application of the document within the UK as best practice guidance, as the document has been used since its initial publication. Therefore, in the UK this standard (BS EN 1176 - Part 7: 2020) contains no requirements and needs to be read and implemented as guidance, with the use of the term 'shall' therefore becoming a recommendation, as in the term 'should'.

Domestic play equipment falls outside of the scope of BS EN 1176 and has its own standard (BS EN 71 - Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will still refer to BS EN 1176.

Other equipment that is not clearly identified as unsupervised or domestic (natural play, self-build equipment etc.) will be assessed for compliance with the relevant standard listed below:

BS EN 15312 Free access multi-sports equipment

BS EN 14974 Skateparks

BS EN 16630 Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment

BS EN 16899 Parkour equipment (plus RPII/API guidance notes)

Annual and Post Installation inspections will take into consideration compliance with current standards and defects related to wear and vandalism. Items not listed in the report have not been included in the inspection. The inspection will cover the playground equipment and the active area up to 3.0 metres around, or the fence line if closer.

Operational inspections only take into consideration defects related to cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear (of moving parts) structural integrity wear and vandalism

Routine visual inspections (if undertaken) relate only to the most obvious defects such as broken or missing parts, litter, vandalism and issues created by severe weather conditions (the intention is to identify hazards created by storm damage).

The inspection is non-dismantling, non-destructive and does not include for any structural, toxicology or impact assessments defined in the standard; however, the inspector will undertake a manual test for stability and if equipment fails under manual load, or any other hazard is identified as an unacceptable risk, the owner/operator will be notified as soon as practicable possible.

The inspector will access all standing surfaces (where it is possible to stand without hand support) as necessary on the equipment and assess all parts up to 2.5m above the standing surface. Where it is not possible to access parts of the equipment without employing an alternative means of access the report will record the action required by the owner/operator to ensure the continued safe use of the equipment. Ancillary equipment will be risk assessed using the inspector's knowledge and experience of the standards named in this document. (Note: Ancillary items are not included in the specific equipment-type parts of the EN 1176 series; hence they are not assessed for compliance with EN 1176 series and are subject to risk assessment). The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area. Inspectors who are trained to use ladders may use them where it is safe to do so, but if members of the public are present on-site ladders may not be used to access the equipment.

The inspector will not undertake any of the following works unless specifically agreed in writing at the time of order:

Checking the depth and underlying structural integrity of any surface areas and/or carrying out any testing of impact absorbing properties of any surfaces. The identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection or the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is underground. Tightening any bolts, hinges or other fixing devices on any apparatus or equipment. Assessing or inspecting any electrical installations contained on any site and/or apparatus and/or equipment. Assessing or inspecting any water supplies and/or water features and/or any associated computerised systems (including carrying out any programming).

Where planting or trees are mentioned in the report no assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken; the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

The owner/operator should have a 'design risk assessment' provided by the manufacturer/designer of the area for the equipment and location in which the facility is installed.

The operator is responsible for managing risks of their provision and is required by law to carry out a 'suitable and sufficient assessment' of the risks associated with a site or activity and this inspection shall be considered as contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility.

The details contained within the report are a snapshot of the condition at the time of inspection only and subsequent events may affect the condition of the facility. Suggested remedial actions are based on the knowledge and experience of the inspector and/or that of the inspection company. The owner/operator should seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person at all times when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

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Table 1

The operator is responsible for following the guidance of the relevant standards. The standards give guidance on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of the various types of facilities. The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in an RPII Annual or Post-Installation Inspection. The relevant standards also contain additional parts which the operator should follow.

Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual/ Post Installation Inspection
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ ^[1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of foundations (see note 1)	✓	✓ ^[1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of playing surfaces (see note 2)	✓	✓ ^[2]
6.1 d) Compliance with the relevant parts of the standard and or risk assessment (see note 3)	✓	✓ ^[3]
6.1 d) Effects of weather	✓	✓
6.1 d) Presence of rot, decay or corrosion (see note 1)	✓	✓ ^[1]
6.1 d) Assessment of repairs made or added or replaced components (see note 4)	✓	✓ ^[4]
6.1 d) Excavation or dismantling/additional measures	✓	✗
6.2.1 Assessment of glass reinforced plastics (see note 5)	✓	✓ ^[5]
6.2.1 Inspection of one post equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ ^[1]
6.2.4 Undertaking the Operators inspection protocol	✓	✗

NB: The clause numbers in table 1 are taken from BS EN 1176 - Part 7:2020. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards listed herein. Playgrounds contain a range of equipment from different manufacturers and installed over a number of years; operators should implement any guidance provided by the manufacturer. Item specific detail is not readily available to RPII Playground Inspectors, whose report contributes to the operator's overall Annual Main Inspection as detailed in the relevant standards.

[1] A manual test only is undertaken for stability. Wear and instability are only detectable where readily apparent without dismantling or destruction and without the use of tools, excavation or specialist equipment. Rot and corrosion are tested or with a hammer and/or steel rod. Decay in timber may exist which can only be found with specialist equipment.

[2] Only the visible condition and dimensional compliance of surface extent is considered. Neither testing of impact attenuating properties nor measurement of the thickness of bound surfaces are undertaken on RPII annual inspections.

[3] The inspection assesses compliance where this can be tested on site using manual methods without dismantling, destruction and without the use of tools or specialist equipment.

[4] The operator should use manufacturer's recommended parts, or equivalent. We are unable to verify if such parts have been used, and any subsequent change in quality or performance.

[5] Visible glass fibres will be noted in reports. The operator is responsible for repairs or replacement.

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