

EVERPLAY NEWS

EVERPLAY
International Inc.

Volume 12, Issue 1
March 2005

Fall Heights Tops of Barriers

The CSA Technical Committee on Playspaces meets on a regular basis to discuss issues related to the Z614 Standard on Playspaces. The first document was published in 1990, with revisions in 1998 and 2003. The next revision is expected for early 2007.

The first version of the Standard dealt primarily with playspaces and structures, whereas subsequent revisions added detail related to protective surfacing and the further protection of children from life-threatening head injuries. This means that when testing surfaces using ASTM F1292 or EN 1177 procedures, the Gmax shall not exceed 200 and the HIC (Head Injury Criteria) shall not exceed 1000.

The preface to the existing Z614 indicates that the intent is to prevent life-threatening and debilitating injuries. At its February 2005 meeting, the 15 members of the technical committee in attendance unanimously approved 5 items.

One was to strengthen the intent of the Standard as it relates to preventing life-threatening and debilitating injury by moving this point out of preface into the scope section of the main body of the Standard. This change strengthens the rationale for adopting changes to the definition of fall height and fall height for composite play structures to be measured from the tops of guardrails and barriers.

Another change is the introduction of the multi-user swing to the CSA Z614. This is great news for many children and playground owners.

These changes, along with others will proceed to the development of a document that will be presented for public review and balloting by the technical committee before final approval and publishing as a revised Standard.

A Deal! A Good Deal!! A Great Deal!!!

Everyone wants to make a deal that gets them what they want. Generally this involves research, the writing of specifications and contracts. A contract is developed and a purchase is made. This is *a deal!*

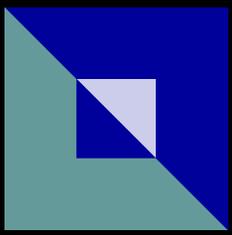
In the area of playgrounds, this represents compliance with the minimum existing Standards.

A good deal is when the purchase of a product or service turns out to be better than what was expected. At **EVERPLAY**, we have always believed that the client deserves better and have therefore consistently installed surfaces that exceed standards by providing Gmax and HIC values lower than the minimums and by measuring from a level higher than the minimum drop height, at the time of installation. **EVERPLAY** provides a **Gmax <150 and HIC <850** when tested with to ASTM F1292 from the **tops of barriers and guardrails**. **EVERPLAY** also warrants that the maintained surface will meet the requirements of the CSA Z614 from the same heights at the end of **5 years**. This makes **EVERPLAY a good deal!!**

A great deal is when the purchaser gets both a good deal and there is the assurance to the owner and the user of the playground that the protection that is being provided to the children exceeds that required by the Standards. To this end **EVERPLAY** offers to affix labels that define the "critical height" of a protective surface and the height on the play structure at or above which the "critical height" is located. The series of labels on the reverse of this Newsletter should be on every play structure.

The critical height labels should be placed at a point higher than the tops of guardrails and barriers as well as other accessible points.

This is a **GREAT DEAL!!!**



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At least 2 of these labels must be at 3 locations of every play structure

This label defines critical height and should be placed at eye level for the playground user

Playground Protective Surfacing

USCPSC doc 325 (1997)
Critical height - the fall height below which a life-threatening head injury would not be expected to occur

ASTM F1292 (definitions) - Critical Height
A measure of the impact attenuation performance of a playground surface or surfacing materials defined as: the highest theoretical drop height from which a surface meets the impact attenuation performance criterion specified by this specification. The critical height approximates the maximum fall height from which a life-threatening head injury would not be expected to occur.

A label stating the critical height for this surface should be within the vertical plane of this label.

For Information contact:
Canadian Playground Advisory Inc.,
416-410-7506 or www.playgroundadvisory.com

J F M A M J J A S O N D 05 06

This label is to be placed by the EVERPLAY installer

Playground Protective Surfacing

This **EVERPLAY** surface provides a critical height at or above the bottom level of this label for the protective surfacing zone immediately associated with this location. This EVERPLAY surface is subject to maintenance to continue this performance.

EVERPLAY Installation Inc.,
18 Automatic Rd., Unit 12,
Brampton, Ontario, L6S 5N5
www.everplay.com

USCPSC doc 325 (1997)
Critical height - the fall height below which a life-threatening head injury would not be expected to occur

For Information contact:
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J F M A M J J A S O N D 05 06

This label removes a label that is no longer valid by covering it

Playground Protective Surfacing

The protective surface associated with this immediate protective surfacing zone provides a critical height at or above the level of the bottom of this label. This surface has been tested to ASTM F1292

Tested by:
Canadian Playground Advisory Inc.,
2344 Manor House Crt.,
Mississauga, Ontario L5M 5Y3

USCPSC doc 325 (1997)
Critical height - the fall height below which a life-threatening head injury would not be expected to occur

For Information contact:
Canadian Playground Advisory Inc.,
416-410-7506 or www.playgroundadvisory.com

J F M A M J J A S O N D 05 06

This label is placed by the entity performing a test and defining the critical height location

Playground Protective Surfacing

The protective surface associated with this immediate protective surfacing zone has been field tested to ASTM F1292 and the new critical height label will be located within the vertical plane of this label.

Tested by:
Canadian Playground Advisory Inc.,
2344 Manor House Crt.,
Mississauga, Ontario L5M 5Y3

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