

General Inspection Regime for Fahr Products and Components

16th November 2020

Operators responsibilities

The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, along with The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1992 and the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 & 1984 provide a framework to which all owners and operators of play areas should work. Under these Statute Laws there is a legal responsibility placed upon the playground operator to ensure the health and safety of all visitors to the playground.

Playground Managers have a legal responsibility of care to children using the area and at the same time need to meet the expectations of the courts. In our experience, meeting or resisting injury claims has very often turned on the quality of the inspections, subsequent maintenance and the quality of the retained documentation.

BS EN 1176 recommends a three-tier inspection regime following the guidelines set out below:

Routine Visual Inspection

Looking at the equipment's basic condition, especially faults due to recent vandalism, breakages and also cleanliness of the playground. These inspections can be carried out by the manager or staff and should be recorded on a simple sheet or book. These inspections should be carried out daily or weekly dependent on the age of the equipment, usage and levels of vandalism experienced.

Operational Inspection

Looking in more detail at the condition of the equipment, providing a quality control check on the more regular inspections and identifying wear and tear on the equipment. Such inspections should be carried out by an appropriately trained member of staff, or alternatively by a suitably qualified specialist and should be recorded. These inspections should be carried out at least on a quarterly basis.

Annual inspection

To be carried out by a specialist not connected with the playground operator or manager. Essentially looking at vandalism, wear and tear, long-term structural problems, Standards compliance and design, along with risk assessment etc. This report essentially covers the overall safety of the playground.

	Inspection Process/Care	Maintenance or Remedial action
General cleanliness	Inspect for signs of fungal growth	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove
	Inspect for graffiti	Use domestic cleaning fluids and/or specialised graffiti remover to remove
Broken or missing parts	Inspect for any broken, missing or damaged parts, special attention should be given to areas or parts of the equipment that users can access them.	Where possible remove any rough or sharp edges to leave a smooth finish; if the component has suffered severe damage through vandalism it may need to be completely replaced.
Loose or missing fixings	Inspect the equipment for loose or missing fixings	Replace and/or secure all loose or missing fixings
General wear & tear	Our equipment is designed to be robust and has very few areas that will be impacted by wear.	Check that any moving parts are operating correctly.
Stainless steel components & fixings	Stainless steel may have some small impurities that will discolour and leave small rust spots.	Remove by wiping down with a lightly oiled cloth or a domestic type abrasive soap pad.
Aluminium posts	Aluminium used in our products has a powder coated finish and will only require the general cleaning routines to be applied.	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove.
	Inspect for damage to the paintwork.	Treat any rusting areas and repaint.
Rungs, Handrails & Musical Instruments	Anodised components used in our products and will only require the general cleaning routines to be applied.	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove.
Moulded rubber components	Inspect for any damage or deterioration of the component.	Use domestic cleaning products to remove any marks.
Steel core cable	Inspect for any damage to outer covering and check for any broken inner strands.	If any inner strands are broken the component must be replaced.
Polycarbonate components	Inspect for damage to components.	Remove any rough or sharp projections or if damage is severe, replace completely.
	Inspect for signs of fungal growth.	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove.
	Inspect for graffiti.	Use domestic cleaning fluids and/or specialised graffiti remover to remove.
Power casing (ABS)	Inspect for damage.	Remove any rough or sharp projections or if damage is severe, replace completely.
	Inspect for signs of fungal growth.	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove.
	Inspect for graffiti.	Use domestic cleaning fluids and/or specialised graffiti remover to remove.

Rotomoulded Polyethylene Slides	Inspect for any damage to all surfaces paying particular attention to the slide bed and rails.	Areas that have minor damage can be smoothed with an abrasive paper. If the slide is severely damaged it may be possible to weld the plastic. Serious damage to a surface will require the equipment to be isolated from public use until such time as a repair or replacement is possible
Stainless Steel Slides	Inspect for any damage to all surfaces paying particular attention to the slide bed and rails.	Minor dents do not present significant hazards but holes or serious damage to a surface will require the slide to be isolated from public use until repair or replacement is possible
HDPE Panels	Inspect for any broken, missing or damaged parts, special attention should be given to areas or parts of the equipment that users can access them.	Where possible remove any rough or sharp edges to leave a smooth finish; if the component has suffered severe damage through vandalism it may need to be completely replaced.
	Inspect for signs of fungal growth	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove
	Inspect for graffiti	Use domestic cleaning fluids and/or specialised graffiti remover to remove
Moving or rotating parts	These components have a sealed bearing and require little or no maintenance. Check that the component is operating correctly.	Replace completely if the component is not working.
Panels with a winding mechanism	The components should be firmly fixed to the panels.	Secure any loose components as these can cause accelerated wear.
Batteries	Battery cells are used in some products, check operation of product and replace with the same specification batteries, as required.	Dispose of used batteries in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at a nominated recycling centre or return to the manufacturer for recycling.
Solar panels	Inspect for cleanliness and damage to the panel.	Regularly surfaces with damp cloth to maintain performance. If the panel is damaged it will not work as efficiently or at all. These should not be installed or located under trees or close to any object that can cast a shadow onto the solar panel and prevent it absorbing sunlight.
Sound box	Check operation.	Replace if not operating.
LED's	LED's used in memory and reaction games have a diagnostic setting to test operation.	Follow the specific instructions to test the LED's and replace as required.
Wiring & Connectors	Inspect wiring and connectors for corrosion	Replace as required

Waterproofing	Check that the components are secure and that seals are not damaged and allowing water ingress.	Care should be taken when disassembling any product with neoprene seals to ensure they are reinstated or replaced correctly to maintain waterproofing.
Spring bases	Check that the rust proofing applied to the base is not damaged prior to installation.	Touch up any damaged areas with a galvanised paint.
Springs & mounting plates	Inspect paintwork for any damage	Touch up damaged paint areas to prevent corrosion.
Polydek Panels & Parts	Inspect for any broken, missing or damaged parts, special attention should be given to areas or parts of the equipment that users can access them.	Where possible remove any rough or sharp edges to leave a smooth finish; if the component has suffered severe damage through vandalism it may need to be completely replaced.
	Inspect for signs of fungal growth	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove
	Inspect for graffiti	Use domestic cleaning fluids and/or specialised graffiti remover to remove
Galvanised steel components	Inspect for any damage to the components	Touch up damaged areas as required
Mirrors (polycarbonate & stainless steel)	Inspect for surface cleanliness and damage	Care must be taken to avoid use of any abrasive materials, cleaning fluids or cloths as these will scratch the item
	Inspect for signs of fungal growth	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove
	Inspect for graffiti	Use domestic cleaning fluids and/or specialised graffiti remover to remove
Moulded plastic components	Inspect items for any damage	Remove any sharp edges where possible or replace complete component
Games Tables	Inspect for cleanliness and damage	Care must be taken to avoid use of any abrasive materials, cleaning fluids or cloths as these will scratch the item
High pressure laminates	Inspect for any cleanliness damage	Chipped areas can create sharp edges which will need removing. Care must be taken to avoid use of any abrasive materials, cleaning fluids or cloths as these will scratch the item
Recycled profiles & posts	Inspect for any broken, missing or damaged parts, special attention should be given to areas or parts of the equipment that users can access them.	Where possible remove any rough or sharp edges to leave a smooth finish; if the component has suffered severe damage through vandalism it may need to be completely replaced.
	Inspect for signs of fungal growth	Use domestic cleaning products, or in severe cases specialised, fungus applications to remove
	Inspect for graffiti	Use domestic cleaning fluids and/or specialised graffiti remover to remove