

# ENHANCE ADVISORY - 0123 - FACILITY GUIDE PLAYGROUND AU V5

**NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE SPECIFIC STANDARDS ADVICE AND MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR ALL SITUATIONS. THIS GUIDE IS WRITTEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 4685:2021, AS 4422:2022, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN ADDITION TO ALL LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND ANY MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.**

## OWNER / OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

The owner/operator of the premises is required to undertake certain ongoing regulatory requirements to ensure compliance. These requirements are stipulated by the standards to be the responsibility of the owner/operator.

In this guide, we cover the basic outline of what should be inspected, and by whom, to ensure ongoing compliance.

To maintain compliance, inspection and maintenance are required to be undertaken by a competent person, at the intervals prescribed in the standards. This includes both internal inspection requirements, and specialist requirements.

## INTERNAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

### **Routine visual inspection (refer AHCPGD206 Conduct visual inspection of park facilities)**

Routine visual inspection is mandatory on a daily-to-weekly basis and is typically undertaken by staff already on site. It requires inspection for obvious damage, vandalism, surface depth and damage and hazards that may have been introduced into the play area (i.e. broken glass)

Staff should hold as a minimum the Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) qualification AHCPGD206.

### **Operational inspection (refer AHCPGD305 Conduct operational inspection of park facilities)**

Operational inspection is mandatory on a Month-Quarter-Term basis and is typically undertaken by staff already on site. It requires for inspection of the operation and stability of the equipment by a competent inspector.

Staff should hold as a minimum the Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) qualification AHCPGD305.

### **Comprehensive inspection (refer AHCPGD505 Conduct comprehensive inspection of park facilities)**

The Comprehensive inspection is mandatory on an annual basis and is typically undertaken by staff already on site, or a maintenance contractor. It requires an audit of the facility/park as a

whole, and a review of all specialist inspection and maintenance requirements, reports and the like, to ensure the entirety of the facility is inspected and maintained in accordance with all relevant standards, and best practice. It is undertaken by a competent inspector.

Staff should hold as a minimum the Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) qualification AHCPGD505.

## **SPECIALIST (EXTERNAL) INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Annual Inspection (Engineering firm or in some instances NATA (Playground) )**

Annual inspection of the play facility is **mandatory**, and is to be undertaken yearly, by an external contractor covered by insurances suitable for inspection and certification of a playground. The inspection is independent as it confirms not only standards compliance but maintenance re-certification.

Inspectors are personally liable for any inspection, and should also hold relevant professional indemnity.

Owner/operators should take care to ensure only a suitably competent firm is used, as the industry is unregulated.

The Contractor is typically an Engineering or NATA accredited firm.

### **Impact Testing (Engineering firm or in some instances NATA (Playground) )**

Impact testing of any wetpour rubber surfacing (pour in place) is required to be undertaken every three (3) years, by an external contractor covered by insurances suitable for provision and certification of test results for a playground surface. This includes hybrid surfaces with artificial grass or other types of top layer.

Owner/operators should take care to ensure only a suitably competent firm is used, as the industry is unregulated.

The Contractor is typically an Engineering or NATA accredited firm.

## **NOTES:**

Failure by an equipment owner/operator to undertake inspections, including engaging relevant specialist inspections, is considered a breach of duty of care and will not stand up under legal scrutiny.