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	STANDARD: **CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook & ASTM F1487**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Monthly Audit**

School Playground Equipment Safety Inspection Compliance Checklist

Operational Scope: This checklist dictates the mandatory monthly evaluation protocol for K-12 school playground assets to prevent student injury and ensure regulatory adherence. It establishes clear pass/fail thresholds for structural integrity, hardware stability, and protective surfacing to mitigate high-liability safety risks.

MANDATORY PPE:	High-Visibility Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107), Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1), Heavy-Duty Leather Utility Gloves, Steel-Toe Safety Footwear (ASTM F2413)
PREREQUISITES:	Secure the perimeter with caution tape to prohibit student access during the inspection. | Ensure calibrated measurement tools (probe rods, pull testers, tape measure) are readily available.

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND HARDWARE ASSESSMENT

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Support Posts and Uprights**	Inspect below-ground and above-ground footings for corrosion, cracking, shifting, or wood rot. Zero lateral movement when manual force is applied.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
2	**Fasteners, Bolts, and Connectors**	All connecting hardware must be tight. Protruding bolt ends must not exceed two threads past the nut, and protective caps must be fully secured.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
3	**Welds and Metal Joints**	Check all structural welds for hairline fractures, fatigue cracking, or sharp edges resulting from wear.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

MOVING COMPONENTS AND FALL HAZARD MITIGATION

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
4	**Swings and Chains**	Chain links must show less than 25% wear. Swing seats must be pliable rubber without exposed metal cores. Hangers must pivot freely without binding.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
5	**Slide Chutes and Exit Regions**	Chute surface must be free of punctures, sharp burrs, or separation gaps. Exit region must maintain proper clearance height above protective surfacing.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
6	**Guardrails and Protective Barriers**	Platforms over 30 inches high must feature continuous guardrails and barriers preventing unauthorized climbing or accidental falls.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

SURFACING AND ENTRAPMENT HAZARD INSPECTION

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
7	**Impact-Absorbing Surfacing Depth**	Loose-fill materials (wood mulch, engineered wood fiber) must maintain a minimum compacted depth of 12 inches across all fall zones.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
8	**Head and Neck Entrapment Openings**	No rigid openings between 3.5 inches and 9 inches in diameter exist on climbers, ladders, or rail assemblies where a child's head could pass through.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
9	**S-Hooks and Pinch Points**	All S-hooks on suspension assemblies must be tightly closed with a gap clearance of less than 0.04 inches to prevent clothing or finger snagging.	**Standard**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Signature: _____	**Date / Time:** _____	**Badge / Cert #:** _____
District Facilities Operations Manager Sign-off: _____	**Review Date:** _____	**Audit Status:** [ ] Approved [ ] Rectify

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