OpsAuditHub opsauditihub.com	DOC ID: **SAF-0359**	REVISION: **Rev 2.4 (2026)**
	STANDARD: **CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (Pub No. 325) & ASTM F1487**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Monthly Audit**

School Playground Equipment Safety Inspection Inspection Checklist

Operational Scope: This audit protocol establishes mandatory evaluation procedures for all structural, mechanical, and surfacing components across K-12 educational playground areas. The objective is to proactively identify wear, structural failure, and entrapment hazards to ensure full compliance with CPSC safety mandates.

MANDATORY PPE:	High-Visibility Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107), Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1), Cut-Resistant Utility Gloves, Steel-Toe Boots (ASTM F2413), Clipboard and Digital Measuring Tool
PREREQUISITES:	Verify playground area is closed and secured with physical barriers prior to starting the audit. | Review previous month's corrective action logs to ensure persistent defects were resolved. | Calibrate all measurement instruments, including tension gauges and probe blocks.

SURFACING & FALL ZONE INTEGRITY

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Impact-Absorbing Surface Depth**	Loose-fill materials (wood mulch, engineered wood fiber) must maintain a minimum depth of 12 inches under and around all elevated equipment.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
2	**Fall Zone Perimeter Clearance**	Surfacing material must extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions from the perimeter of stationary playground equipment.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
3	**Drainage & Sub-Base Condition**	Inspect for standing water, erosion trenches, or exposed concrete footings in high-traffic drop zones.	**Standard**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY & HARDWARE

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
4	**Fasteners, Bolts, and Anchors**	All connecting hardware must be tight with no missing bolts, screws, or locking devices. Protruding thread ends must be capped.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
5	**Metal Framework & Posts**	Inspect metal pipes, uprights, and welds for structural corrosion, rust-through, sharp edges, or buckling.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
6	**Plastic and Composite Components**	Slides, tunnels, and panels must be free of UV degradation, cracking, splintering, or fading that compromises structural integrity.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
7	**Wood Elements & Timber**	Check wooden structures for splitting, splintering, rotting, or toxic chemical leaching. Fasteners must be countersunk.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

ENTRAPMENT, PROTRUSION & MOVING PARTS

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
8	**Head and Neck Entrapment Openings**	Openings between vertical and horizontal rails must not measure between 3.5 inches and 9 inches to prevent child entrapment.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
9	**S-Hooks and Chain Assemblies**	Swing chains and connection links must not show excessive wear exceeding 25% of the original link thickness. S-hooks must be fully closed.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
10	**Guardrails and Protective Barriers**	Platforms over 30 inches high for toddlers (or 48 inches for school-age children) must feature intact guardrails and barriers preventing falls.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

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

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