OpsAuditHub opsauditihub.com	DOC ID: **SAF-0360**	REVISION: **Rev 2.4 (2026)**
	STANDARD: **CPSC Pub. No. 325 (Public Playground Safety Handbook) & ASTM F1487**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Monthly Audit**

School Playground Equipment Safety Inspection Safety Audit Checklist

Operational Scope: This audit checklist establishes standardized inspection protocols for all school playground equipment to mitigate structural hazards, fall risks, and entrapment points. Compliance with this procedure ensures adherence to safety standards and safeguards students during recreational activities.

MANDATORY PPE:	High-Visibility Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107), Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1), Durable Work Gloves, Steel-Toe Boots (ASTM F2413)
PREREQUISITES:	Review previous month's maintenance logs and open corrective action tickets. | Secure the perimeter of the playground area with caution tape or signage to restrict student access during inspection.

SURFACING & STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Protective Surfacing Depth**	Loose-fill surfacing (wood mulch, engineered wood fiber) must maintain a minimum depth of 12 inches under all active play components.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
2	**Structural Supports & Post Stability**	Metal and wooden support posts must show no signs of rust-through, rotting, severe corrosion, or shifting at the ground anchor point.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
3	**Hardware & Fasteners**	All bolts, screws, and S-hooks must be tight, uncorroded, and equipped with tamper-resistant caps where applicable. No protruding sharp threads.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

PLAY COMPONENTS & FALL ZONES

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
4	**Swings & Suspension Chains**	Swing chains must not show more than 5% wear at link contact points. Rubber seats must be free of cracks and degradation.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
5	**Slides & Exit Zones**	Slide beds must be securely anchored with flush transitions at the top platform and a safe, clear run-out zone at ground level free of debris.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
6	**Guardrails & Barrier Heights**	Platforms elevated higher than 30 inches for toddlers or 48 inches for school-age children must feature continuous protective barriers and guardrails.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

ENTRAPMENT & GENERAL HAZARD PREVENTION

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
7	**Head & Neck Entrapment Openings**	Any rigid opening between 3.5 inches and 9 inches must be completely absent to prevent child head and torso entrapment hazards.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
8	**Sharp Points & Edges**	All metal, plastic, and timber components must be free of burrs, splintering, jagged edges, or crushing pinch points.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
9	**Drainage & Standing Water**	Playground footings and surrounding turf must drain effectively within 60 minutes after a rainfall to prevent breeding grounds and slips.	**Standard**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

Certified Playground Inspector / Safety Auditor Signature: _____	**Date / Time:** _____	**Badge / Cert #:** _____
Director of Facilities / School Principal Sign-off: _____	**Review Date:** _____	**Audit Status:** [ ] Approved [ ] Rectify

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