OpsAuditHub opsauditihub.com	DOC ID: **SAF-0361**	REVISION: **Rev 2.4 (2026)**
	STANDARD: **CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (Publication 325) & ASTM F1487**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Weekly and Monthly Audit**

School Playground Equipment Safety Inspection Sop Template

Operational Scope: Establishes a standardized procedure for inspecting and maintaining school playground structures to prevent student injury and ensure regulatory compliance. Mandates immediate hazard isolation and formal documentation for all identified mechanical and structural anomalies.

MANDATORY PPE:	High-Visibility Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107), Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1), Cut-Resistant Work Gloves (ANSI/ISEA 105), Steel-Toe Safety Boots (ASTM F2413)
PREREQUISITES:	Verify weather and ground conditions are safe for outdoor structural testing | Secure the perimeter with caution tape to prevent student access during inspection | Ensure calibrated feeler gauges, measurement tapes, and torque wrenches are on hand

SURFACING AND FALL ZONE INTEGRITY

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Protective Surfacing Depth**	Loose-fill wood mulch or rubber chips must maintain a minimum depth of 12 inches under and around all elevated play equipment.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
2	**Fall Zone Clearances**	Fall zones must extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions from the perimeter of stationary equipment, free of hard obstacles.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
3	**Unit Containment Borders**	Surfacing borders and drainage systems must be structurally intact with no exposed sharp edges, rotting wood, or protruding anchors.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

STRUCTURAL STABILITY AND HARDWARE

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
4	**Fasteners, Bolts, and Anchors**	All connecting hardware, S-hooks, and anchor bolts must be tight with protective caps securely in place; zero missing or loose bolts allowed.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
5	**Metal Framework and Tubing**	Inspect steel and aluminum posts for rust-through, corrosion, structural cracking, or sharp burrs.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
6	**Wood Components and Platforms**	Check timber structures for splintering, warping, biological decay, or termite damage; wood preservatives must not be leaching.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
7	**Plastic and Composite Panels**	Examine slides, tunnels, and roofs for UV degradation, stress fractures, fading, or sharp edges resulting from impact.	**Standard**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

ENTRAPMENT, PROTRUSION, AND MOVING PARTS

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
8	**Head and Neck Entrapment Openings**	All completely bounded rigid openings between 3.5 inches and 9 inches must be verified using the CPSC head probe gauge.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
9	**Protrusions and Sharp Points**	Verify no structural elements present potential hook points or protrusions capable of catching clothing strings or skin.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
10	**Swings and Moving Assemblies**	Swing chains must show less than 15% wear at bearing points; swing seats must be pliable rubber with no exposed internal metal.	**Warning**	**[ ] 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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