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Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use¹

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^{€1} NOTE—Figure A1.21 was editorially corrected in December 2001.

INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety performance specification establishes nationally recognized safety standards for public playground equipment to address injuries identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

During 1990⁹ the CPSC estimated that about 1506 000 victims were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with public playground equipment. About three fourths of these injuries resulted from falls, primarily to the surface on which the equipment was located. Other hazard patterns involved impact by swings and other moving equipment and contact with protrusions, pinch points, and sharp edges. Fatalities reported to the CPSC resulted from falls; entanglement of clothing or similar items on equipment; entanglement in ropes tied to or caught on equipment; head entrapment; impact by equipment that tipped over or otherwise failed; and impact by moving swings. This consumer safety performance specification does not eliminate the need for supervision of children on public playground equipment. It is intended to minimize the likelihood of life-threatening or debilitating injuries, such as those identified by the CPSC.

There has been significant harmonization of this performance specification and CAN/CSA-Z614.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety performance specification provides safety and performance standards for various types of public playground equipment. Its purpose is to reduce life-threatening and debilitating injuries.

1.2 The range of users encompassed by this consumer safety performance specification is the 5th percentile 2-year-old through the 95th percentile 12-year-old.

1.3 Home playground equipment, amusement park equipment, sports equipment, fitness equipment intended for users over the age of 12, and soft contained play equipment are not included in this specification.

1.4 This consumer safety performance specification includes the following sections:

Title		Section Number
Scope	–1	
Scope		<u>1</u>
Referenced Documents	–2	
Referenced Documents		<u>2</u>
Terminology	–3	
Terminology		<u>3</u>
Materials and Manufacture	–4	
Materials and Manufacture		<u>4</u>
General Requirements	–5	
General Requirements		<u>5</u>
Performance Requirements	–6	
Performance Requirements		<u>6</u>
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Requirements for Access/Egress		<u>7</u>
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Equipment		<u>8</u>
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¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.29 on Playground Equipment for Public Use.

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