

Notes on safety inspection report by Kashy Hawkings and Rachael Greenwood

Page 4. Gate

Finding 1. Not keen on painting the gate a contrasting colour.

Finding 2. Is it possible to adjust hinge or move latch? **No**

Page 5. Timber/Mesh Fence

Findings 1-2. KH to inspect loose/rotting posts before meeting. **Replace loose post next to access gate.**

Page 6. Sign on gate to playground

Finding 1. Only one entrance/exit point. Entrances to/from footpaths are not PC property and do not lead directly into recreation ground.

Page 7. Picnic table

Moving very difficult if secured to ground. Perhaps move to more level ground? **Leave where it is.**

Page 9. Swings

Monitor timber for rot. Air cracks inevitable as timber expands/contracts with weather. RG enquired whether Playdale recommends application of timber preservative*.

Page 10. Playhouse

Finding 1. Replacement of rotting timber. **AT has in hand.**

Finding 2. Check and secure loose fixings. **AT has in hand.**

Page 11. The Twist.

Finding 1. Lower timber part of design*.

Finding 2. See page 9*.

Finding 3. Check/smooth rough or sharp edges.

Finding 4. RG queried failure to comply with BS EN 1176:2008 with Playdale*.

Finding 5. Secure all loose fixings. **AT has in hand.**

Finding 6. See page 9*.

Page 12. Spring Ark

Finding 1. Inspect matting.

Spring Horse

Finding 2. Replace missing bolt cap covers.

Page 14. Activity Trail

Finding 1. Secure loose fixings. **AT to inspect.**

Finding 2. Small amount of graffiti to be cleaned from second post on left (front row when facing Twist). **Try to sand graffiti off timber.**

Findings, 3, 5 and 6

See page 9*. RG confirmed installed May 2007, timber uprights guaranteed for 15 years.

Finding 4. Check how loose stilts are in foundations. **KH said 2nd stilt from left looking from path is slightly wobbly. No risk at present**

*See overleaf for response from Playdale Customer Services.

From: Lisa Cairns [lisa.cairns@playdale.co.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 2:37 PM
To: bhapc@btinternet.com
Subject: RE: Points raised in annual safety inspection report

I can confirm that splits, or shakes as they are technically referred to, occur in any round timber pole as the natural drying process of the timber takes place. The moisture content in timber varies quite significantly depending on the climatic conditions. As the moisture content in the timber becomes very low during long dry periods of weather the fibres in the timbers shrink causing a separation of the fibres. This separation creates the split or shake that takes the form of a 'V' shaped opening. The shakes will often extend the full length of the pole, with the bottom of the 'V' starting from the central core of the log and the widest part of the 'V' being at the outer circumference of pole. The most effective method of measuring the severity of the splits is to take a width measurement on the outer circumference on the timber pole.

It is not uncommon for splits/shakes to measure 6 – 7mm in width. In long dry periods this may increase. The drier the weather, the lower the moisture content in the timber and therefore the wider the splits. Following damper weather condition the moisture content of the timber slowly increases resulting in the splits/shakes closing up again. It can take a while for this to occur; therefore splits will not close immediately after the first rain following a long dry period. It may take several days before the splits close.

This natural separation of fibres, i.e. splitting, does not significantly affect the structural strength of the timbers and is allowed for during the structural analysis of the timber structure on each item at the product testing stage of all Playdale Playground Equipment. TRADA (Timber Research & Development Association) will give independent confirmation of the above. Tel.no. 01494 563091.

All Playdale Playground Equipment is independently tested by BSI (British Standards Institute) to ensure compliance with the British and European safety standards for Outdoor Playground Equipment, BS EN 1176. As a result of passing all these tests the products are covered by the prestigious BSI Kitemark.

All timbers used throughout the range come from the same supplier that we have used for many years to ensure we receive a consistent quality of timber. The timber is slow grown pine from managed forests in Northern Europe.

Playdale are fully committed in ensuring the safety standard BS EN is maintained, implemented throughout the Play Industry and further developed to ensure continual improvements are introduced. As such we are member of the UK Technical committee for Playgrounds. The Health and Safety Executive are also represented on this same committee & have fully adopted BS EN 1176 as the recognised benchmark for safety in Playgrounds throughout the UK.

In regards to the Jukebox Twist unit, this unit was supplied and installed to the safety standard in place at the time, Although slight changes have been made to the standard since your installation, they are not retrospective. As you will see from the report many of the comments the inspector has raised are minor failures to the current standard EN1176, this does not mean that the equipment, which was classed as being safe before January 1999, has suddenly become unsafe following this date.

I hope the above meets with your approval. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

Lisa Cairns
Operations Sales and Customer Service Manager