



# LANGARA COLLEGE

## **2007 CSA STANDARD FOR CHILDREN'S PLAYSPACES AND EQUIPMENT** **NOW AVAILABLE**

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The 2007 edition of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard for Children's Playspaces and Equipment (Z614-07) is now available. It is an important document for anyone concerned with the safety of children while they use playspaces. Copies of the document may be purchased by calling the Richmond, B.C. CSA office at 1-800-463-6727.

The Recreation Facilities Association of BC (RFABC) offers a one day Playspace Safety Course to help introduce this document and related topics to people working in the field. For further information on the course please visit the RFABC website at: [www.rfabc.com](http://www.rfabc.com)

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) offers a CPRA Canadian Certified Playground Inspector Certification program. For further information on this training please visit the CPRA website at: [www.cpra.ca](http://www.cpra.ca)



To help people in the field work with the new CSA standard the following list of Ten Key Areas is a way to introduce some of the topics included in this document. There are many other important subjects covered by the standard but by focusing on these ten key areas first, people can start to feel more comfortable with the material and its field applications.

**TEN KEY AREAS – CSA STANDARD – Z614-07**  
**CHILDREN’S PLAYSPACES AND EQUIPMENT**

**1. USER AGE GROUPS**

- Clause 1.1
- Section 4

**2. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTIVE SURFACING ZONES AND NO-ENCROACHMENT ZONES**

- Section 14

**3. SURFACING**

- Section 10
- Section 15, Clause 15.16.1

**4. INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PROTECTIVE SURFACING**

- Section 10.4

**5. ACCESSIBLE OPENINGS (HEAD AND TORSO PROBES, PARTIALLY BOUNDED OPENING TEMPLATE)**

- Section 12

**6. SHARP POINTS, SHARP EDGES, PROTRUSIONS AND SURFACES**

- Section 12.3

**7. ENTANGLEMENT**

- Section 12.4

**8. GUARDRAILS AND PROTECTIVE BARRIERS**

- Section 13.4

**9. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF PLAY EQUIPMENT**

- Section 15

**10. INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT**

- Section 11

**TEN KEY AREAS – CSA STANDARD – Z614-07**  
**CHILDREN’S PLAYSPACES AND EQUIPMENT**

**1. USER AGE GROUPS**

- Clause 1.1 (page 1) states this standard provides requirements for children aged 18 months to 12 years based on the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile with requirements split into two age groupings: 18 months to 5 years and 5 years to 12 years.
- Section 4 (page 6) states all general recommendations for a playspace apply to this age group and older, although special attention should be paid to the younger children’s developmental needs and to the scale of the equipment.
- All play equipment designed for a specific age group shall have all play activities on that equipment meet the requirements for the designated age group.

**2. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTIVE SURFACING ZONES AND NO-ENCROACHMENT ZONES**

- Section 14 (page 28).
- Playspace layout requirements are covered in this section.
- Protective surfacing requirements must comply with section 10 (page 13).
- The protective surfacing zone for stationary play equipment shall extend no less than 1800 mm (70.87 in.) on all sides of the play structure.
- Requirements for side of swing supports Protective Surfacing Zone – measure 1800 mm (70.87 in.) radius from the end of support beam.
- No-encroachment zone exemptions for swings less than 2.4 m (94.49 in.) high (enclosed seats) (Clause 14.10.2 – page 33) and slides less than 1.2 m (47.24 in.) high (Clause 14.5.3 – page 32).

**3. SURFACING**

- Section 10 (page 13).
- All play equipment with a fall height shall be located on a protective surface.
- Exemption for play equipment with no designated fall height.
- 60-70% of all injuries on playground equipment are caused by falls to the surface (Protective Surfacing protects against serious head injuries).
- Clause 15.16.1 (page 48) states – On elevated platforms where guardrails or protective barriers are required, the fall height shall be measured from the protective surfacing to 725 mm (28.54 in.) above the elevated platform when intended for children 18 months to 5 years old and 950 mm (37.40 in.) above the elevated platform for children 5 to 12 years old.

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**4. INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PROTECTIVE SURFACE**

- Section 10.4 (page 15).
- The owner/operator shall maintain the protective surface to the appropriate fall height for each piece of equipment.
- Periodic site testing of installed protective surfacing shall be performed.

**5. ACCESSIBLE OPENINGS (HEAD, TORSO AND PARTIALLY BOUND OPENING PROBES AND TEMPLATES)**

- Section 12 (page 18).
- Large Probe – Head (head entrapment), Small Probe – Torso (feet first entry)
- Opening between 88.9 mm (3.5 in.) and 228.6 mm (9 in.) is a potential entrapment space.
- Partially Bounded Opening Template is used to test for possible neck entrapment openings such as can be found in picket fence style barriers.

**6. SHARP POINTS, SHARP EDGES, PROTRUSIONS, AND SURFACES**

- Section 12.3 (page 20).
- There shall be no accessible sharp points or edges.
- There shall be no protrusions including threads protruding greater than two threads (Exemption if inaccessible per Fig. 11) (page 62).
- Protrusion Test Gauges (Test per Clauses 12.3.1-12.4.6.4 (pages 20 - 23) and Figures 7 thru 12) (pages 57 - 63).

**7. ENTANGLEMENT**

- Section 12.4 (page 21)
- On play equipment where there is uncontrolled motion, (slides and sliding poles) there shall be no causes of entanglement that could entangle a drawstring or other pieces of clothing.
- Entanglement test per Section 12.4.6 (page 22) and Figures 14 thru 17 (pages 66 - 68).

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**8. GUARDRAILS AND PROTECTIVE BARRIERS**

- Section 13.4 (page 26)
- Guardrails (Sec. 13.4.3 – page 27) and Protective Barriers (Sec. 13.4.4 – page 27) requirements are based on the user group, (18 months to 5 years – 5 years to 12 years).
- Height of platform based on user group determine where a guardrail can be used and where protective barriers must be used.
- Guardrails and protective barriers have specified requirements for entrance exit openings.
- Guardrails and protective barriers shall contain no designated play surfaces.

**9. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF PLAY EQUIPMENT**

- Section 15 (page 33).
- Equipment section outlines specific requirements for various types of play equipment listed within the standard.

**10. INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT**

- Section 11 (page 16).
- Inspection and maintenance is a requirement of ownership.
- The owner/operator shall establish a comprehensive maintenance program.
- The owner/operator shall establish and maintain detailed installation, inspection, maintenance and repair records for each playspace.
- Installation of new and replacement equipment shall be completed according to the manufacturer’s instructions and the standard.

**NOTE:** This list of Ten Key Areas has been created from an interpretation of the CSA Standard – Z614-07. If there are any differences between this list and the CSA Standard – Z614-07, the latter shall prevail.