



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD**  
**SIST-TP CEN/TR 16879:2016**  
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**Umeščanje igrišč in drugih rekreacijskih površin - Nasveti za metode postavitve in ločevanja**

Siting of Playground and other recreational facilities - Advice on methods for positioning and separation

Standortwahl von Spielplatz- und anderen Freizeitanlagen - Ratschlag zu Verfahren für Anordnung und Trennung

Emplacement des aires de jeux et autres installations de loisirs - Conseils sur les méthodes d'implantation et de séparation

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97.200.40	Igrišča	Playgrounds
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TECHNICAL REPORT

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## Siting of Playground and other recreational facilities - Advice on methods for positioning and separation

Emplacement des aires de jeux et autres installations  
de loisirs - Conseils sur les méthodes d'implantation et  
de séparation

Standortwahl von Spielplatz- und anderen  
Freizeitanlagen - Ratschlag zu Verfahren für  
Anordnung und Trennung

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 10 November 2015. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 136.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

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## European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 16879:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 136 “Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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## Introduction

CEN/TC 136/SC 1, the committee responsible for the development of EN 1176 standards, considered that there may be risks to children associated with placing playgrounds in the vicinity of other recreational facilities such as multisport arenas, bouldering walls, roller sport facilities, football goals, outdoor fitness equipment and Parkour facilities. In addition, environmental features such as fast flowing water, deep water with steep banks, roads, and natural formations such as cliffs, can also create hazards if in the proximity of playgrounds.

Specific safety requirements for recreational facilities are covered by their own standards. However, these individual standards do not cover possible risks related to the proximity to other recreational facilities and other environmental hazards.

This technical report gives advice to designers, providers, and inspectors on methods of positioning and separating different recreational facilities, to help reduce the potential risks.

There are four principal methods of separation. These are distance, natural features, fencing and signage, or a combination of these.

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## 1 Scope

This Technical Report gives advice on positioning and possible means of separation between recreational facilities that have different user age groups and levels of risk. This document also gives advice on features to consider in order to address the risks from other features nearby such as traffic, fast flowing water, deep water with steep banks and other natural environmental features such as.

Information given relates to equipment and facilities that are installed for free-access use outdoors only.

This document is intended to give a horizontal approach, to be considered in all CEN/TC 136 relevant standards dealing with free access sports or physical activity facilities.

## 2 Normative references

Not applicable.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **recreational facility**

equipment intended for children's play and free access sport/fitness facilities for all ages

### 3.2

#### **separation**

all physical and visual methods adopted to distinguish one recreational facility from another

### 3.3

#### **siting / positioning**

planning and layout of an area consisting of recreational facilities and other environmental factors and their relationship to one another

### 3.4

#### **carer**

person who exercises responsibility, however temporarily, for an individual child's safety

Note 1 to entry: This could be either:

- a) non-qualified carer: a parent, grandparent, older sibling who has been given a limited responsibility over a child, adult acquaintance, a young person who is a baby sitter; or
- b) qualified carer: a person trained to exercise responsibility for the safety of children or young people, for example a trained/qualified teacher, child minder, youth leader or sports coach.

## 4 Recommendations for separation

### 4.1 General

The main issue is for young and vulnerable children.

The EN 1176 playground standard has safety requirements for young children using playgrounds. It states in 3.1 in a definition of playground equipment that children play according to "their own rules or own reasons for playing which can change at any time". EN 1176 contains safety requirements taking

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into account this free way of playing that young children employ. On most other recreational facilities the acceptable risk level is higher than on playgrounds because they are not intended to be used by young and vulnerable children, and the activity is often prescribed rather than free. The environment around the play area may also contain hazards such as roads, fast flowing water, or deep water with steep banks.

These risks with examples of the related hazards are:

- crushing, e.g. mechanisms in fitness equipment;
- being hit by a fast moving hard object, e.g. skateboard, or football;
- falling onto non-impact attenuating surface from height, e.g. parkour landings and bouldering walls, natural cliffs, trees, playable art;
- being hit by part of some equipment due to unforeseeable movement, e.g. mechanism in fitness equipment;
- unexpected forces, e.g. heavy parts of fitness equipment;
- drowning, e.g. fast flowing river or deep water with steep banks;
- being hit by a vehicle, e.g. road traffic.

## 4.2 Need for separation **iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**

There are three principal reasons for providing separation: **(standards.iteh.ai)**

- a) To help identify risks to the carers of young and vulnerable children. Normally young and vulnerable children are always accompanied by carers. This is the primary means for keeping them safe. However sometimes carers don't recognize a high risk activity and bring children into such facility.

NOTE 1 Some equipment may look like play equipment though they have a higher risk. Carers may not correctly assess the risk of the equipment for their child.

- b) Children may roam away from the playground and continue playing in higher risk areas.

NOTE 2 Children do not just play in playgrounds; they also play in the environment.

- c) Persons or play instruments such as footballs can be a hazard to the safety of young and vulnerable children in the vicinity of the higher risk activity area.

NOTE 3 For example, a child behind a football goal could be hit by a football.

Sometimes playgrounds are used by traceurs and bikers. This type of activity could be a risk to young and vulnerable children using the playground. In addition it may damage the playground equipment. The risk of this happening is increased if facilities such as skate parks and Parkour frames are positioned near to playground equipment.

The risk levels of different environments vary greatly. Table 1 lists different recreational facilities and environmental features. It gives an indication of possible risks if young children access that facility and also gives an indication of risks for young children who are near to a facility.

Table 1 — Facilities and/or environmental features and their associated risks

Type of facility and/or environmental feature	Risk if young and vulnerable children access the facility and/or environmental feature	Risks if young and vulnerable children come near to the facility and/or environmental feature
Playground	Very low risk for the children due to high level of safety requirements from EN 1176.	Nothing
Parkour facility	Medium risk for the children for example due to lack of guarding on landings and lesser impact attenuation.	Nothing
Football pitch	Low risk if a child wanders onto the pitch during the game. No risk at other times.	Low risk due to a chance that a stray-ball hits a young child behind the goal with a great velocity.
Basketball court	Low risk if a child wanders onto the court during the game. No risk at other times.	Very low risk due to a chance that a stray-ball hits a young child nearby with relatively low velocity.
Enclosed multi-sports arena	Very low risk since children cannot easily wander inside the arena during a game.	Very low risk due to a chance that a stray-ball hits a young child nearby with a great velocity.
Roller sports facilities	Medium to high risk if a child gets hit by a skater, or falls from an obstacle.	Nothing
Outdoor fitness equipment	Medium risk to young children due to mechanisms and crushing hazards.	Nothing
Natural play area	Very low risk for the children due to high level of safety requirements from EN 1176.  NOTE Sometimes natural play areas do not comply with EN 1176. However the risk should still be very low as risks in the natural environment are well perceived by carers.	Nothing
Nature's formations such as cliffs	Very low risk, potential is high but risks should have been addressed.	Nothing
Road	Occasional, but high risk of injury if a child runs into the traffic.	Nothing
Fast flowing river or deep water with steep banks. Also water with poor visibility which could impair a quick rescue.	Very high risk due to potential of drowning.	Nothing