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Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1148; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification provides safety requirements for various types of home playground equipment intended for use by children aged from over eighteen months through 10 years. Different age limits for various requirements are found in this specification. These limits reflect the nature of the hazards and the expected mental or physical ability, or both, of the child to cope with the hazards.

1.2 Home playground equipment is defined as any product in which the support structure remains stationary while the activity is taking place and is intended for a child to perform any of the following activities: climbing, swinging, sliding, rocking, spinning, crawling, or creeping, or combination thereof. Fitness equipment is specifically excluded unless attached to the play equipment. This specification is not intended to apply to juvenile care products such as, but not limited to, infant swings, playpens/enclosures, beds, or furniture (including outdoor furniture, such as picnic tables, cradle rockers, activity centers being used as walker substitutes, bouncers, jumpers, infant carriers, and products specifically designed for therapeutic use). This specification is not intended to apply to equipment to be used in places of public assembly such as schools, nurseries, day-care centers, and parks. Equipment intended to be in child-care centers in private homes is not exempt from the requirements of this specification. Such centers are defined as situations in which the child-care provider does not care for more than six children under the age of ten that are not residing in the household of the caregiver, and the total number of children under the age of ten does not exceed ten, including the caregiver's own children.

1.3 Methods of identifying products that comply with this consumer safety specification are given. The illustrations of home playground equipment shown in Figs. A1.1–A1.4 are for informational purposes only and are not intended to limit or endorse certain types of playground equipment or equipment features. These illustrations are not intended to limit the variety or various combinations of equipment that are covered by this consumer safety specification.

1.4 The purpose of this specification is to reduce the likelihood of life-threatening or debilitating injuries.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.6 If toy accessories or toy chests are attached to home playground equipment, they are applicable to this consumer safety specification and to any other applicable safety standards.

NOTE 1—See Annex A1 for figures referenced throughout this consumer safety performance specification.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 2240 Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness[2]

2.2 *Federal Standards:*

16 CFR 1303 Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead-Containing Paint[3]

16 CFR 1500 Hazardous Substances Act Regulations, including sections:[3]

1500.48 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Point in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 8 Years of Age

1500.49 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Metal or Glass Edge in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 8 Years of Age

1500.52 and .53 Test Methods for Simulating Use and Abuse of Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children

16 CFR 1501 Method for Identifying Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 3 Years of Age Which Present Choking, Aspiration, or Ingestion Hazards Because of Small Parts[3]

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218[4]

2.3 *Society for Automotive Engineers Recommended Practice:*[5]

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.09 on Home Playground Equipment.

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[2] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 09.01.

[3] Available from Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

[4] Available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20590.

[5] Available from the Society of Automotive Engineers, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096.

SAE J211 Instrumentation for Barrier Collision

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *anchors*—accessories used to minimize possible tipping of the playground equipment, or lifting of the support legs during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse.

3.1.2 *continuous surface*—a surface smooth to the extent that no hazard such as a catch point for clothing or sharp edge/sharp point is created.

3.1.3 *edge, sharp*[6]—an edge that can cut a child's skin during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse of the playground equipment. Such an edge is judged as sharp pursuant to the provisions of 16 CFR Section 1500.49.

3.1.4 *guardrail*—a guardrail is a device around an elevated surface that is intended to prevent inadvertent falls from the elevated surface.

3.1.5 *hand grasping component*—a component intended to be grasped by the hand to steady a user (such as a handrail).

3.1.6 *hand gripping component*—a component intended to be gripped by the hand to support the full body weight (such as a rung of a horizontal ladder or trapeze bar).

3.1.7 *handrail*—the structural member that helps a child steady himself. As used in this consumer safety performance specification, a handrail is the structural member at the top of a slide that helps a child steady himself while he sits down (see Fig. A1.1).

3.1.8 *normal use—of playground equipment*, those safe play modes which conform to the instructions that accompany the equipment, or have been established by tradition or custom.

3.1.9 *platform*—any elevated horizontal surface intended to be used by children as a place for play or as a transition between components. Slide transition areas <200 in.^{2} are not considered platforms.

3.1.10 *point, sharp*[7]—a point that can puncture or lacerate a child's skin during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse of the playground equipment. Such a point is judged as potentially sharp pursuant to the provisions of 16 CFR Section 1500.48.

3.1.11 *protective barrier*—an enclosure around an elevated surface that is intended to prevent both inadvertent and deliberate attempts to pass through the device.

3.1.12 *reasonably foreseeable abuse*—reasonable foreseeable abuse is defined as those unsafe play modes that are reasonably foreseeable. Examples include a child in the way of a moving swinging element and overloading the equipment or component with more children, or heavier children, than that for which the equipment was designed.

3.1.13 *rung*—a cross-piece in a ladder or other climbing equipment used for supporting the user's feet or grasping by the user's hands, or both. A rung must comply with 4.6 for hand-gripping components.

3.1.14 *small part*[8]—a component that may become detached during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse of the playground equipment and presents a choking, aspiration, or ingestion hazard to a child. Such a component is determined to be a hazard pursuant to the provisions of 16 CFR Part 1501.

3.1.15 *toy accessory*—an article that provides certain play value separate from, but attached to or sold with, home playground equipment intended for play-time use by a child. Such articles include miniature imitations for play use of objects intended primarily for a specific purpose (for example, a toy telephone or a toy gas pump).

3.1.16 *turnbar*—the horizontal bar between the supporting legs of a swing set, such as the one shown in Fig. A1.1.

4. Performance Requirements

4.1 *General*—Home playground equipment shall be manufactured and constructed only of materials that have a demonstrated durability in an outdoor setting. Any new materials shall be documented or tested accordingly for durability by the playground equipment manufacturer or their agent.

4.1.1 Metals subject to structural degradation such as by rust or corrosion shall be painted, galvanized, or otherwise treated. Woods shall be naturally rot- and insect-resistant or treated to avoid such deterioration. Creosote, pentachlorophenol, tributyl tin oxide, and surface coatings that contain pesticides shall not be used for playground equipment. Wood treaters and playground equipment manufacturers shall practice technologies and procedures that minimize the level of dislodgeable toxin. Plastics and other materials that experience ultraviolet (UV) degradation shall be stabilized against ultraviolet light.

4.1.2 Regardless of the material or the treatment process, the manufacturer shall ensure that the users of the playground equipment cannot ingest, inhale, or absorb any potential hazardous amounts of substances through body surfaces as a result of contact with the equipment.

4.1.3 *Lead in Paint*—All paints and finishes used on playground equipment shall be in accordance with Title 16 CFR Part 1303.

4.1.4 *Edges, Points, and Surfaces*—Following assembly of the unit in accordance with the instructions to be provided to the consumer, there shall be no sharp edges, points, or surfaces on any portion of the home playground equipment capable of inflicting a cut on a child during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse.

4.1.5 *Open Tubing*—All open tubing ends that are not resting on the ground, or otherwise covered, shall be provided with caps or plugs that have a smooth finish and are tight-fitting. They shall be subjected to a torque of 4 lbf-in. (0.45 N-m) and a force of 15-lbf (67-N) when tested in accordance with Title 16 CFR Section 1500.53(e and f).

[6] A sharp edge tester suitable for conducting tests in accordance with the Federal regulation at 16 CFR Section 1500.49 is available from U.S. Testing Co., Inc., 1415 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030. Engineering drawings from which a sharp edge tester may be fabricated are available from the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

[7] A sharp point tester for conducting tests in accordance with the Federal regulation at 16 CFR Section 1500.48 is available from U.S. Testing Co., Inc., 1415 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030. An engineering drawing from which a sharp point tester may be fabricated is available from the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Products Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

[8] A small parts cylinder suitable for conducting tests in accordance with the Federal regulation at 16 CFR Part 1501 is available from U.S. Testing Company, Inc., 1415 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030, or Toys to Grow On, P.O. Box 17, Long Beach, CA 90801.

4.1.6 *Pinch, Crush, and Shear Points*— There shall be no pinch, crush, or shear points caused by junctures of two components moving relative to one another that could cause a contusion, laceration, abrasion, amputation, or fracture during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse. A pinch, crush, or shear point is any point that allows a 3⁄16 in. (5 mm) diameter neoprene rod to enter at one or more positions and entraps at one or more positions a ½-in. (13-mm) diameter neoprene rod. Entrapment shall mean that a force of more than 2 lbf (9 N) is required to pull out the rod. The neoprene rods shall have a hardness reading between 50 and 60 as determined by a Type A durometer in accordance with Test Method D 2240.

4.1.7 *Acute Angles*—There shall be no acute angles, or group of acute angles, formed by two or more members in which the legs point upward from the apex so that the configuration approximates a "V" with an interior angle less than 55° (0.96 rad).

4.1.7.1 *Exemptions to 4.1.7*:

(1) Inverted Angle or "V" Condition—Those "V's" that are inverted. A "V" is considered inverted if the lower adjacent leg forming the "V" is horizontal or slopes downward from the apex (see Fig. A1.5).

(2) Filled Apex Condition—"V" angles less than 55° where the apex of the angle is filled to the point that will not allow the head probe to contact both surfaces of the angle simultaneously (see Fig. A1.5). The angle shall be covered with a shield that is made of a rigid material. The shield shall be capable of withstanding impact of at least 20 ft·lbf (27 J) imparted to a spot within 1 in. (25 mm) of the geometric center of the shield by a 5-in. (127-mm) diameter steel ball. The shield shall be tested while secured to the members of the playground equipment by the hardware provided. During the test, the equipment or portions thereof, if required, shall be oriented so that the surface of the shield is horizontal.

4.1.8 *Spacing Between Adjacent Swing Elements*:

4.1.8.1 Swing sets containing adjacent swing elements shall be designed so that there is a minimum of 8 in. (205 mm) separating elements that are capable of limited lateral motion (where two or more chains, ropes, or poles are used for suspension). The outermost lateral extremities of the swinging elements shall govern the measurement of separation; an example is illustrated by Dimension A in Fig. A1.6.

4.1.8.2 Swing elements that are capable of unlimited lateral motion shall be provided with a minimum separation of 15 in. (380 mm) from other swinging elements. The outermost lateral extremities of the swinging elements shall govern the measurement of separation (as illustrated by Dimension B in Fig. A1.6).

4.1.9 *Spacing Between Swing Elements and Stationary Frame Members*:

4.1.9.1 *Occupant Enclosed*—Elements with two or more laterally spaced supports where supports are on both sides of the occupant (for example, suspended chain or rope swings and tubularly suspended lawn swings). Minimum spacing between the outer extremity of the swing element and stationary members shall be 7 in. (180 mm) when measured at a height of 28 in. (710 mm) above the seating surface (see Dimension C in Fig. A1.6).

NOTE 2—Twenty-eight inches (710 mm) is the approximate sitting height of a ten-year-old.

4.1.9.2 *Occupant-Exposed Rides*—Examples are: the pendulum seesaw, horse rides, and others where the suspension system is in line with the occupant. Minimum spacing from stationary members shall be 16 in. (405 mm) as measured from the center of the seating surface at a height of 22 in. (560 mm) above the seating surface (see Dimension D in Fig. A1.6).

NOTE 3—Sixteen inches (405 mm) and 22 in. (560 mm) equate to the clearance required for a ten-year-old when leaning to the side at an angle of 30° (0.52 rad).

4.1.9.3 *Occupant-Exposed Single Suspension*— Examples are: suspended ropes or poles. Minimum spacing from stationary members shall be 15 in. (380 mm) to a height of 53 in. (1350 mm) above ground level (see Dimension E in Fig. A1.6).

NOTE 4—Fifty-three inches (1350 mm) is the approximate standing height of a ten-year-old.

4.1.10 *Hardware*:

4.1.10.1 Upon final assembly, bolt ends shall not protrude beyond the nuts more than the diameter of the bolt when the nuts are tightened to a torque between 20 and 25 lbf·in. (2.3 and 2.8 N·m)).

4.1.10.2 Threaded bolt ends that are recessed such that the end of the bolt lies at or below a surrounding surface located within 1 in. (25 mm) of the centerline of the bolt are exempt from the requirements of 4.1.10.1 (see Fig. A1.7). Recessed threaded bolt ends that are free from hazardous sharp edges and burrs are exempt from the requirements of 4.1.10.3.

NOTE 5—The surrounding surface shall be blended wherever possible to create smooth contours without abrupt changes in shape that could pose a potential impact hazard.

4.1.10.3 If the threaded ends of exposed bolts or rods protrude from adjacent surfaces in areas of normally expected play, or if the thread is not free of exposed hazardous sharp edges or burrs, or both, then the threaded ends shall be covered by smooth finish caps.

4.1.10.4 Any caps that are used shall be tight-fitting when installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. They shall be subjected to a torque of 4 lbf·in. (0.45 N·m) and a tensile force of 15 lbf (67 N). These components shall comply with the requirements of 16 CFR 1500.48, 1500.49, 1500.53 (e and f), and 1501.

4.1.11 Lock washers, self-locking nuts, or other locking means shall be provided for all bolts.

4.1.12 *Hooks*—Open-ended hooks may be used for the uppermost suspension point of suspended elements provided that they have openings, or entry to an opening, in the area inside the boundaries represented by a line that is adjacent to the outer extremity of the uppermost portion of the hook, and parallel to the normal plane of suspension. Some examples of hooks that are acceptable and unacceptable are shown in Fig. A1.8.

4.1.12.1 Hooks used for attachment of rides, or swing elements at any point other than at the uppermost suspension point, shall be designed to allow full closure, or be otherwise protected (for example, protective coverings). A hook is

considered closed when the gap or space cannot admit a 0.04-in. (1-mm) feeler gage.

4.1.13 *Guardrails and Protective Barriers*— Guardrails or protective barriers shall be provided on elevated surfaces such as platforms, landings, walkways, ramps and similar transitional play surfaces, in accordance with the following subsections. Guardrails and protective barriers shall be designed to discourage climbing and must have a top surface less than three inches wide or having greater than a 30 degree angle from horizontal.

4.1.13.1 Elevated surfaces less than or equal to 30 in. (76 cm) above the surfacing do not require guardrails. Guardrails shall be provided on elevated sufaces greater than 30 in. (76 cm) but less than or equal to 48 in. (122 cm) above the surfacing. Protective barriers shall be provided on elevated surfaces greater than 48 in. (122 cm) above the surfacing.

4.1.13.2 Guardrails shall completely surround the elevated surface except for entrance and exit openings necessary for each event. Guardrail overall height shall be 25 in. (63 cm) or more. The maximum vertical opening between the lowermost member of a guardrail and the elevated surface it surrounds shall be 24 in. (61 cm). Openings between guardrail members or between a guardrail and the elevated surface it surrounds shall conform to the recommendations addressing head and neck entrapment. If the top surface of the guardrail creates a completely bounded opening which presents a head and neck entrapment hazard, it is permissible to lower the guardrail to below the 25 in. (63 cm) height requirement to eliminate the head and neck entrapment hazard (see example in Fig. A1.9).

4.1.13.3 Elevated surfaces that are greater than 48 in. (122 cm) above the surfacing but less than or equal to 72 in. (183 cm) above the surfacing shall have protective barriers at least 27 in. (69 cm) high. Elevated surfaces greater than 72 in. (183 cm) above the surfacing shall have protective barriers at least 33 in. high.

(1) Protective barriers shall completely surround the elevated surface except for entrance and exit openings necessary for each event. Protective barriers shall be designed to minimize the likelihood of climbing. Openings within barriers or between the platform surface and lower edge of protective barriers shall preclude passage of the torso probe (see Fig. A1.11).

4.1.14 *Head and Neck Entrapment*—Home playground equipment shall be designed and constructed so that when assembled any accessible opening shall meet the following performance requirements to reduce the risk of accidental head or neck entrapment by either a head first or feet first entry into the opening. Openings between the ground and the bottom edge of the equipment (such as rails, platforms, steps, etc.) are exempt from this requirement as illustrated in Fig. A1.10.

4.1.14.1 *Accessible Openings*—Any completely bounded opening that completely accepts the torso test probe. A completely bounded opening is accessible when a torso test probe may be inserted into the opening to a depth of 4 in. (100 mm) using the following test method (see Fig. A1.11).

(1) Test Procedure and Performance Criteria for Completely Bounded Openings—Place the torso probe in the opening, tapered end first, with the plane of its base parallel to the plane of the opening; rotate the probe while keeping its base parallel to the plane of the opening. If the base of the probe passes through the opening when it is rotated about its own axis in any orientation, place the head probe (see Fig. A1.12) in the opening, tapered end first, while its plane is parallel to the plane of the opening.

(2) An opening can pass this test when tested in accordance with 4.1.13.1(*1*) in one of two ways: (1) the opening does not admit the torso probe when it is rotated to any orientation about its own axis, or (2) the opening admits the torso probe and also admits the head probe.

(3) An opening fails the test under the following conditions: The opening admits the torso probe but does not admit the head probe.

4.1.14.2 Completely bounded openings that are accessible must also meet requirements for angles as outlined in 4.1.7.

4.1.14.3 *Nonrigid Completely Bounded Openings*—A nonrigid opening such as, but not limited to, flexible nets, tarps, and plastic enclosures, is considered accessible if a torso probe will penetrate the opening to a depth of 4 in. (100 mm) when tested in accordance with 4.1.14.1(*1*) (see Fig. A1.11).

(1) Test Procedure for Entrapment in Nonrigid Openings—Place the torso probe in the opening, tapered end first, with the plane of its base parallel to the plane of the opening; rotate the probe while keeping its base parallel to the plane of the opening; apply 50 lbf (222 N) while attempting to push the probe through the opening. If the base of the probe passes through the opening when it is rotated about its own axis in any orientation and 50 lbf (222 N) is applied, place the head probe in the opening, tapered end first, while its plane is parallel to the plane of the opening and 50 lbf (222 N) is applied.

(2) A nonrigid opening can pass the test when tested in accordance with 4.1.14.3(*1*) in one of two ways: (1) the opening does not allow the torso probe to be inserted so deep that the opening admits the base of the probe when it is rotated to any orientation about its own axis, or (2) the opening allows full passage of the torso probe and also allows the head probe to pass completely through.

(3) A nonrigid opening fails the test under the following conditions: the opening allows full passage of the torso probe but does not admit the head probe.

4.1.15 *Holes and Slots*—If a hole or slot in any rigid material can admit a ¼-in. (6-mm) diameter rod to a depth of ⅜ in. (10 mm) or greater, it shall also admit a ½-in. (13-mm) diameter rod.

4.2 *Swings*:

4.2.1 *Hangers*—All swing elements shall have hanger arrangements whose durability shall be determined by either of the following dynamic cycling tests. At the completion of the test there shall be no loosening or structural failure of the hanger.

4.2.1.1 Each type of swing element shall be attached to its support member in accordance with the installation instructions and mounted in a suitable test fixture. Flexible components of the swing element may be replaced by rigid components of at least the same size and weight as long as the alternate components do not affect the swing element's moving parts. The appropriate test weight shall be secured to each occupant

position to be tested. This suspended unit shall then be oscillated through an arc with an included angle as specified in Table 1 for a total of 180 000 cycles (forward and backward).

4.2.1.2 As an alternative to the test in 4.2.1.1, swing hangers may be tested individually in a laboratory test fixture as follows: Secure the hanger to a portion of its support member in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. Install the support member and hanger in the test fixture shown in Fig. A1.13, ensuring that the pivot axis of the test fixture and the pivot point of the hanger are aligned. In accordance with Table 1, attach the appropriate test weight to the hanger and oscillate the hanger support member 180 000 cycles (forward and backward) through the appropriate arc.

4.2.2 *Minimum Ground Clearance*—When the assembled swing set is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, the minimum clearance between the ground surface and the underside of any suspended unit shall be 8 in. (200 mm).

4.2.3 *Single-Occupancy Swings*—Swings designed for individual use, when tested in accordance with the impact test method in Appendix X1, shall not impart a peak acceleration in excess of 100 *g* (980 m/s^2) to the test headform.

NOTE 6—Rides with straddle-type seats (such as a horse) are exempt from this requirement.

4.2.4 *Multiple-Occupancy Swings*—These swings shall be provided with platforms or footrests and seats meeting the criteria given in 4.2.4.1-4.2.4.4.

4.2.4.1 Seats intended for individual or dual passengers that include a backrest shall be designed so that any opening between the seat and the backrest shall prevent entry of the test fixture (see Figs. A1.14 and A1.15) when it is located at any point in the opening and a force of 45 lb (200 N) is applied to the fixture in a direction perpendicular to the entrance plane of the opening. The force shall be applied gradually and maintained for 5 min.

4.2.4.2 The platform or footrest shall extend no less than 1 in. (25 mm) behind the forward leading edge of the seat (see Dimension A, Fig. A1.14). This dimension shall be measured horizontally with the swing in its at-rest position. The space between any slats in the platform shall be no greater than 1½ in. (38 mm).

4.2.4.3 The area of the platform that extends beyond the vertical supports of the swing shall be angled upwards not less than 30° from the horizontal (see Angle C, Fig. A1.14).

4.2.4.4 The bottom edge of the seat skirt shall not be more than 10 in. (250 mm) above the top surface of the platform or footrest when the swing is in its at-rest position (see Dimension B, Fig. A1.14).

4.2.5 *Pendulum See-Saws*—Pendulum see-saws shall be provided with footrests. There shall be no openings with internal dimensions of which both the length and width are greater than 3.5 in. (89 mm) and less than 9 in. (229 mm). The spacing between the two support bars shall not decrease toward the seat supports. In the case of a pendulum see-saw designed with formed handles providing a greater opening, the minimum spacing below the formed handles shall be greater than 9 in. (229 mm).

TABLE 1 Swing Hanger Arc and Test Weight

Swing Type	θ_o, degrees	Test Weight, lb (kg)
Single-occupancy swing (two hangers)	90	80 (37)
Multiple-occupancy exposed swing (two hangers, two occupants)	60	130 (60)
Multiple-occupancy enclosed swing (four hangers, two occupants)	45	60 (27)
Multiple-occupancy enclosed swing (four hangers, four occupants)	45	120 (54)

4.3 *Slides*:

4.3.1 *Slide Requirements*:

4.3.1.1 Slides shall be constructed in a manner that eliminates exposed vertical members or angular up-rights.

4.3.1.2 A handrail shall be provided on all sides of the transition area (except on entrance and exit areas) that meet the enclosed opening requirements of 4.1.13. Slide transition areas larger than 200 in.^{2} are considered platforms and shall comply with the requirements for guardrails and protective barriers found in 4.1.13.

(1) All handrail bend radii shall be a minimum of 2 in. (50 mm).

4.3.1.3 The transition area at the top of a slide shall be at least 10 in. (250 mm) long and shall be at least as wide as the sliding surface.

4.3.1.4 With the exception of roller slides (see 4.3.3), the inclined sliding surface and the exit surface shall be one continuous surface.

4.3.1.5 The slide shall have raised edges that project at least 1 in. (25 mm) above the slide surface when measured perpendicularly to that surface.

4.3.1.6 The slide shall have a reduced-gradient exit surface at least 6 in. (150 mm) in length; the reduced-gradient exit surface shall be at a minimum angle of 18° from the inclined sliding surface, and the exit surface shall be greater than 0°, but not more than 30° (0.52 rad), from horizontal.

(1) Slides having an entrance height of 4.5 ft (1.4 m) or less and having an inclined angle of 30° or less from the horizontal are not subject to the reduced gradient requirement.

4.3.1.7 The end of the slide shall be no more than 12 in. (300 mm) off the ground as measured from the sliding surface.

4.3.1.8 The end of the exit surface on metal slides shall be formed through an arc of at least 170° (2.97 rad).

4.3.1.9 Slides exceeding 4.5 ft in height from platform to ground level shall have a side of not less than 2.5 in. (64 mm) above the slide bed commencing at a point on the slide 4.5 ft, as measured vertically, from the ground and extending to the top platform on the slide.

4.3.1.10 Figure A1.16 illustrates these requirements for slides.

4.3.2 *Stability of Free-Standing Slides*— Free-standing slides, when anchored in accordance with the instructions enclosed with the slide, shall be capable of supporting a sandbag weighing the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user (see Table 2) completely hanging over the handrail at its highest point without any part of the slide being lifted from a level supporting surface.

4.3.3 *Roller Slides*—Roller slides shall meet the specified requirements for slides in 4.3 with the exception of the requirement of continuous surface.

TABLE 2 Structural Integrity Loading Chart[A]

Age (years)	50th Percentile, lb (kg)	95th Percentile, lb (kg)	Area Occupied by User, ft² (cm²)
1.5	22.7 (10.3)	26.8 (12.2)	0.6 (558)
2	28 (12.7)	29 (13.2)	0.7 (651)
3	32.8 (14.9)	42 (18.9)	0.8 (744)
4	35.3 (16)	43 (19.7)	0.8 (744)
5	39.7 (18)	50 (22.6)	0.9 (837)
6	44.1 (20)	59 (26.6)	1.0 (930)
7	50.5 (22.9)	69 (31.2)	1.1 (1023)
8	56.2 (25.5)	81 (37)	1.2 (1116)
9	63.1 (28.6)	89 (40.4)	1.3 (1209)
10	70.5 (32)	105 (47.9)	1.4 (1302)

[A] Values given for boys or girls, whichever is higher.

4.3.3.1 There shall be no pinch, crush, shear, entrapment, nor catch points between the junctures caused by two or more components that could cause a contusion, laceration, abrasion, amputation, or fracture during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse.

(1) A pinch, crush, shear, entrapment or catch point is any point that will admit a 3⁄16-in. diameter neoprene rod at one or more positions, either between rollers or adjacent segments.

(2) The neoprene rod shall have a hardness reading between 50 and 60 as determined by a Type A durometer in accordance with Specification D 2240.

4.4 *Swing Set Stability*—With the swing set assembled in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, and installed with a 5° downward slope in the same direction as the swinging elements, the swing set shall remain upright when a weight equal to the 95th percentile weight for the maximum age user (see Table 2) is placed in the first two positions of the swing set and a weight equal to the 50th percentile weight is placed in all remaining positions that can be occupied by a child, and the swinging elements are swung freely in unison through the angles as specified in Table 1.

4.5 *Merry-Go-Rounds*—No stationary members of a merry-go-round device that are accessible to the child under normal conditions of use and that present an obstruction to the limbs of the user shall be located within the zone illustrated in Fig. A1.17 (for example, stationary legs within the excluded zone are not acceptable, but a single center pedestal lying within the excluded zone that is free of projections is acceptable).

4.6 *Hand Gripping/Grasping Components*:

4.6.1 *Hand Gripping Components* intended to be gripped by the hands to support body weight, such as rungs of horizontal ladders, climbing bars, and the like, shall not exceed 1.55 in. (39.4 mm) in diameter or in the maximum cross-sectional dimension. When structural requirements cannot reasonably be met by the 1.55 in. diameter components, care must be exercised in selecting alternate components and designs, or both, to ensure that hand-gripping potential is not seriously impaired.

4.6.2 *Hand Grasping Component*—A component intended to be grasped can have a circumference that permits the hand to extend around part of the component. The distance from the tips of the fingers to the tip of the thumb may be less than the circumference of the component being grasped. See Fig. A1.18.

4.7 *Structural Integrity*—The tests specified in 4.7.1-4.7.7 shall be performed on units assembled in accordance with the installation instructions enclosed with the equipment. There shall be no loosening, instability of the equipment, or structural failure[9] of any component or assembly during or immediately upon completion of these tests. Where it is specified that loads on structural members shall be applied through a 3.5 in. (89-mm) long wood block, the block shall have a width of at least the width of the structural member and it shall be fabricated from lumber with a minimum thickness of ¾ in. (19 mm) (see Tables 2 and 3).

4.7.1 *Rungs, Steps, and Horizontal Supporting Members*—Rungs, steps, and other horizontal supporting members 24 in. (610 mm) or less in length, except turnbars and footrests, shall be capable of sustaining a vertical load (gradually applied) of 3 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user applied for 5 min to a 3.5 in. (89 mm) long wood block resting on the center of the member. Turnbars shall be capable of sustaining a vertical load (gradually applied) of 3 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user applied for 5 min to two 3.5 in. (89 mm) long wood blocks, one resting at the ⅓ and the other at the ⅔ points between the ends of the turnbar. Footrests shall be capable of sustaining a vertical load (gradually applied) of 1.5 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user applied for 5 min to a 3.5 in. (89 mm) long wood block at the center of one (or the other) footrest. Horizontal members greater than 24 in. (610 mm) in length, except turnbars, shall be capable of sustaining for 5 min a vertical load of 4 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user gradually applied to two 3.5 in. (89 mm) long wood blocks, one resting at the ⅓ and the other at the ⅔ points between the ends of the horizontal member. The load (or loads) shall be applied to one member at a time, unless otherwise specified for the particular equipment.

4.7.2 *Top Support Bar*—The top support bar of any swing set shall be loaded with a total load applied vertically, without

[9] Structural failure occurs when the equipment or any component thereof no longer meets the requirement of this consumer safety specification.

TABLE 3 Minimum Test Loads for Individual Suspended Units

Unit	Test Conditions	Simultaneous Minimum Weight Load per Child Position
Swing	in swing set[A]	6 × 95 % weight of maximum age user
2 passenger occupant exposed swing (seats)[B]	in swing set	1.5 × 95 % weight of maximum age user
2 passenger occupant enclosed swing (seats)[B]	in swing set	1.5 × 95 % weight of maximum age user
2 passenger occupant enclosed swing (platforms)[B]	in swing set	1.5 × 95 % weight of maximum age user
4 passenger occupant enclosed swing (seats)[B]	in swing set[A]	1.5 × 95 % weight of maximum age user
4 passenger occupant enclosed swing (platforms)[B]	in swing set[A]	1.5 × 95 % weight of maximum age user
Trapeze	in swing set	3 × 95 % weight of maximum age user
Poles, ropes, chains, "O" rings	in swing set	3 × 95 % weight of maximum age user

[A] Auxiliary support of the top bar during the test shall be permissible.
[B] The seats shall be tested separately from the platforms.

shock, and the total load shall remain for 5 min. This total load shall be the sum of the following loads, as applicable:

4.7.2.1 For swings, ropes, and poles, a load of 1.5 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user for each position normally occupied by a child at play.

4.7.2.2 For pendulum see-saws, a load of 1.2 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user for each position normally occupied by a child at play.

4.7.2.3 For multiple-occupancy swings, a load of 1.1 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user for each position normally occupied by a child at play.

4.7.3 *Individual Suspended Units*—Individual suspended units shall be tested one at a time, as indicated in Table 3, without evidence of structural failure to the unit or its supporting system. The loads shall be gradually applied and each unit shall be loaded for 5 min.

4.7.4 *Slides*—A load of 3 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user each shall be applied simultaneously at the starting point of the inclined sliding surface and exit surfaces of the slide. The loads shall be gradually applied and shall remain in position for 5 min.

4.7.5 *Rockers* (See Fig. A1.19)—A load of 1.5 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user shall be applied vertically, without shock, to each position that would normally be occupied by a child at play, and all the loads shall remain in position simultaneously for 5 min.

4.7.6 *Merry-Go-Rounds* (See Fig. A1.20)—A load of 1.5 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user shall be applied vertically, without shock, to each position that would normally be occupied by a child at play, and all the loads shall remain in position simultaneously for 5 min.

4.7.7 *Climbing Towers/Jungle Gyms* (See Fig. A1.21)—A total load of 7.5 times the 95th percentile weight of the maximum age user shall be divided and applied in five equal segments. These five loads shall be applied in the worst possible configuration (that is, in the positions that will most likely cause failure or instability, or both, of the climbing tower or jungle gym). The loads shall be applied by loading horizontal members using 3.5 in. (89 mm) long wood blocks in the center of the member, with the loads remaining simultaneously for 5 min.

4.7.8 *Platforms*—A platform shall be loaded with a total load applied vertically without shock, and the total load shall remain for 5 min. For the purpose of applying the load, the platform shall be divided into four equal area quadrants. The total load shall be located in equal portions, in the center of each quadrant and at the center point of the platform, a total of 5 points (see Fig. A1.22).

4.7.8.1 When the square foot area of a platform is smaller than the square foot area for the maximum intended user, the total load shall be applied at the center point of the platform.

4.7.8.2 For this test, weights shall be placed on load distribution devices. Each device shall be a 6 by 6 by 2 in. nominal thickness wood block.

4.7.8.3 The total load shall be the sum of the following:

(1) Based on the area of the platform, determine the maximum number of users, as follows:

$$\frac{\text{area of platform (ft}^2\text{ (cm}^2\text{))}}{X} = N \quad (1)$$

where:
N = maximum number of users, and
X = area for maximum age user from Table 2.

Round to the nearest whole number.

(2) With the maximum number of users, apply the load for two 95th percentile maximum age users and the balance of the total users, 50th percentile maximum age users mass from Table 2, as follows:

$$N - 2 = N^1 \quad (2)$$

$$2 \times \text{95th percentile lb (kg) of maximum age user} + N^1 \times \text{50th percentile lb (kg) of maximum age user} = \text{total load} \quad (3)$$

4.8 *Protrusions*—When tested in accordance with 4.8.1-4.8.6.1, no protrusion shall extend beyond the face of the appropriate test gage as defined in 4.8 and shown in Figs. A1.23 and A1.24.

4.8.1 Perform protrusion tests by successively placing each test gage shown in Fig. A1.23 to determine if the protrusion extends beyond the face of the smallest gage that can be successfully placed over the protrusion (for example of test gage use, see Fig. A1.25).

4.8.2 *Upright Protrusions*—Protrusions that fit within any of the gages and that project upwards from a horizontal plane shall have no projection extending more than ⅛ in. (3 mm) perpendicular to the plane of the initial surface (see Fig. A1.26).

4.8.3 *Motion Rides*—Protrusions on the front and rear surfaces of suspended members of swinging elements and those on the interior surface of slides shall not protrude beyond the face of the test gage shown in Fig. A1.24. Conduct the test with the suspended member in its rest position. Place the gage shown in Fig. A1.24 over any protrusions on the front and rear surfaces of the suspended member such that the axis of the hole is parallel to both the intended path of the suspended member and a horizontal plane.

4.8.4 *Slides*—Slides, including protective barriers and their method of attachment and transition areas, pose a greater risk of entanglement than other areas of play equipment. Therefore, the following requirements apply to slides and sliding devices:

4.8.4.1 Any accessible protrusion that allows the 3.0 in. (76 mm) protrusion gage to pass over it shall have no projection extending perpendicular from the initial surface more than ⅛ in. (3 mm). The area that is subject to this requirement is outlined in Fig. A1.27. The outside surface of tunnel slides that are completely enclosed are not subject to the requirements of this section.

4.8.4.2 Slides shall be constructed in such a manner as to provide a smooth continuous sliding surface with no gaps or spaces that might create an entanglement hazard such as, but not limited to, the space created between sidewalls when two single slides are combined to create a double wide slide or the point where a hood attaches to the sidewalls of a slide. Roller

slides are exempt from the requirements of this section. See 4.3.3 for specific requirements for roller slides.

4.8.5 No protrusion may terminate in a dimension greater than that of the base dimension (see Fig. A1.28). In the case of hardware as defined in 4.1.8, the base dimension shall be defined as the major dimension of the attachment nut or bolt head.

4.8.6 *Exclusions*—Protrusions are exempt from the requirements of 4.8.2 and may be considered inaccessible if the protrusion cannot be placed within the 3.0-in. diameter test gage (see Fig. A1.29).

4.8.6.1 Rope protrusions are specifically exempted from the requirements of 4.8.

4.9 *Ropes*:

4.9.1 A suspended climbing rope, chain, or cable shall be secured at both ends to prevent the rope, chain or cable from being looped back on itself creating a loop with an interior perimeter of 5 in. A rope, chain, or cable that is used to support a swing seat is exempt.

4.10 *Requirements for Access*

4.10.1 *Rung Ladders, Stepladders and Stairways*:

4.10.1.1 Rungs, steps and stairs shall be evenly spaced within a tolerance of ±0.25 in. (±6 mm) and horizontal within a tolerance of ±2°. The even spacing will include the distance between the top rung, step or stair and the top surface of the platform.

4.10.1.2 Rung ladders, stepladders and stairways shall comply with the recommendations found in Table 4.

4.10.2 *Handrails*:

4.10.2.1 Continuous handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairways at a point where the top surface of the tread exceeds 30 in. above the ground surface. The handrail shall comply with the requirements for guardrails and barriers in 4.1.13.

4.10.2.2 Rung ladders and step ladders with an incline greater than 65° and all step ladders with closed risers, must provide hand gripping components or other means of continuous hand support beginning at the first step of a step ladder or first rung of a rung ladder that conform to the requirements of 4.6 for handgripping components.

(1) Rung ladders shall have hand-gripping support above the platform to facilitate the transition from the ladder to the platform.

TABLE 4 Access Requirements for Rung Ladders, Stepladders and Stairways

Type of Access	
Rung Ladder:	
slope	60 to 90°
total ladder width	≥12 in.
vertical rise (top of rung to top of rung)	≤12 in.
Stepladders:	
Slope	≥65 to< 75°
Tread width:	
single file access	12 to 21 in.
two-abreast access	not recommended
Tread depth:	
open riser	≥3 in.
closed riser (see X2.2.)	≥7 in.
verticle rise (top of step to top of step)	≤11 in.
Stairways:	
Slope	<50°
Tread width:	
single file access	≥12 in.
two-abreast access	≥30 in.
Tread depth:	
open riser	≥7 in.
closed riser	≥7 in.
vertical rise (top of step to top of step)	≤9 in.

5. Labeling

5.1 Each item of playground equipment shall be permanently marked in a conspicuous location with the name and address (city, state, and zip code) of the manufacturer, distributor, or seller.

5.2 The following information shall be permanently and prominently displayed on the product:

THIS PRODUCT IS INTENDED FOR USE BY CHILDREN FROM AGES ____ TO ____.

6. Instructions

6.1 *General Information*:

6.1.1 *Information on Manufacturer or Distributor*—The instructions shall carry in a prominent place the name and address of the manufacturer or distributor, and the model number of the playground equipment. Also, there shall be an instruction advising the buyer to save this instruction and information sheet in the event that the manufacturer has to be contacted.

6.1.2 *Information on Playground Surfacing Materials*:

6.1.2.1 The instructions shall include the manufacturers determination of maximum fall height for the product.

6.1.2.2 Maximum fall height for the product is determined as follows:

(1) Swings = pivot point,

(2) Elevated platforms with guardrails = top surface of the guardrail,

(3) Elevated platforms with protective barriers = the height of the platform,

(4) Climbers and horizontal ladders = top surface of the component, and

(5) Rockers and seesaws = maximum height of the designated play surface normally occupied by a user.

6.1.2.3 The instructions shall also include the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's (USCPSC) Consumer Information Sheet for playground surfacing material or specific surfacing guidelines for the product consistent with the US-CPSC Consumer Information Sheet. A copy of this document may be found in Appendix X3.

6.1.2.4 Equipment with a designated playing surface of 20 in. or less in height is exempt from the requirements of 6.1.2.

6.2 *Installation Instructions and Information*—The installation instructions and information shall state the following:

6.2.1 Place the equipment on level ground, not less than 6 ft (1.8 m) from any structure or obstruction such as a fence, garage, house, overhanging branches, laundry lines, or electrical wires.

6.2.2 Do not install home playground equipment over concrete, asphalt, packed earth, or any other hard surface. A fall onto a hard surface can result in serious injury to the equipment user.

6.2.3 Equipment that is required by the manufacturer to be anchored, either in concrete or by ground anchors not provided with the equipment shall have a statement informing the consumer that the product must be anchored and that the anchors are sold separately. This statement shall be prominently displayed (1) on the shipping carton, (2) in the instructions, (3) on the point of purchase display, and (4) on promotional materials, informing the consumer that the product must be anchored. Such equipment shall be accompanied by detailed instructions on how anchoring is to be accomplished to prevent tipping, overturning, or lifting of the support members during anticipated use. The instruction shall include information on anchoring in sandy soil conditions. The instruction shall also state that all anchoring devices must be placed below the level of the playing surface to prevent tripping or injury resulting from a fall.

6.2.4 When the equipment is shipped other than completely assembled, assembly instructions shall be provided including schematic drawings or renderings which, when followed, will enable an unskilled layman to correctly assemble the equipment and to avoid errors that could result in unsafe assembly.

6.2.5 Full-size diagrams of bolts, nuts, and washers and a list and description of all tools required shall be incorporated into the instructions. Lock nuts shall be clearly identified. Cautionary statements shall be included that recommend tightening bolts securely. There shall be instructions advising the buyer to tighten the nuts on bolts flush to the tube (or member) and that caps which go over the exposed bolts shall be put on snug to the nut.

6.2.6 To prevent serious injury, cautionary statements shall be included which warn that children must not use the equipment until properly installed.

6.3 *Operating Instructions*—The operating instructions shall include statements:

6.3.1 Observing the following statements and warnings reduces the likelihood of serious or fatal injury.

6.3.2 Specifying the number and weight of occupants that may safely use the equipment singly or simultaneously,

6.3.3 Recommending on-site adult supervision for children of all ages,

6.3.4 Warning the buyer to instruct children not to walk close to, in front of, behind, or between moving items,

6.3.5 Warning the buyer to instruct children not to twist swing chains or ropes or loop them over the top support bar since this may reduce the strength of the chain or rope,

6.3.6 Warning the buyer to instruct children to avoid swinging empty seats,

6.3.7 Warning the buyer to teach children to sit in the center of the swings with their full weight on the seats,

6.3.8 Warning the buyer to instruct children not to use the equipment in a manner other than intended,

6.3.9 Warning the buyer to instruct children not to get off equipment while it is in motion,

6.3.10 Warning the parent to dress children appropriately (examples would include the use of well-fitting shoes and the avoidance of ponchos, scarfs, and other loose-fitting clothing that is potentially hazardous while using equipment),

6.3.11 Warning the buyer to instruct children not to climb when the equipment is wet,

6.3.12 Warning the buyer to check the openings between rollers and sliding surfaces of roller slides for foreign materials that could be potentially hazardous to users,

6.3.13 Warning the buyer to verify that suspended climbing ropes, chain, or cable are secured at both ends, and

6.3.14 Warning the buyer to verify that suspended climbing ropes, chain, or cable cannot be looped back on itself.

6.3.15 Warning the buyer to instruct children not to attach items to the playground equipment that are not specifically designed for use with the equipment, such as, but not limited to, jump ropes, clothesline, pet leashes, cables and chain as they may cause a strangulation hazard.

6.4 The following warning statements shall appear in the instruction manual concerning use of two- or four-passenger lawn swings that have an opening between the seat and the back surfaces:

WARNING: Lawn swings are designed for use by children two years of age and older. Use by children under the age of two can result in entrapment between the seat and back areas. NEVER place children in a rearward facing position or with legs between the seat and backrest because the child's body may pass through the opening causing entrapment of the child's head.

6.5 *Maintenance Instructions*—The maintenance instructions shall include the following statements:

6.5.1 Check all nuts and bolts twice monthly during the usage season for tightness and tighten as required. It is particularly important that this procedure be followed at the beginning of each season.

6.5.2 Remove plastic swing seats and take indoors or do not use when the temperature drops below °F (temperature to be selected by the manufacturer).

6.5.3 Oil all metallic moving parts monthly during the usage period.

6.5.4 Check all coverings for bolts and sharp edges twice monthly during usage season to be certain they are in place. Replace when necessary. It is especially important to do this at the beginning of each new season.

6.5.5 Check swing seats, ropes, cables and chains monthly during usage season for evidence of deterioration. Replacement should be made in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

6.5.6 Sand rusted areas on tubular members and repaint using a nonlead-based paint meeting the requirements of Title 16 CFR Part 1303.

6.6 *Disposal Instructions*—There shall be instructions advising the buyer to disassemble and dispose of the playground equipment in such a way that no unreasonable hazards will exist at the time the swing set is discarded.

7. General Requirements

7.1 *Applicable to All Home Playground Equipment*—Playground equipment represented as complying with this voluntary consumer safety performance specification shall meet all applicable requirements specified herein. Anyone representing compliance with this consumer safety performance specification shall keep such essential records as are

necessary to document his claim that the requirements within this consumer safety specification have been met.

NOTE 7—A rationale for provisions in this consumer safety performance specification is given in Appendix X2.

8. Packaging

8.1 All equipment shall be packaged in a manner that will preclude any sharp edges from being exposed during transit or storage.

9. Identification of Conformance to This Standard

9.1 No item of playground equipment shall indicate, by label or other means, conformance with this specification unless it conforms to all requirements contained herein. The following statement is suggested for use in identifying a product that conforms to all requirements in this specification:

9.1.1 "This conforms to ASTM F 1148, Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment."

ANNEX

(Mandatory Information)

A1. FIGURES

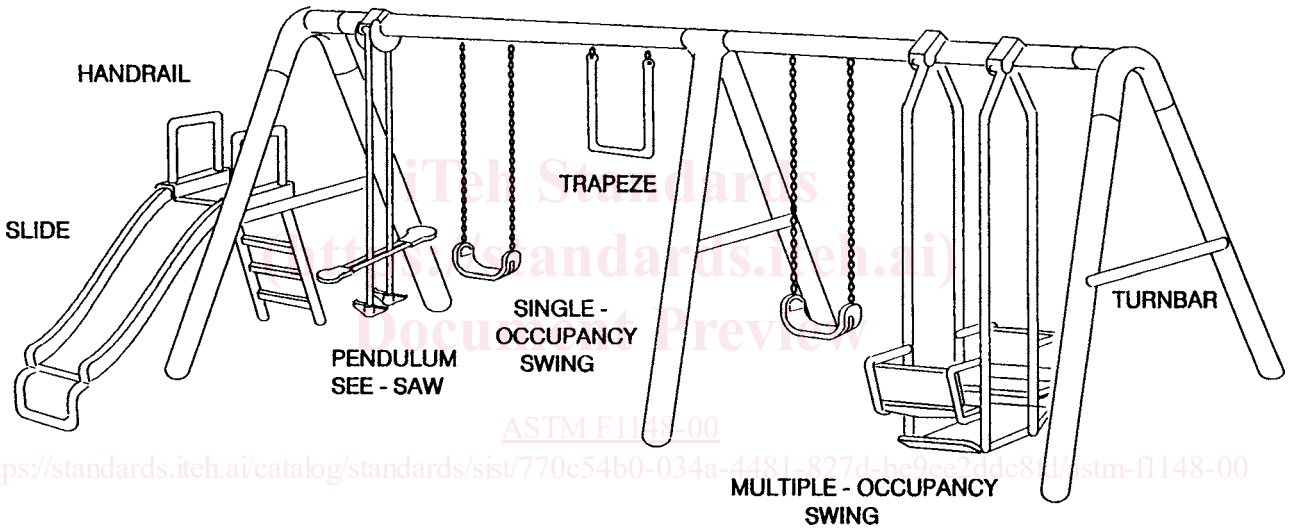

FIG. A1.1 Swing Set (Metal)

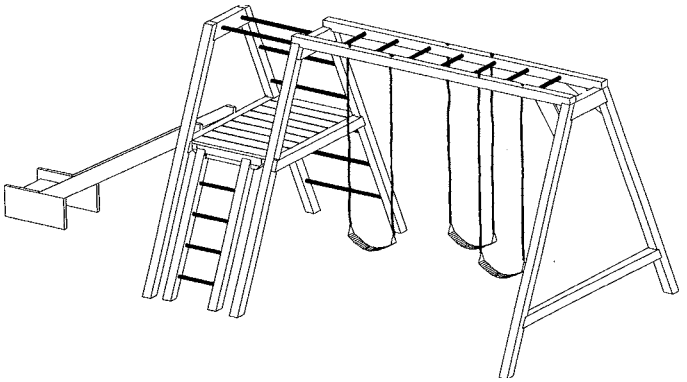

FIG. A1.2 Swing Set (Wood)

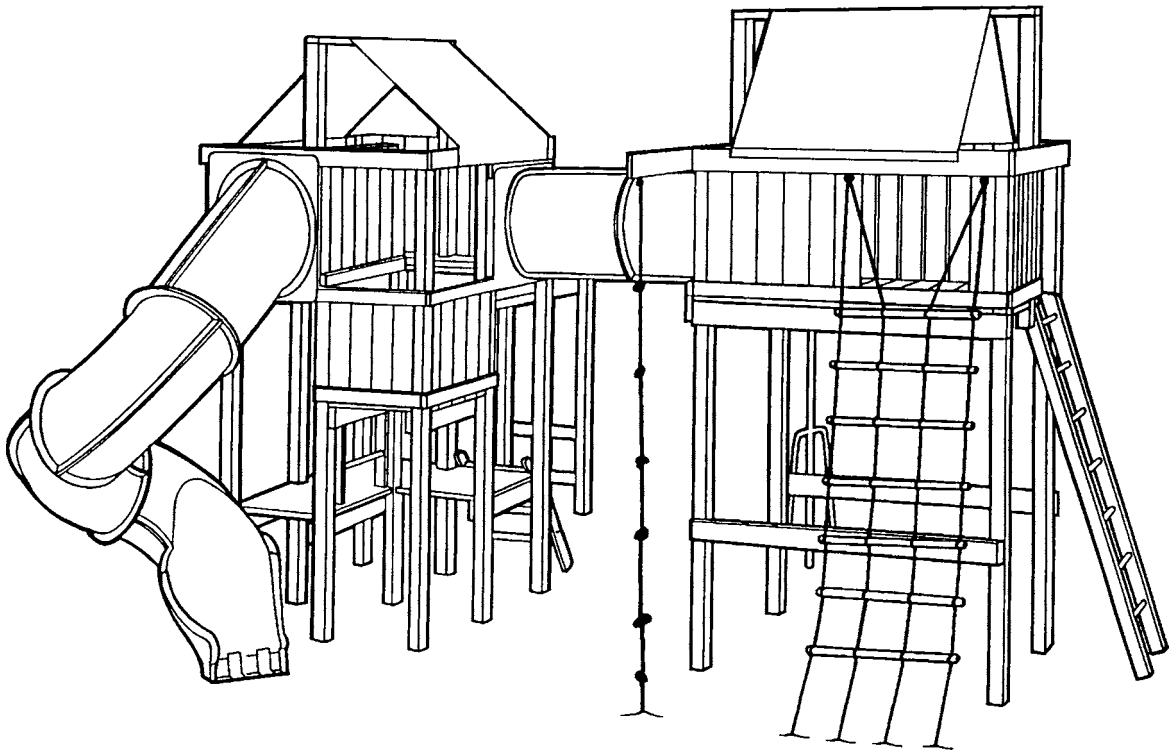

FIG. A1.3 Clubhouse or Fort with Climbers and Slides

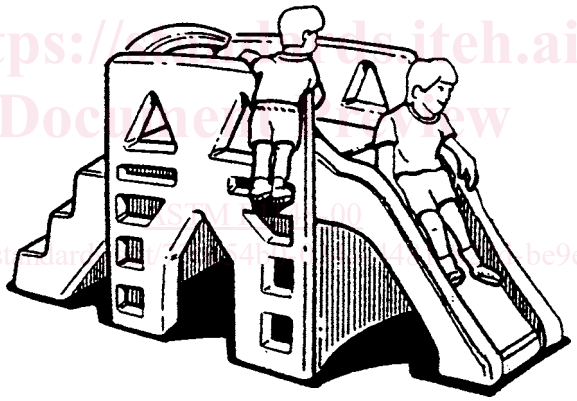

FIG. A1.4 Portable Plastic Play Equipment