

National ADA Symposium

The most comprehensive conference available on the Americans with Disabilities Act

Accessible Playground Surfaces

May 31, 2012
Indianapolis, IN

Session Agenda

- Application of play area surface standards
- Where required
- Surface accessibility criteria
- Background on playground surface research study
- Research design
- First year findings
- Q & A

Application of 2010 ADA Accessibility Standard

- Required for newly constructed or altered play areas - March 15, 2012
- Existing play areas – not part of the “safe harbor”
 - Title II – “program accessibility”
 - Title III – “readily achievable barrier removal”
- Federal play areas – Covered by same provisions (ABAAS)

Play Areas

(Published Fall 2000)

- Play Components
- Accessible Routes
- Surfacing
- Soft Contained Play Structures

Guide to ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Inspector General



UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD

Location

Ground level accessible routes connect ground level play components required to be accessible, including entry and exit points.





Ground level accessible routes

- Clear width
- Changes in level
- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Openings
- Vertical Clearance
- **Surface**





Ground level accessible routes

Ground surfaces used on accessible routes, turning spaces, and clear spaces must comply with ASTM F1951- 99





ASTM F 1951-99 (Specification for Determination of Accessibility of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment)





Measuring surfaces



Wheelchair work method - tests effort for both straight-ahead and turning movements

To meet the standard, the force required to propel across the tested surface must be less than that which is required to propel a wheelchair up a ramp with a slope of 1:14.



Laboratory surface testing



Lab test was originally intended as a interim step before a field test



Accessible surfaces located in the use zone

If located within the use zone, the accessible ground surfaces must also be impact attenuating (ASTM 1292-99).





Field test for impact attenuation



Triax 2000

**Records the G-max and
HIC values of each drop**

G-max < 200

HIC < 1000.

Surface inspection and maintenance

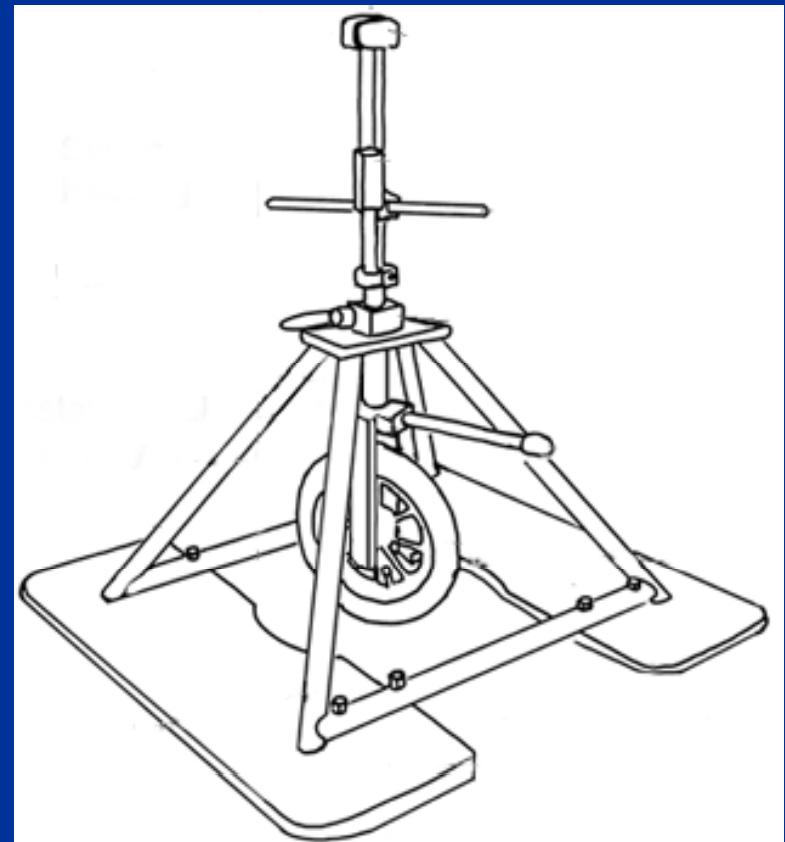
Accessible ground surfaces must be inspected and maintained regularly & frequently to ensure continued compliance with ASTM 1951-99.





Development of a Field Test

- 1993 - Initial development of RP
- 2000 – Correlation of test results
- 2005 - Revision process of ASTM F1951 began



Care and maintenance of surface material required



Basis for Research Project

- Evaluate a variety of playground surfaces over 3-5 years
- Ability to meet accessibility requirements, costs upon initial installation, and maintenance

A Longitudinal Study
of Playground
Surfaces
to Evaluate
Accessibility:
Year One Findings
Executive Summary
May 2011