

## British and European Standards for Outdoor Play

- During 2008, revisions to the existing Standards for Outdoor Play were published and are now referred to as BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177
- BS EN 1176 is in 11 parts including:-
  - Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods.
  - Part 2: Additional safety requirements and test methods and swings
  - Part 3: Additional safety requirements and test methods for slides
  - Part 4: Additional safety requirements and test methods for cableways
  - Part 5: Additional safety requirements and test methods for carousels
  - Part 6: Additional safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment
  - Part 7: Guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation
  - Part 10: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for fully enclosed play equipment
  - Part 11: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for spatial network
- BS EN 1177 – Impact Attenuating playground surfacing – Determination of Critical Height
- Copies of the updated Standards are available from:
  - British Standards Institution
  - 389 Chiswick High Road
  - London W4 4AL
  - Customer Services Tel: +44 (0) 20 89969001
  - (Members ONLY email: [info@bsi.org.uk](mailto:info@bsi.org.uk))
- Arising from the revision of the above Standard, there are three important issues that affect surfacing:
  1. The installation depth of loose fill surface is the test depth + 100mm, not 200mm as before, to give the required critical fall height.

Product Name	Test depth to give a minimum 2.40 metres fall height	Installation depth Test Depth + 100mm
Playbark® 10/50	100mm = 2.42 metres test result	100 + 100 = 200mm
Playbark® 8/25	200mm = 2.55 metres test result	150 + 100 = 250mm
Playchips®	150mm = 2.50 metres test result	150 + 100 = 250mm
Kushyfall	100mm = 2.59 metres test result	100 + 100 = 200mm
Sofffall	200mm = 3.42 metres test result	200 + 100 = 300mm
Playsand	200mm = 3.11 metres test result	200 + 100 = 300mm

Please allow a settlement amount to each of above installation depths. Refer to Melcourt Technical Data

2. Grass matrix type surfaces will be issued with a Test Certificate resulting from laboratory testing only.
3. Under the revised BS EN 1176, well-maintained grass is acceptable for fall heights of up to 1.5metres, subject to a satisfactory risk assessment.

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Furthermore, equipment with a fall height of less than 600mm, an impact attenuating surface, tested to BS EN 1177, is only needed where the equipment causes a forced movement on the body of the user.

- The new Standards are not mandatory. However, in the case of an accident where legal action is taken, the play provider will have to satisfy the court that they had sufficient and valid reasons for not complying to the Standard.
- The Standard is not retrospective.
- In some areas, the Standard is specific in others, general guidance with examples are given.



### Contact

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