



Safety standards sorted

This year, the indoor play industry received its own European safety standard and guideline. First published in 2008, BS EN1176 and its new Part 10* was implemented in the UK from January 1 2010.

The new standards mean that play designers, Register of Play Inspectors International-certified annual inspectors and the Play Providers Association (PPA) all work from an agreed safety standard and shared understanding on indoor play safety practice. API members who design, manufacture, install, maintain, refurbish and extend 'fully enclosed' indoor play centres will work within these guidelines, with play safety inspectors conducting a post-installation inspection to the standard.

In parallel for play providers, a new version of the British Standard BS8409 for Fully Enclosed Play Facilities provides a code of practice with important operational, management, recording and reporting guidelines. It's available from the BSI and the PPA has further details for members.

This means that indoor play providers of all types can receive consistent and accurate advice and information on their investment in new and current installations. This helps to achieve rapid approval for use after a post-installation safety inspection and to meet HSE requirements and duty of care responsibilities. ■

www.api-play.org
www.playinspectors.com
www.playproviders.org.uk
<http://shop.bsigroup.com>

Hard facts on soft play

New safety standards for indoor play ensure API suppliers and play inspectors are singing from the same song sheet.

FAMILY entertainment centres, indoor soft play and fully contained play facilities all have one thing in common. They take a pounding from happy hoards of bouncing, swinging, climbing, sliding, laughing and screaming children. The play frame and its components must be able to take this punishment and be ready for the next session, day in and day out. Tried and tested, quality materials, design, build and maintenance is therefore vital for low cost-of-ownership.

Play providers should seek proven, durable craftsmanship that is guaranteed

and we recommend that it's also designed and built by API members to European safety standards. API members must meet stringent membership requirements that include complying with the API Professional Code of Conduct and having healthy financial accounts. This all helps to assure supplier quality.

Indoor play equipment components may need to be replaced and having an API supplier who can deliver at short notice can be a great help, as can their experience of what works in the UK market.

*BS EN 1176 - 10: Playground Equipment and surfacing - Part 10: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for fully enclosed play equipment.



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