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Standard Guide for Certification of Recreation Area Installers¹

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INTRODUCTION

ASTM Consumer Safety Specification **F1487** includes Section 11 for Installation. There has been some development of this section to expand upon issues dealing with the installation of play equipment; however, it is believed there is an opportunity to continue improving the training and professional knowledge of installers and expand this area. Installers serve a critical function in the safety performance of recreation and sports area facilities. Often, owners/operators do not install purchased equipment but contract that work out to an installer. Installers may be contractors, employees, or independent companies, and those individuals may or may not be sufficiently trained in recreation area installation. Not being able to identify and define who is qualified to install recreation and sports area facilities can create a disconnect between the manufacturer and the owner/operator and possibly result in installation and process errors.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide provides a framework for training related to installer responsibilities and the related material at the end of this guide, and it provides standardized information and fundamentals for use when certifying, training, and hiring recreation area installers, by identifying bodies of knowledge needed to sufficiently train installers to perform the responsibilities of a recreation area installer, working as laborers, leads, and foremen.

1.1.1 This guide is intended to provide guidance to:

1.1.1.1 Individuals, organizations, and manufacturers who are training and certifying recreation area installers.

1.1.1.2 Individuals who are performing the function of a recreation area installer.

1.1.1.3 Those interested in hiring the services of recreation area installers.

1.1.2 The purpose of this guide includes, but is not limited to:

1.1.2.1 Providing a national standard guideline outlining the content of a body of knowledge for recreation area installers.

1.1.2.2 Developing more knowledgeable contractors with specialized training to manufacturers and owner-operators.

1.1.2.3 Recognizing manufacturers' training of installers on product-specific information.

1.1.2.4 Establishing recognized categories of construction skills, that is, laborer, lead, and foreman.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F1487 Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *best practice certification programs*—certification programs that include an evaluative tool to measure knowledge

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at astm.org/contact. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

and that follow industry-accepted certification standards (that is, NCCA, ANSI) for providing an ethical and legally defensible program.

3.1.2 *body of knowledge*—those areas of practice that define the scope of work needed to perform the job of a recreation area installer.

3.1.3 *foreman*—an individual working as a recreation area installer who can manage, direct, and complete tasks quickly and accurately, can demonstrate to others under their direct supervision how to do the tasks, can evaluate conditions and make proper decisions to solve problems related to a specific project, holds professional judgment and experience to evaluate conditions and make competent decisions about specific products, is familiar with multiple projects, and can predict, isolate, and solve problems related to the tasks as they occur.

3.1.4 *laborer*—an individual working as a recreation area installer who can do simple parts of the tasks, needs to be trained how to do the tasks, does not communicate directly about the project to anyone outside of the crew, can name parts and tools, and knows simple facts.

3.1.5 *lead*—an individual working as a recreation area installer who can perform the complete tasks quickly and accurately, can demonstrate to others how to do the tasks, holds professional judgment and experience to evaluate conditions and make competent decisions about a specific project, and can predict, isolate, and solve problems related to the tasks as they occur.

3.1.6 *professional judgment*—the ability of a qualified person in the field of recreation area installation to render an opinion, decision, or both, concerning a matter within that field of expertise.

3.1.7 *recreation area installer*—an individual, company, or entity that provides a service to build an area, intended for leisure use and play, to specifications outlined by manufacturers of play equipment and surfacing materials.

3.1.8 *recreation/play area(s)*—those spaces constructed for leisure use by individuals of all ages in both public and private settings.

3.2 Acronyms:

3.2.1 *ADA*—Americans with Disabilities Act

3.2.2 *ANSI*—American National Standards Institute

3.2.3 *ASTM*—American Society for Testing and Materials

3.2.4 *CPSC*—Consumer Product Safety Commission

3.2.5 *DOT*—Department of Transportation

3.2.6 *IPEMA*—International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association

3.2.7 *NCCA*—National Commission for Certifying Agencies

3.2.8 *NPCAI*—National Playground Contractors Association, Inc.

3.2.9 *NPPS*—National Program for Playground Safety

3.2.10 *NRPA*—National Recreation and Park Association

3.2.11 *OSHA*—Occupational Safety and Health Administration

4. Summary of Recreation Area Installer/Installation Practice

4.1 The recreation area installer, depending upon their designation as a laborer, lead, or foreman, will be responsible for the following:

4.1.1 Assembling all components in a play area according to manufacturers' specifications.

4.1.2 Attending pre-, present, and post-construction meetings, as needed.

4.1.3 Securing and preparing the jobsite.

4.1.4 Receiving, securing, and storing equipment and supplies.

4.1.5 Having knowledge and experience reading construction drawings and design site plan details.

4.1.6 Having knowledge and understanding of related ASTM standards.

4.1.7 Having knowledge of local ordinances and permit requirements.

4.1.8 Adhering to applicable labor laws, union contracts, building codes, and other local and state regulations.

4.1.9 Managing an orderly safe work-site in compliance with applicable labor laws and OSHA requirements.

4.1.10 Making written daily work progress reports.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This guide provides information on the knowledge and skills recommended to perform a multitude of tasks needed in the recreation installation industry.

5.2 This guide can be used to create and/or evaluate a training course outline to determine whether its content includes the information necessary to adequately train individuals to perform the basic responsibilities needed as a member of a competent recreation area installer.

5.3 A person meeting the recommendations of this guide does not necessarily possess adequate skill, experience, and training to make critical decisions. This guide merely describes the bodies of knowledge a qualified recreation area installer should possess to be able to competently install a recreation area, following the owner-operator, designer, and/or manufacturer's plans and installation instructions.

5.4 This guide is intended to be used in concert with a manufacturer and/or certification provider's structure and materials for management, exam delivery, and candidate preparation, if one exists.

5.5 The bodies of knowledge were obtained through a job analysis of stakeholders in the recreation area installer industry, which is updated regularly based upon industry change(s). Successful demonstration of knowledge related to these bodies of knowledge can be obtained by successfully passing an examination that follows best practice standards.

6. Test Knowledge Requirements

6.1 The following bodies of knowledge shall be assessed by levels of competence, as outlined in this guide, in the exam items.

6.1.1 *Knowledge of Legal Formalities*—Understands, can identify, and strategizes solutions regarding legal formalities specific to each project.

6.1.2 *Personnel Identification and Conduct*—Understands and can identify proper identification and conduct as it relates to personnel.

6.1.3 *Pre-construction, Installation, and Resources*—Understands and can identify the relationship and basic facts, and state general principles, about pre-construction, installation, and resources.

6.1.4 *Working with Other Industry Professionals (including other installers)*—Understands and can communicate effectively with other industry professionals.

6.1.5 *Knowledge of Safety Protocols*—Understands, can identify, and responds to safety protocols and requirements.

6.1.6 *Proper Installation Practices*—Understands and can identify the relationship of basic facts and perform proper installation practices.

6.1.7 *Quality Control*—Understands and can identify the relationship of basic facts and state basic principles regarding quality control.

6.1.8 *Knowledge of Other Organizations and Government Agencies*—Understands and can share information about related industry organizations and government agencies.

6.2 *Task Categories and Knowledge Levels of Competence*—The following task and knowledge levels outline the competencies that should be addressed in a training program. This guide is not intended to provide the details of a training program and/or its curriculum.

LABORER

6.2.1 *Personnel Identification and Conduct:*

6.2.1.1 Crew identification and responsibilities related to each person's job description.

6.2.1.2 Clothing/grooming/appearance related to jobsite safety and professionalism.

6.2.1.3 Appropriate behavior on a jobsite for professionalism.

6.2.1.4 Compliance to a professional code of conduct for the installer industry.

6.2.2 *Pre-construction, Installation, and Resources:*

6.2.2.1 Knowledge of the various tools and equipment needed to install a recreation area.

6.2.2.2 Details related to the project.

6.2.3 *Working with Other Industry Professionals While On-site:*

6.2.3.1 Sales representatives' contact information for the project.

6.2.3.2 Interactions with customers/end users.

6.2.4 *Knowledge of Safety Protocols:*

6.2.4.1 Emergency response and certifications for medical and other critical issues that arise.

6.2.4.2 Abiding by appropriate vehicle/equipment safety protocols.

6.2.4.3 Personal protective equipment (PPE), as required.

6.2.4.4 Verification of utility markings prior to construction.

6.2.5 *Proper Installation Practices:*

6.2.5.1 Manufacturers installation requirements/techniques for the project.

6.2.5.2 Knowledge of relevant ASTM standards.

6.2.6 *Quality Control:*

6.2.6.1 Knowledge of manufacturers' warranty restrictions.

6.2.6.2 Proper on-site documentation, that is, contracts, permits, installation instructions, layout and plans, labor classification documents, etc.

6.2.7 *Knowledge of Other Organizations and Government Agencies:*

6.2.7.1 ASTM

6.2.7.2 NPCAI

LEAD

6.2.8 *Knowledge of Legal Formalities:*

6.2.8.1 Appropriate and adequate insurance coverage including details on the types of insurance required and where to locate detailed insurance information about a project.

6.2.8.2 Minimum wage requirements per federal, state, union, and other jurisdictions.

6.2.8.3 Ensuring compliance to local regulations related to recreation area installations.

6.2.8.4 DOT/Transportation laws and requirements within the project jurisdiction.

6.2.8.5 Required permits within the project jurisdiction.

6.2.9 *Personnel Identification and Conduct:*

6.2.9.1 Crew identification and responsibilities related to each person's job description.

6.2.9.2 Clothing/grooming/appearance related to jobsite safety and professionalism.

6.2.9.3 Appropriate behavior on a jobsite for professionalism.

6.2.9.4 Compliance to a professional code of conduct for the installer industry.

6.2.10 *Pre-construction, Installation, and Resources:*

6.2.10.1 Knowledge of the various tools and equipment needed to install a recreation area.

6.2.10.2 Details related to the project.

6.2.10.3 Application of guidelines, laws, and codes.

6.2.10.4 Jobsite preparation, that is, inventory, drainage, layout, storage, etc.

6.2.11 *Working with Other Industry Professionals While On-site:*

6.2.11.1 Manufacturers' contact information for the project.

6.2.11.2 Sales representatives' contact information for the project.

6.2.11.3 Interactions with customers/end users.

6.2.11.4 General contractors/construction manager/architects/landscape architects.

6.2.11.5 Utility company contact information.

6.2.12 *Knowledge of Safety Protocols:*

6.2.12.1 Emergency response and certifications for medical and other critical issues that arise.

6.2.12.2 OSHA 10 requirements.

6.2.12.3 Abiding by appropriate vehicle/equipment safety protocols.

6.2.12.4 Personal protective equipment (PPE), as required.

6.2.12.5 Verification of utility markings prior to construction.