

Health & Safety Executive Notes

The Health and Safety Executive have indicated they may have difficulty in accepting four parts of BS EN1176 in the event of an accident investigation.

1. The reduction in the minimum surfacing distance of 1.5m. A minimum distance of 1.75m may be looked for. The Executive may accept 1.75m as a maximum distance.
2. The Minimum Use Zone. It is suggested that the MUZ (or free space) should be maintained to the old BS 5696 distance (although 1.75m has been suggested for both static and moving equipment).
3. The failure to provide an in-fill for barriers and guardrails.
4. Ladders without a lower rung are viewed as a problem for children descending and where a difficult access has to be provided, it should not be a ladder.

Purchasers of play equipment should be aware that, although the equipment, surfacing and installation may meet BS EN1176, justification will need to be provided to the Executive in the case of an accident involving these areas. RoSPA, API and NPFA will issue more guidance when it is available. Purchasers should bear this in mind when preparing tender documents.

