

International seminar ”Safety of Child Playgrounds and sports fields”

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Safety of child playgrounds - Norwegian and European experience

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Background



History and development

- The Norwegian traditions and identity
- Changes in social structures and way of living
- Fatal accidents on playgrounds
- Accident prevention, information and regulation
- Law, legally binding regulations and standards

Myths?

- Safe environments make children become weaklings/wimpy
- Accidents has an educational effect/you learn by accident
- People must look after their children
- We can't overprotect our children
- Nobody can controll our destini – "the fate theory"

The swing collapsed



**a nursery school
in Oslo July 1995**

Legal framework



Lov av 11.06.1976 nr. 79 om
kontroll med produkter og forbrukertjenester
(produktkontrollloven)
Product Control Act (GPSD 1994)

Internkontrollforskriften
1991- 6.12.1996 nr. 1127)
**Regulations concerning
internal control**

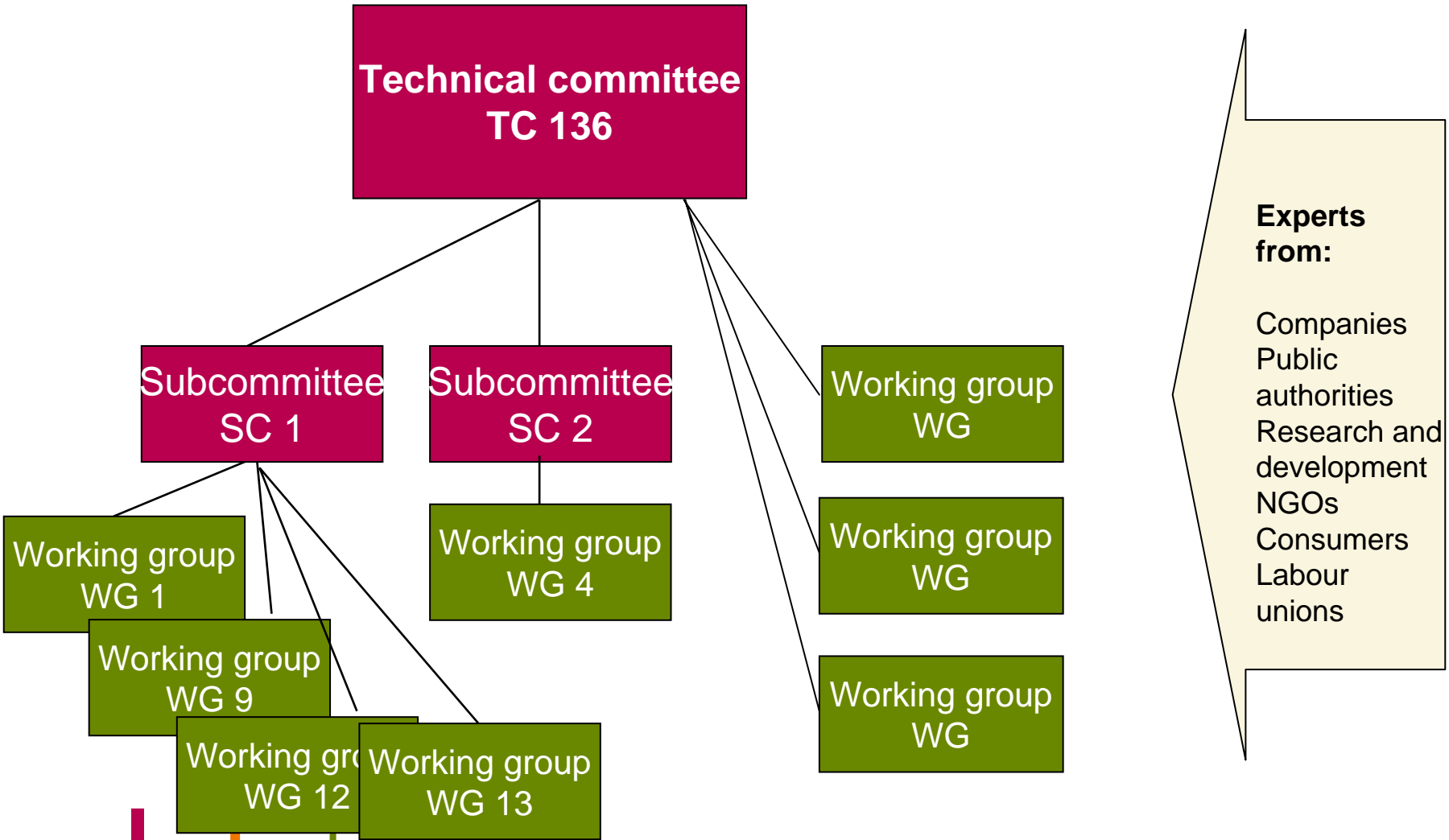
The obligation to
systematic work on
health, environment and safety
within organizations

Forskrift av 19.07.1996 nr. 703
om sikkerhet ved lekeplassutstyr
(lekeplassforskriften)

Regulation for safety of playground equipments

European Standards
NS-EN 1176
NS-EN 1177
1998/2008

CEN/TC 136 Organization

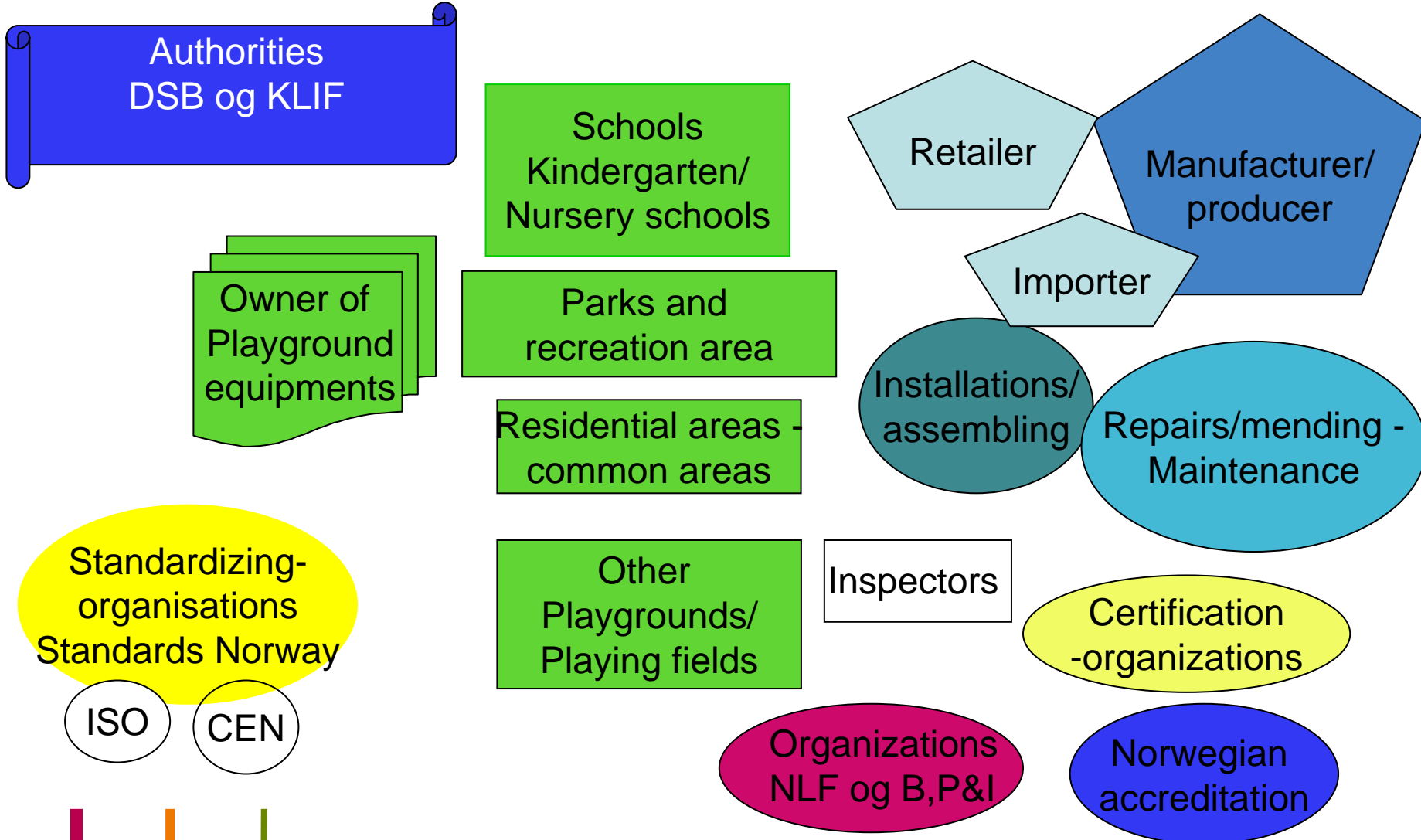


The standards for playground equipments and surfacing



- NS-EN 1176-1 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods*
- NS-EN 1176-2 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 2: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for swings*
- NS-EN 1176-3 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 3: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for slides*
- NS-EN 1176-4 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 4: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for cableways*
- NS-EN 1176-5 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 5: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for carousels*
- NS-EN 1176-6 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 6: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment*
- NS-EN 1176-7 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 7: Guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation*
- NS-EN 1176-10 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 10: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for fully enclosed play equipment*
- NS-EN 1176-11 *Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 11: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for spatial network*
- NS-EN 1177 *Impact attenuating playground surfacing - Determination of critical fall height*

Safety of playground equipment - several actors



Certification (voluntary)

- Product certification, NS-EN 1176 (by TUV)
- Personnel certification NS-EN ISO 17024
Competence of
NS-EN 1176 and
NS-EN 1177
- Inspector/inspectorate?

Playground inspectors

- Voluntary – NS-EN 1176-7
- Certification by 3th party
- Personnel certification (competence - EN ISO 17024)
- Documentation of competence NS-EN 1176 and NS-EN 1177
- Relation to the regulation?
- The inspectors responsibility and role?
- The marketing of the service?
- Tasks, working methods and reports?



Marking?



A challenge - maintenance or modifying dangerous openings?



The use of sculpture in playing fields?



- Asphalt
- Height above 1m

Challenges

- Use and interpretation of the standard NS-EN 1176-series
- The certification system and scheme
- The interface to other areas, products etc.
- Participation in CEN/TC 136 SC 1?
- Consumer representatives?