International seminar
”Safety of Child Playgrounds and sports fields”
Prague 2010-11-05

Safety of child playgrounds - Norwegian and European experience

v/Britt Stokke Lønaas
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 reality
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 (produktkontrolloven)
Product Control Act (GPSD 1994)

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

Technical committee
TC 136

Subcommittee
SC 1

Working group
WG 1

Working group
WG 9

Working group
WG 12

Working group
WG 13

Subcommittee
SC 2

Working group
WG 4

Working group
WG

Working group
WG

Working group
WG

Experts from:
Companies
Public authorities
Research and development
NGOs
Consumers
Labour unions
The standards for playground equipments and suracing

- 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

Authorities
DSB og KLIF

Schools
Kindergarten/Nursery schools

Installation/assembling

Owners of Playground equipments

Parks and recreation area

Residential areas - common areas

Other Playgrounds/Playing fields

Repairs/mending - Maintenance

Manufacturer/producer

Retailer

Importer

Certification-organizations

Organizations NLF og B,P&I

Inspector

Standards Norway

Standardizing-organisations

ISO
CEN

Norwegian accreditation

Britt Stokke Lønaas/Standard Norge
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 3rd 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?