

Overview of Changes Made to the ASTM F1487-01 Standard

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The following is a synopsis of the changes and additions that were made to the ASTM F1487-01 Standard that are reflected in the recently published ASTM F1487-05 version. To fully understand the changes please refer to the full standard F1487-05. Minor editorial corrections are not noted. Many of the section numbers have changed. The synopsis of the changes noted below are the interpretation of Teri Hendy and do not represent the opinion of ASTM.

Scope

1.4 This paragraph states that products or materials (site furnishings) that are installed outside the equipment use zone, such as benches, tables, and borders are not to be considered playground equipment.

1.5 The accessibility section was removed from section 10. Some issues that relate directly to the safe use of equipment are now found throughout the standard. The scope now simply references the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

1.7 *General Measures, Tolerances and Conversions* – This entire section is new.

Terminology

The word Pinch was removed from Pinch, Crush and Shear moving definition to 3.1.8

3.1.42 – definition of stepping forms was added.

General Requirements

5.4 *Manufacturer's Identification* – all play structures shall be required to have a manufacturer's identification.

5.4.1 Manufacturers shall make available signs and labels regarding age appropriateness and supervision.

Performance Requirements

6.3 The reference to protrusion gauges has been changed to projection gauge throughout the section.

Requirements for Access/Egress

Because the accessibility recommendations were removed from section 10, recommendations for access relating to accessibility have been added to this section. These recommendations are not new.

7.1 *Accessible Route to a Play Structure* -

7.1.1 Accessible routes within a use zone shall conform to the performance requirements of Specification F 1292 and Specification F 1951.

7.1.2 The surfacing exemption for the ramps that attach at the perimeter is added to this section.

7.2.4 The recommendation that a Ramp that is a component of a play structure intended to provide wheelchair access have a horizontal run between landings that does not exceed 144 in. has been moved to this section.

7.2.5 Parking space on wheelchair accessible landings is now found in this section.

7.5.3 Platforms, landings, walkways, ramps, and similar transitional play surfaces width recommendations are found in this section. (see Fig. A1.48).

7.5.5.1 The recommendations for guardrails and barriers on wheelchair accessible elevated surfaces have been added to this section.

7.5.5.2, #4 & 7.5.6.3, #4 The statement relating to using professional judgment in relation to opening protection on elevated platforms to insure the safety of a wheelchair user has been added to this section.

7.5.5.5 The handrail recommendations for ramps that require guardrails have been added to this section. (see Fig. A1.46).

7.5.6.1 Now defines where the height of a ramp is measured.

7.5.6.2 The recommendations for wheelchair accessible ramps that require barriers is added to this section.

8. Equipment

8.3.3 Added maximum height requirement for upper body devices intended for wheelchair use.

8.3.5 The maximum length of moveable hanging rings and hanging rungs has been added.

8.5.2.3 Now defines where you measure the width of the sliding surface.

8.5.6.1 The words *exit section* were deleted and slide exit clearance zone added.

8.7 *Swinging Gates and Doors*

8.7.1 Swinging gates and doors are now not recommended for public playgrounds. This is now consistent with the Consumer Product Safety Commission's recommendations.

8.8.6.3 Merry-go-rounds with platform diameters less than 20 in. (510 mm) are exempt from the speed limitation requirements. This was added to allow the use of the small spinners.

8.14.1 The recommendation that roofs not have a designated play surface has changed. Roofs that have a roof line (lowest edge) 84 in. above the underlying designated play surface may be any angle.

8.14.2 The recommendation that roofs not have a designated play surface only applies to roofs that are less than 84 in. above the designated play surface.

8.14.3 Support members for roofs are now recommended to be designed to discourage climbing and have no designated play surfaces.

8.14.4 Roofs do not have a fall height requirement.

8.15 *Stepping Forms*: This entire section is new.

9 Playground Layout

Clarifications to equipment use zones have been added.

9.3.2 Equipment that rotates around a vertical axis was not allowed to have a use zone that overlapped any other use zone. An exception for equipment where the diameter of the platform is less than 20 in. (510 mm) was added if the adjacent designated play surfaces of each structure are less than 30 in. (760 mm) above the protective surface. In this case a minimum distance between structures is 72 inches. If adjacent designated play surfaces on either structure exceed a height of 30 in. (760 mm), the minimum distance between structures shall be 108 in. (2740 mm). 6'-9"

9.3.3 An exemption to the recommendations for use zones has been added for equipment where the intent is that the child's feet are on the ground while the child is performing the intended activity.

9.3.4 and 9.3.5 The use zone for equipment that rotates around a horizontal axis has been defined and the recommendations added to this section.

9.4.1.4 A clarification on measuring the use zone width of a to-fro swing has been added because not all swings have side supports such as a "T" swing. You now measure the width of the to-fro area by locating 30 inches from the outside supporting chain at a height 60 inches above the playing surface. That would be the beginning of the minimum use zone (A1.34-A1.37).

9.5.1.3 Previously it was unclear as to whether or not rocking/spring toys were allowed to overlap use zones. The clarification was added that allows the use zones to overlap the use zones of other structures unless otherwise noted in Section 9.

9.6.3 *Slide Exit Clearance Zone*—The slide exit clearance zone has been further defined. The exit clearance zone now extends from the end of the slide to the perimeter of the slide use zone. This area must be free and clear of all equipment. The area is measured 21" out from the inside of the slide sidewall. The area begins at the top of the side of the slide. Details are shown in Figures. A1.41, A1.42 and A1.43, that further illustrates how to deal with slide bedways that where the exit paths converge, diverge and are parallel. Previously the slide clearance zone ended at the exit area of a slide. 6'-8"

10. Accessibility

This section has been eliminated and a statement added that notes that playgrounds must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities.

15. Information Signage and Labels

15.1 *Manufacturer's Identification*—see 5.4.1.

The Consumer Product Safety commission has recommended the use of signage that informed the public the age of the intended users of the playground area. They also recommended supervision. To be consistent with the CPSC recommendations, the sections 15.2 through 15.5 were added that now clearly recommend the use of signs and/or labels to relate such information. These sections also clarify how and where the signs and/or labels may be placed.