

# Product Safety Evaluation

## KIR evaluation

### Product Reference

PCM-CUSTOM 726038

### Standard Reference

EN1176

### Incident:

Two incidents reported on the same slide where children were suffering minor injuries as they were bumping from side to side in the turns of the slide.



### Incident evaluation:

Long embankment slides like the one in question are often very popular to use as part of the landscaping in the playground. It is a fun way of getting from an elevated point to a lower position.

Our modular slide is often used for this purpose as it is flexible regarding length and turns. It does however need turns keeping the speed at a reasonable level.

We generally recommend this type of slide for children aged 4 years and more. This is due to the bumps related to the turns. We know that children will bump into the sides when the direction is changed and the younger and thereby smaller the child is the heavier impact the turns will have.

The specific slide is designed in accordance with our intern guidelines regarding straight and curved sections as well as the official safety standard for playground equipment EN1176. Access is deliberately made difficult for the youngest to prevent users under the age of 3-4 years to access. Installation seems to be done correctly and the slide seems well maintained. From correspondence with the playground owner, we know that a post installation inspection was carried out concluding the slide is compliant with EN1176 and risk assessed to be low. Weekly maintenance inspections are also carried out.



### Conclusion:

Generally, these slides are very popular, and our overall experiences are good. We are aware that incidents like the described can happen, but we find that it is almost impossible to prevent. If we attempt to reduce the speed by changing material or minimizing the slope, we will reduce the play value significantly as there will be combinations of clothing and weather conditions where children will not be able to slide at all.

For the time being we will not initiate any action in line of product modification, but we will as always keep the report for future references.

### Group Product Safety

2024-07-29

*Joan Pedersen*, Product Safety Manager

# Product Safety Evaluation

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### Product Reference

PCM726038

### Standard Reference

EN1176



### Incident:

Two incidents reported:

#### Incident 2024-08-10

Whilst going down the slide on the hill – [redacted] leg got stuck on the bend of the slide which twisted [redacted] leg and bent [redacted] foot forward. This resulted in [redacted] breaking [redacted] left tibia bone. [redacted] Auntie also went down the slide and received friction burns along both arms. We also passed another Mum who had just come back from receiving first aid from the local café for burns her 2 daughters had got from the slide.

#### Incident 2024-10-25

Used the yellow slide once. It was faster than expected. Hit his head on bottom bend and flew off end of slide.  
Bumped head on side of slide near bottom. Cut corner of his eye lid.

### Incident evaluation:

The same slide has previously been evaluated when incidents were reported. At this time it was minor injuries from children bumping from side to side that were reported.

The new cases report different types of injury. They seem all to be related to friction one way or the other. Friction is an important factor influencing the velocity of the users. Friction however depends on many factors like humidity, temperature and the user's clothing. The angle of the slide is also a major influencer of the speed. Our experiences show that angles of 35° is the best compromise. Here we find that most users will be able to slide in almost all conditions and the speed is still reasonable. But we do see that combinations of humidity and clothing can make the same slide very slow or very fast.

As we understand the first reported injury, the [redacted] was sliding and [redacted] shoe was caught and the leg twisted. This is a very unfortunate situation almost impossible to prevent. When very young children are sliding they are not able to fill up the slide bed and they can easily tilt a little.

Friction burns are also impossible to prevent. When playing and especially sliding with bare arms or legs it is likely to happen on all slides.

The incident from 25/10 seems very similar to the ones reported earlier. Bumping from side to side will happen on a slide with turns. In most cases it is not a problem, but sometimes it unfortunately leads to bruises or in this case a small wound.

## Compliance:

When making evaluations based on photos there is always a risk that we overlook something that can only be seen on site. In this case an extra inspection has been carried out to verify compliance and risk for the specific slide. The full report is enclosed.

There are some remarks about the surroundings, but the inspector finds the slide in itself is compliant.

The risk is rated as low and is found to be within what is described as acceptable according to the safety standard.

## Conclusion:

We are truly sorry about the experiences reported, but we also have to say, that long slides do present a certain risk. They also offer a lot of fun and excitement and training of various skills. We often see that children having an unpleasant experience might not want to go right back for a new ride. But after a while they will and then they know how to avoid the situation that caused problems. Learning is part of growing up and sometimes it means learning the hard way.

We agree in the conclusion made by the playground inspector.



# the **play inspection** company

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## Annual Inspection

St Stephens Parish Council

Greenwood Park

Chiswell Green, Bricket Wood, St Albans, AL2 3HW



**API** Associate



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## Inspection Scope for RPII Inspection Methodology

This document outlines the RPII scope for inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed as Annual Inspectors on the RPII Register of Inspectors when undertaking Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine inspections.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it will be the standard that is current at the time of inspection except where overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information contained in reports is provided to assist the owner/operator in fulfilling their responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standard. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of the inspection, unless they are also explicitly listed here.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this includes public parks, pay and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centres, farm parks etc. All equipment used or employed in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant standards (listed below):

BS EN 1176 Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Playground equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors & indoors.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - 'Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation' (this document gives guidance to the owners/operators of the facility on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playground equipment, excluding ancillary items).

In the United Kingdom the National Foreword forms an important part to the understanding and implementation of the recommendations set out in this document. It clarifies the application of the document within the UK as best practice guidance, as the document has been used since its initial publication. Therefore, in the UK this standard (BS EN 1176 – Part 7) contains no requirements and needs to be read and implemented as guidance, with the use of the term 'shall' therefore becoming a recommendation, as in the term 'should'.

Domestic play equipment falls outside of the scope of BS EN 1176 and has its own standards (BS EN 71 series – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance will follow the requirements and recommendations of BS EN 1176.

When water play items, including spray parks, are inspected any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will refer to BS EN 1176. We have not assessed these against the requirements of BS EN 17232 (Water play equipment and features).

Other equipment that is not clearly identified as unsupervised or domestic (natural play, self-build equipment etc.) will be assessed for compliance with the relevant standard listed below:

**BS EN 15312** Free access multi-sports equipment  
**BS EN 14974** Skateparks  
**BS EN 16630** Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment  
**BS EN 16899** Parkour equipment (plus RPII/API guidance notes)

Annual and Post Installation inspections will take into consideration compliance with these current standards, and defects related to wear and vandalism. Items not listed in the report have not been included in the inspection. The inspection will cover the playground equipment and the active area (that area which is obviously part of the playground), nominally up to three metres around, the fence line if closer, or other areas as agreed.

Operational inspections only take into consideration defects related to cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear (of moving parts) structural integrity, wear and vandalism.

Routine visual inspections relate only to the most obvious defects such as broken or missing parts, litter, vandalism and issues created by severe weather conditions (the intention is to identify hazards created by storm damage).

All inspections are non-dismantling, non-destructive and do not include any structural, toxicology or impact assessments defined in the standard; however, the inspector will undertake a manual test for stability and if equipment fails under manual load, or any other hazard is identified as an unacceptable risk, the owner/operator will be notified as soon as practicably possible.

The inspector will access all reasonably accessible equipment and will assess all reasonably accessible parts above the standing surface. Where it is not possible to access parts of the equipment without employing an alternative means of access the report will record the action required by the owner/operator to ensure the continued safe use of the equipment.

Ancillary equipment will be assessed using the inspector's knowledge and experience of the standards named in this document. (Note: Ancillary items are not included in the specific equipment-type parts of the EN 1176 series; hence they are not assessed for compliance with EN 1176 series and are subject to a general safety assessment).

The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area.

The inspector will not undertake any of the following works unless specifically agreed in writing at the time of order:

Checking the depth and underlying structural integrity of any surface areas and/or carrying out any testing of the impact attenuating properties of any surfaces; the identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection; the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is beneath the playing surface (loose-fill materials may be moved to expose foundations); tightening any bolts, hinges or other fixing devices on any apparatus or equipment; assessing or inspecting any electrical installations contained on any site and/or apparatus and/or equipment; assessing or inspecting any water supplies and/or water features and/or any associated computerised systems (including carrying out any programming); where planting or trees are mentioned in the report no assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken – the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

The owner/operator should have a 'design risk assessment' provided by the manufacturer/designer of the area for the equipment and location in which the facility is installed.

The operator is responsible for managing risks of their provision and is required by law to carry out a 'suitable and sufficient assessment' of the risks associated with a site or activity. This inspection shall be considered as contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility.

The details contained within the report are a snapshot of the condition at the time of inspection only and subsequent events may affect the condition of the facility. Suggested remedial actions are based on the knowledge and experience of the inspector and/or that of the inspection company. The owner/operator should always seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

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The operator is responsible for following the guidance of the relevant standards. The standards give guidance on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of the various types of facilities. The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in an RPII Annual or Post-Installation Inspection. The relevant standards also contain additional parts which the operator should follow.

Inspection recommendations of relevant standards Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual/ Post Installation Inspection
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of foundations (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of playing surfaces (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.1 d) Compliance with the relevant parts of the standard and or risk assessment (see note 3)	✓	✓ [3]
6.1 d) Effects of weather	✓	✓
6.1 d) Presence of rot, decay or corrosion (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Assessment of repairs made or added or replaced components (see note 4)	✓	✓ [4]
6.1 d) Excavation or dismantling/additional measures	✓	✗
6.2.1 Assessment of glass reinforced plastics (see note 5)	✓	✓ [5]
6.2.1 Inspection of one post equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.2.4 Undertaking the Operators inspection protocol	✓	✗

NB: The clause numbers in table 1 are taken from BS EN 1176 - Part 7:2020. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards listed herein. Playgrounds contain a range of equipment from different manufacturers and installed over a number of years; operators should implement any guidance provided by the manufacturer. Item specific detail is not readily available to RPII Playground Inspectors, whose report contributes to the operator's overall Annual Main Inspection as detailed in the relevant standards.

[1] A manual test only is undertaken for stability. Wear and instability are only detectable where readily apparent without dismantling or destruction and without the use of tools, excavation or specialist equipment. Rot and corrosion are tested or with a hammer and/or steel rod. Decay in timber may exist which can only be found with specialist equipment.

[2] Only the visible condition and dimensional compliance of surface extent is considered. Neither testing of impact attenuating properties nor measurement of the thickness of bound surfaces are undertaken on RPII annual inspections.

[3] The inspection assesses compliance where this can be tested on site using manual methods without dismantling, destruction and without the use of tools or specialist equipment.

[4] The operator should use manufacturer's recommended parts, or equivalent. We are unable to verify if such parts have been used, and any subsequent change in quality or performance.

[5] Visible glass fibres will be noted in reports. The operator is responsible for repairs or replacement.

# Risk Assessment Matrix

			Scores in the report are multiplication factors of Likelihood x Severity					
			Severity>>					
<b>Likelihood</b>	Very High probability, if the situation is not addressed an accident is almost certain.	5	Very High	VL (5)	L (10)	M (15)	H (20)	VH (25)
	High probability an accident is probable without any added factor.	4	High	VL (4)	L (8)	M (12)	H (16)	H (20)
	Moderate probability an incident is foreseeable.	3	Moderate	VL (3)	L (6)	L (9)	M (12)	M (15)
	Some probability, requires a combination of factors to take place.	2	Low	VL (2)	VL (4)	L (6)	L (8)	L (10)
	No significant probability; lightning strike, freak accident.	1	Very Low	VL (1)	VL (2)	VL (3)	VL (4)	VL (5)
			Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	
			1	2	3	4	5	
			No injury likely e.g. damaged or soiled clothing, minor bruising, grazes	Minor injury, laceration or bruising requiring first aid only	Injury requiring medical intervention e.g. cuts requiring stitches	Serious injury including concussions or fracture of long bones	Severe injury involving a potential life changing injury or fatality	
			<b>Severity&gt;&gt;</b>					
<p>Note 1: The total risk scores included within our reports are a multiplication factor of the calculated Likelihood and Severity of each finding. Both Likelihood and Severity are given a number between 1 - 5 as shown on the matrix above and these two numbers are then multiplied together to give the total risk score that is shown against defects on the report. Total risk scores can be divided in both directions, i.e. a total risk score of 12 could be a Likelihood (3) x Severity (4) or Likelihood (4) x Severity (3).</p> <p>Note 2: When we inspect we only see a snapshot of the current condition of the equipment. It is the operators responsibility to ensure that there is a continuing level of maintenance to keep the equipment in good working order and the site fit for use.</p>								

**Equipment has been assessed to the following standards where relevant:**

- BS EN 1176 Parts 1-11 (Playground equipment and surfacing)
- BS EN 14974 (Facilities for users of roller sports equipment)
- BS EN 15312 (Free access multi-sports equipment)
- BS EN 16899 (Parkour Equipment)
- BS EN 16630 (Outdoor Fitness Equipment).



# Greenwood Park

Inspection Ref: 2533800

Site Ref: 119926

Inspected: 11-November-2024 - 10:32 by David Fagan (RPII Annual Inspector)

Risk Assessment: 10 Low Risk



**Location:**

The site is located in an area of public open space and is not directly overlooked by any properties in the local community.

**Disabled Access:**

Some accessible features; an area that presents difficulties to the majority of people with disabilities but in favourable circumstances and certainly in partnership can be accessed.



**i** 10 - Low Risk

**Item:** Embankment Slide  
**Manufacturer:** Kompan Ltd  
**Surface Type:** Mixed Surface  
**Item Quantity:** 1  
**Equipment Compliance:** Yes  
**Surface Area Compliance:** Yes

**Total Findings:** 4



**Finding 1**

The grass has eroded within the impact area of the equipment and may not provide the necessary impact attenuating properties for the equipment fall height; the surface may also be slippery in wet weather - Reinstate the grass or provide an all weather surface

**Finding 2**

There are trip hazards at the edges of the surface - Remove trip hazard

**Finding 3**

NOTE - The item has been isolated from use due to accidents that have occurred. The access element has been removed and a full inspection could not be undertaken of the platform / starting area -

**Finding 4**

NOTE 2 - We understand that accidents have occurred on this slide, however the design of the slide itself appears to meet the requirements outlined in BS EN 1176 Part 3 (aside from potentially the eroded ground as previously mentioned). It should be noted that playgrounds are not risk free environments, and there is always a chance that accidents will occur. This subject is addressed in the Introduction to BS EN 1176 (a copy of the text can be provided if required). -

## Findings information

**i** 10 - Low Risk (Finding 1)

**Item:** Other - Embankment Slide  
**Manufacturer:** Kompan Ltd

**Risk Level:** L - Low Risk  
**Surface:** Mixed Surface



**Finding:** The grass has eroded within the impact area of the equipment and may not provide the necessary impact attenuating properties for the equipment fall height; the surface may also be slippery in wet weather  
**Action:** Reinststate the grass or provide an all weather surface

**i** 8 - Low Risk (Finding 2)

**Item:** Other - Embankment Slide  
**Manufacturer:** Kompan Ltd

**Risk Level:** L - Low Risk  
**Surface:** Mixed Surface



**Finding:** There are trip hazards at the edges of the surface **Action:** Remove trip hazard

**i** 0 - Risk Assessment not Undertaken (Finding 3)

**Item:** Other - Embankment Slide  
**Manufacturer:** Kompan Ltd

**Risk Level:** N - Risk Assessment not Undertaken  
**Surface:** Mixed Surface



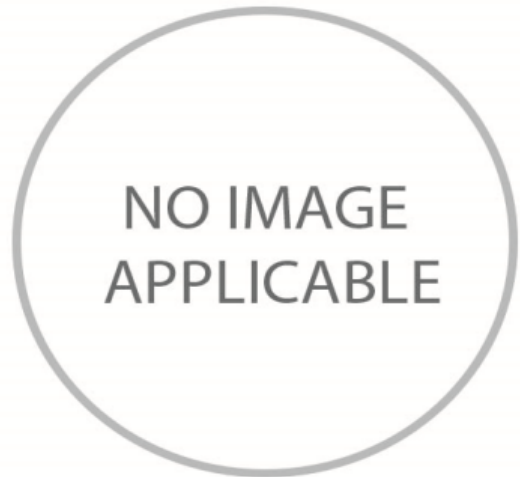
**Finding:** NOTE - The item has been isolated from use due to accidents that have occurred. The access element has been removed and a full inspection could not be undertaken of the platform / starting area

**Action:**

**i** 0 - Risk Assessment not Undertaken (Finding 4)

**Item:** Other - Embankment Slide  
**Manufacturer:** Kompan Ltd

**Risk Level:** N - Risk Assessment not Undertaken  
**Surface:** Mixed Surface



**Finding:** NOTE 2 - We understand that accidents have occurred on this slide, however the design of the slide itself appears to meet the requirements outlined in BS EN 1176 Part 3 (aside from potentially the eroded ground as previously mentioned). It should be noted that playgrounds are not risk free environments, and there is always a chance that accidents will occur. This subject is addressed in the Introduction to BS EN 1176 (a copy of the text can be provided if required).

**Action:**