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Playgrounds-Why inspect only the structure and not the surface?

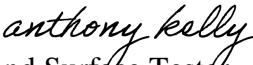
Many school boards and organizations yearly inspect their playgrounds and do not specify Impact Testing. About 75% of playground accidents (28,000 total in Canada) reporting to hospitals relate to falls to surfacing and CSA Z614-14 states in Section 10.4.6, **periodic site testing of installed protective surfacing shall be performed.** The condition or effectiveness of the surface greatly affects the severity of the fall.

So for two reasons, impact testing needs to be done if not yearly every two or three years, Reason one, make sure surface is compliant to standard to reduce risk management factors with documented test reports rather than personal opinions.

Reason two and the most important one, making sure the surface is safe for the children, lessening the severity of accidents and evidence we are perusing due diligence in our responsibilities.

Quote from OSBIE

Regular maintenance and inspection programs with good documentation practices can demonstrate that a board was exercising due diligence in meeting this responsibility.

Tony Kelly, CCPI 
Playground Inspector and Surface Tester.