

"YOU CAN DISCOVER MORE
ABOUT A PERSON IN AN HOUR
OF PLAY THAN IN A YEAR OF
CONVERSATION."
— PLATO



WELCOME TO IPEMA & THE VOICE OF PLAY'S CHECKLIST FOR ACCESS

At IPEMA, it's our mission to create more opportunities for free play on the playground. An important part of making that dream a reality is providing a play space with equipment and surfacing that is accessible to everyone in the community, regardless of physical ability.

On March 15, 2012, the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards became mandatory for newly constructed and altered play areas. In order to provide clear, concise direction for playground owners and operators, the International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) has created this "Checklist for Access," which summarizes 12 key steps to compliance with the standards. Refer to this quick reference guide and the included additional resources for direction on compliance.



"IT IS A HAPPY TALENT
TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY"
— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES VISIT:

WWW.VOICEOFPLAY.ORG
WWW.ADA.GOV
WWW.ACCESS-BOARD.GOV

IPEMA
INTERNATIONAL
PLAY EQUIPMENT
MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION

Voice
of **PLAY**

IPEMA'S CHECKLIST FOR ACCESS

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1. Public Playgrounds must have an accessible route to the play area at least 60" wide, maximum running slope of 1:20 and maximum cross slope of 1:50. The route to the play area is an accessible route. Minimum width is 36" and the maximum slope is 1:12. Any running slope over 1:20 or 5% is treated as a ramp with handrails and landings.

2. Within the play area, the safety surfacing must comply with ASTM F 1292-99 or -04 Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment when located within the use zone for proper impact attenuation. All accessible routes within the play area, clear floor or ground spaces at play components required to be accessible and turning spaces must comply with ASTM 1951-99 Standard Specification for Determination of Accessibility of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment.

4. Composite play structures that include a transfer system as a means of access must meet the following criteria:

- Transfer platform height must be between 11-18" with clear minimum width of 24" and depth of 14"
- Transfer steps are maximum of 8" high and include handholds to aid movement.
- Minimum 30" by 48" transfer space must be provided adjacent to the transfer platform. The 48" long minimum dimension of the transfer space shall be centered on and parallel to the 24" long minimum side of the transfer platform. The side of the transfer platform serving the transfer space shall be unobstructed.

6. Elevated ramps and accessible platforms attached at ramp levels shall have no openings on surface greater than 1/2" and vertical change in level less than 1/4" or up to 1/2" with a 2:1 beveled edge.

3. Within the play area, the accessible route must be at least 60" wide, with a maximum running slope of 1:16, a maximum cross slope of 1:48 and a minimum of 80" overhead clearance. For small play areas of less than 1000 square feet in total size, the accessible route must be at least 44" wide, with a maximum running slope of 1:16, a maximum cross slope of 1:48 and a minimum of 80" overhead clearance.

7. Openings on elevated ramp accessible platforms for access/egress play opportunities must be narrowed to 15" or less.

8. Advisory Reach ranges for accessible manipulative and interactive sensory and communicative components must have reach range heights between 18-44" for 5-12 year old user age group and 20-36" for 2-5 year old user age group.

5. Composite play structures that include ramps that connect elevated play components as a means of access must meet the following criteria:

- Elevated ramps must be at least 36" wide, maximum running slope of 1:12 and maximum length of 144" (12 inches) before providing a landing.
- Elevated ramps must include handrails on both sides meeting hand-gripping criteria and with a height between 20-28". Elevated ramps with handrails, barriers beyond the ramp edge and barriers not extending within 1" of the ramp surface must have edge curbing at least 2" high for the entire ramp length. No handrail extensions are required.
- When elevated ramps change in direction, a 60"x 60" minimum level landing must be provided at both the top and the bottom of each run.

9. Ground level upper body equipment intended for use by a person using a mobility device must be less than 48" above protective surfacing.

10. Ground level play tables and components must have a minimum vertical knee clearance of at least 24" high, a minimum depth of at least 17" deep and a minimum width of at least 30". The maximum top of playing surface shall not exceed 31".

11. Composite play structures must have elevated accessible routes by ramp and or transfer systems to connect at least 50% of the elevated play components. Large composite play structures with more than 20 elevated play components must have at least 25% of the elevated play components connected by elevated ramps.

12. Play areas must have the minimum number of accessible play components and types on the accessible routes per the following criteria: Remember it is one of each type at ground level and 50% elevated that must be accessible. The trigger to use the table is for Additional Number and Types. Where elevated play components are provided, ground level play components shall be provided in accordance with Table 240.2.1.2 and shall comply with 1008.4. EXCEPTION: If at least 50 percent of the elevated play components are connected by a ramp and at least 3 of the elevated play components connected by the ramp are different types of play components, the play area shall not be required to comply with F240.2.1.2.

PLAY AREA COMPONENT ACCESSIBILITY FLOW CHART

Americans with Disabilities Act: Scoping

ADA Chapter 2: Scoping Requirements

Table 240.2.1.2 Number and Types of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on Accessible Routes

Number of Elevated Play Components Provided	Minimum Number of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on an Accessible Route	Minimum Number of Different Types of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on an Accessible Route
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2 to 4	1	1
5 to 7	2	2
8 to 10	3	3
11 to 13	4	3
14 to 16	5	3
17 to 19	6	3
20 to 22	7	5
23 to 25	8	5
26 and over	8, plus 1 for each additional 3, or fraction thereof, over 25	5

1 ASSESS What is present

GROUND COMPONENTS
Total in your playground

ELEVATED COMPONENTS
Total in your playground

2 DETERMINE What is needed

GROUND COMPONENTS
TOTAL
Minimum required on accessible route

ELEVATED COMPONENTS
TOTAL
Minimum required on accessible route

3 COMPARE Which is greater

PLAY TYPES
TOTAL
Greater number = Minimum on accessible route

4 ASSESS How to get there

ELEVATED COMPONENTS

20 OR MORE
Ramps Min 25% + Ramps or transfer system 25%
Elevated accessible routes must connect 50% minimum

19 OR LESS
Transfer system permitted to connect at least 50%