

Play Safety

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The Royal Society for the
Prevention of Accidents

What we will cover:

- Introduction to RoSPA
- Accidents and Injuries
- Why provide for play?
- Risk Management
- Playground Standards
- Inspections

“We should have as much play value as we can possibly afford, but only as much safety as is necessary.”

Julian Richter

RoSPA

Inspection, training and consultancy on:

- Outdoor Play
- Indoor Play
- Roller Sports (Skate, BMX etc)
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Playing Fields
- Sports Facilities
- Water Features

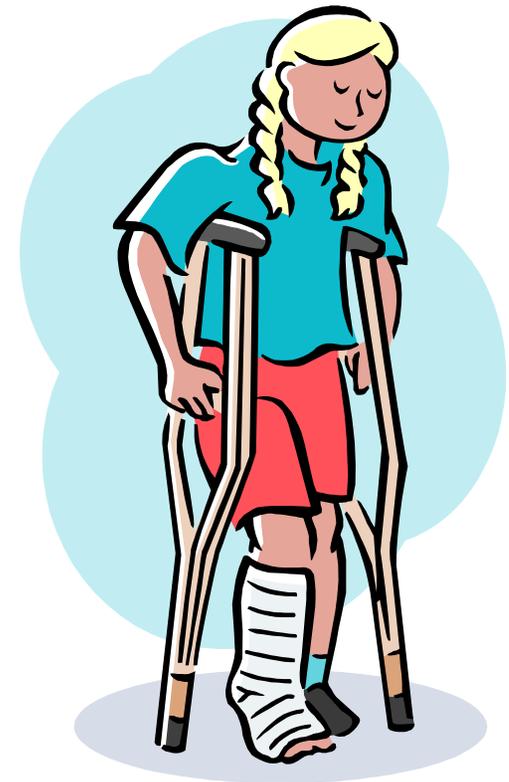
RoSPA

Our services include:

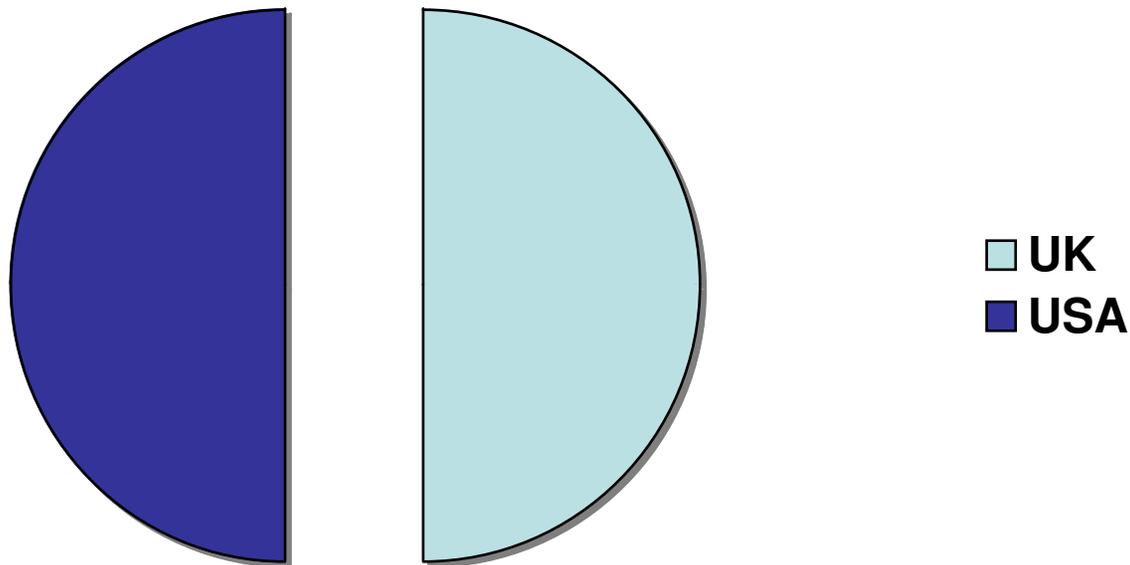
- Post Installation Inspections
- Annual Inspections
- Surface Impact Testing
- Design Assessments
- Expert Witness Reports
- Training
- Consultancy
- Information and Advice

Accidents versus Injuries

- Accidents occur all the time
- Through accidents children learn and develop
- Not all accidents lead to injuries
- Not all injuries are serious or undesirable
- Life-threatening or permanently disabling injuries are not acceptable

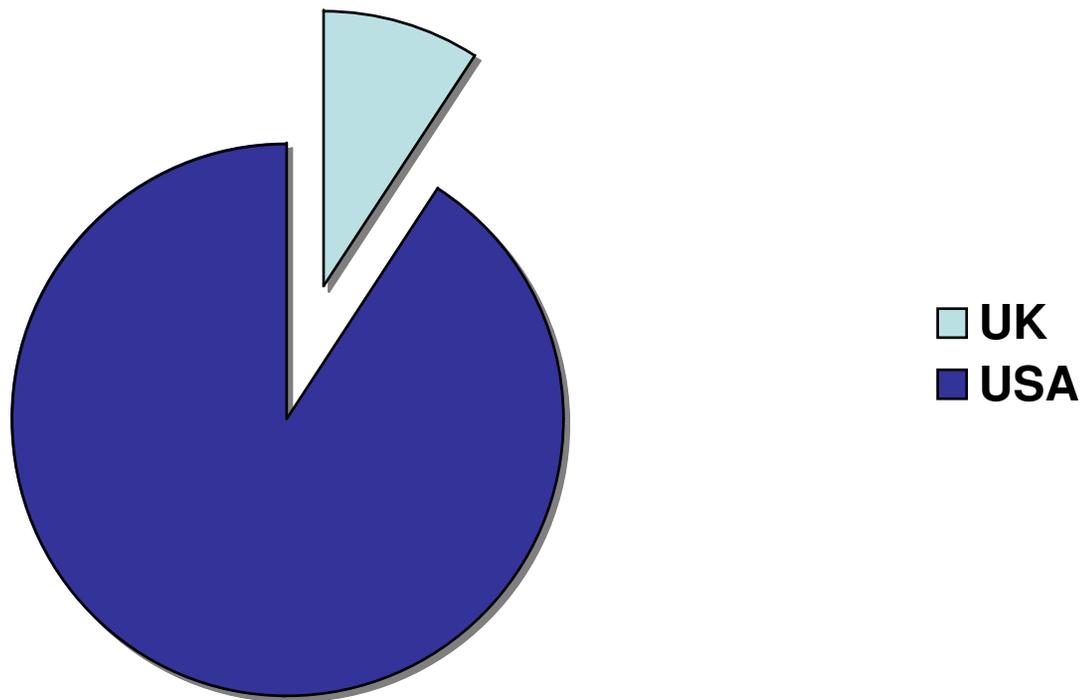


UK versus USA



Accidents per head of population

UK versus USA



Deaths and serious injuries per
head of population

Accidents - UK

- 38 500 play area accidents each year leading to a visit to a casualty department
- 5 000 over fifteen years of age
- Youngest?
- Oldest?
- Males 61% Females 39%

Accidents - UK

- 54% simple treatment with no follow-up
- 11% no treatment
- 34% outpatient referral
- 0.5% hospital admission



Why provide for play?

- UNCRC Article 31
“States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”

www.ipaworld.org



Why provide for play?

- Children need and want to take risks when they play
- Injuries are a part of play
- Play provision gives opportunities in a managed setting
- Children are 20% of the population
- Failure to provide is failing our children

All ages – all abilities

- Childhood does not stop at age 8
- Range of activities reference in Article 31
- Not all children have the same abilities
- All children have the right

Range of activities

- Playgrounds
- Ball Courts
- Games Walls
- Teen Areas
- Meeting Points
- BMX
- Skate



Risk Management

- Not risk elimination!
- Legal requirement in UK
- Balance risk against benefit
- Play Safety Forum Statement
- Make informed choices

Playground Standards

- EN 1176 and EN 1177
- Published by CEN
- Not mandatory in law in all countries
- Principles of protection
- Inspection and maintenance

EN 1176

- Currently 7 parts
- Soon to be 9 parts
- Part 1 – General safety requirements
- Parts 2 to 6, 10 and 11 – specific requirements for particular equipment
- Part 7 – Guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation



EN 1176 – Principles of protection

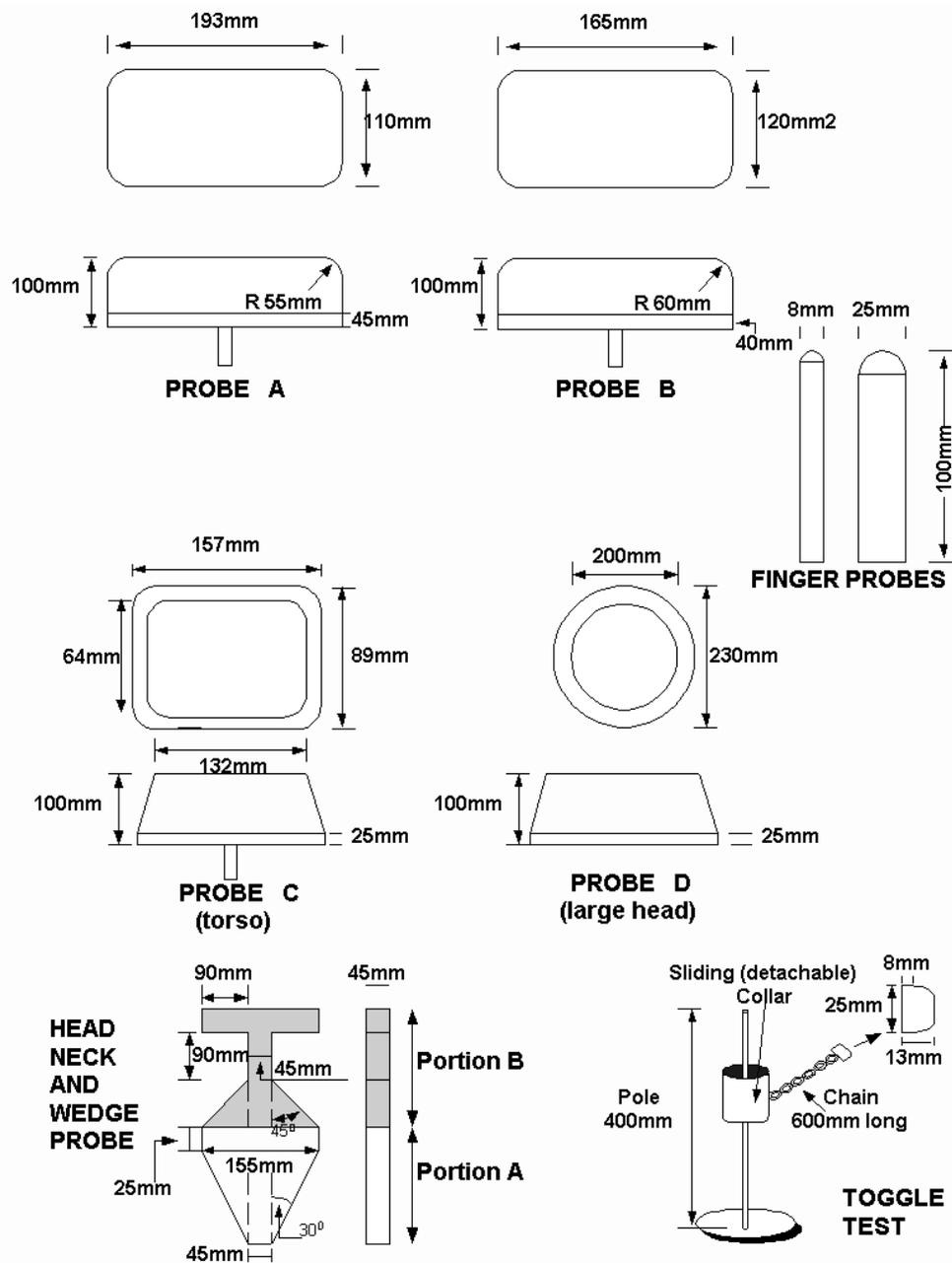
- Head injuries
- Head and neck entrapment
- Entrapment of body or clothes
- Shearing / crushing / loss of limbs
- Falling
- Collision
- Poor quality

Inspection

- Three tier inspection regime:
- Routine Inspection (daily/weekly)
- Operational Inspection (monthly/quarterly)
- Annual Inspection

Equipment for Inspection

- Probes to EN 1176-1 Annex D
- Other Tools as necessary



Other Tools

- See the tools

Exciting play provision

Play
provision
that is not
exciting
will fail



Exciting play provision



Exciting play provision makes compromises between conflicting goals - but succeeds

“... safety must be considered at all stages of play provision... inevitably, there will be risk of injury when children play, as there is risk of injury in life generally. We must not lose sight of the important developmental role of play for children in the pursuit of the unachievable goal of absolute safety.”

UK Health & Safety Executive