

September 20, 2001

TO: District Superintendents
Directors of Maintenance and Operations
SISC II Member Districts

FROM: Catherine Wilson Jones, CSP
Director, Safety and Loss Control

SUBJECT: Installation of New Playground Equipment

A Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) study conducted this summer reported that during the year 2000 approximately 205,860 preschool and elementary children received emergency care for injuries that occurred on playground equipment with 72% of these injuries caused by accidental falls.

Because the cost of new playground equipment and its installation is expensive, many districts have chosen to install the equipment themselves by utilizing district maintenance and custodial personnel. This brings legal liability and California regulation issues to the district.

Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 22 *Safety Regulations for Playgrounds*, Section 65740 states, Operators shall train their personnel involved in the design, installation, and maintenance of a playground by ensuring their personnel have read and understood the requirements in this chapter, before participating in the design, installation, or maintenance of a playground for which the personnel has responsibility.

Installation of new playground equipment by district personnel also creates a legal liability hazard to the district and can bring lawsuits and allegations of negligence because of improper installation by the district.

Because of these liability issues and regulations, it is recommended that new playground equipment be assembled and installed under the direct supervision of a contractor authorized by the manufacturer.

The district will be responsible for contracting with a Certified Playground Safety Inspector to supervise the installation and/or to inspect and certify the installation and equipment meets the regulatory requirements. SISC staff cannot certify such installations.

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