

RFP Terminology

NPCAI has created this document which includes terminology and information you need to know when creating a request for proposal (RFP) for recreation areas/playgrounds.



We recommend the following language, related to recreation area installations, be included in your RFPs:

All equipment and surfacing shall be installed by a company which has one or more employees who are current NPCAI RISC certificants. That individual should be on-site during the entirety of the build.

We also recommend correcting any RFPs that contain incorrect information. Following are some examples of incorrect information we have discovered:



“ASTM-certified”: Certifications are awarded by organizations and companies, not ASTM. ASTM creates standards for the industry and profession, but ASTM certifications do not exist. If you are looking to require certified individuals in your proposals, following is a list of certifications that are in existence today:

National Playground Contractors Association, Inc. (NPCAI)

Recreation Installation Specialist Certification (RISC)

This certification verifies knowledge of proper play and recreation area installation for both equipment and surfacing. It requires attendance at a course teaching industry-relevant curriculum, successfully passing an exam as well as background checks, and recertification every three years.

International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA)

Equipment: ASTM F1487 and CSA Z614

Surfacing: ASTM F1292, ASTM F3351, ASTM F2075 and ASTM 3012

This certification verifies product compliance to the ASTM and CSA standards associated with that certification.

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

Certified Playground Safety Inspector

This certification provides training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods. It requires attendance at a course, successfully passing an exam, and recertification every three years.



“CPSI Installer Certification”: This certification does not exist. CPSI is a certification for **inspectors** while RISC is a certification for **installers**. These are two different responsibilities related to play area installations and inspections. While a CPSI or RISC certificant could hold both certifications, they should be mentioned separately in the RFP.

Questions? Visit www.playground-contractors.org or contact NPCAI at npcai@playground-contractors.org or by calling 717-724-0594.