

RFP Suggested Terminology

NPCAI has reviewed several requests for proposal which include guidelines related to the equipment manufacturer and products as well as the installation requirements of the build. Unfortunately, many of these proposals include incorrect or outdated requirements and need to be updated. 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. Here are some examples of incorrect information:



“ASTM-certified”: Certifications are awarded by organizations and companies, not ASTM. ASTM creates standards for the industry and profession. ASTM certifications do not exist.



If you are looking to require certified individuals in your proposals the 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 person could hold both CPSI and RISC certifications, the certifications should be mentioned separately in the RFP.



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

