

High Peaks Services Inc.
Playground Consulting and 3rd Party Inspection
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Since 1986.

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Functionally linked,

There is some discussion on "what is FUNCTIONALLY LINKED",

We all know CSA does not define Functionally Linked.

In regards to play equipment we have to figure two measurements one for ages 2 to 5 and one for ages 5 to 12 years.

First to be functionally linked we need to be able to access from one unit to another, they have a link. If you cannot access one from the other, then there is no link. An example of this is a balance beam "functionally" linked to the end of a climbing wall, not the side where the user can access the wall.

Secondly, to be functionally linked the child needs to be able to reach the second unit safely. One factor is distance, a unit rated for ages 2 to 5 we could use the measurements for a child aged 4 with a 50-percentile height has a step of 42 cm but if the access is not level then we would need to go shorter to make it safe. Similarly, if the unit is for ages 5 to 12 we could use the measurement of a child aged 8 with a 50-percentile height with a step of 54 cm and again if the access is not level use a shorter reach. An example would be walking pods in a up and down configuration would need to be shorter than 54 cm.

The access could be shorter with no safety hazard but once we go longer we are looking at a higher risk of the child missing the step and/or falling off the access unit causing an accident.

If I am inspecting a playground I would check the above measurements for pass/fail of the unit.

Unit suppliers try to argue that it is functionally linked but do not base it on any real data.

Tony Kelly, CCPI
Playground Inspector and Surface Tester.

functionallylinked