



# SAFETY OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

## WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

There is now a requirement that children must not have access to any product that has been recalled by Health Canada.

More details are provided about general safety and sanitation at the facility, in sections that relate specifically to washrooms (2-9), diapering (2-10), sleeping equipment and bedding (2-11), furnishings (2-12), specific safety concerns (2-13 and 2-14), and play equipment (2-15).

Detailed safety concerns have been organized according to the age of the children who will participate and the type of materials and space available. For example, safety concerns for children have been organized according to age, with concerns for children under six years old appearing in a separate section. Concerns related to the use of outdoor areas appear in a separate section.

The new requirements also focus on the general comfort of the children and staff in the CNC space. The need for sufficient light is no longer solely a safety issue (i.e. to provide for proper supervision). It is also a factor in creating a positive environment for children, with natural light being preferred.

The CNC space must also be well-ventilated, not just for sanitary reasons, but to ensure the space is pleasant to occupy and promotes well-being. Like the OCCR, the CNCR state the space must be a comfortable temperature; however the CNCR include specific temperature ranges based on advice from public health professionals.

You must now create a CNC Space Approval Checklist and CNC Space Safety Checklist that must include items identified in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively. These items specifically address the requirements in the safety sections of the CNCR and must be used as indicated in the CNCR. For more information, refer to the Space section.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Products are recalled for good reason after much research. It is important for programs to take full advantage of available resources to protect the safety of the children.

The grouping of safety concerns according to age allows ISOs that provide care for school-age children to bypass requirements that could limit programming possibilities and are not relevant for



older children (such as no plastic bags or Styrofoam).

Effective sanitary practices are key to maintaining a healthy safe environment. Providing separate requirements for sanitation makes it easier for ISOs to identify requirements that relate to their program. For example, an ISO that does not provide care to very young children may not need to meet sanitation requirements for diapering and sleeping equipment and bedding.

Increasingly, people are developing sensitivities to perfumes and scented products. A well-ventilated facility will reduce the presence of harmful odours. Children and adults also need an environment that is clean and pleasant, a comfortable temperature, and well-lit, where children can focus on program activities and staff can supervise effectively.

Use of checklists to assess space before it is used by children may be the single most important thing you can do to protect the children. Since items in the checklist are directly related to items in the CNCR, when you use the checklist you are finding out if you are in compliance with the CNCR. Each time you use the checklist, you and your staff will learn more about the steps you must take to ensure safe space for your program.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Consult with health professionals on issues related to sanitation, as necessary (see also 4-3.a).
- Establish schedules for cleaning as necessary.
- Check if the hot water in sinks accessible by children will cause scalding and have building management make adjustments as necessary.
- When planning a CNC program, choose spaces that have direct sunlight. Be sure that you can modify the intensity of the light to accommodate the activities by using blinds or other window coverings.
- Check the temperature of the CNC space at the level where the children play. For children, this is generally nearer the floor. You should check the temperature as the seasons change to ensure the children are comfortable. According to environmental specialists and public health professionals appropriate temperature ranges are:
  - ◇ Winter between 20 C and 24 C
  - ◇ Summer between 23 C and 28 C

**NOTE:** These items are included in the CNC Space Approval Form - See Appendix 1.



Create a "Recalls" process with your team and consider these questions:

- ◇ Who is responsible to check for recalls?
  - ◇ How often will s/he check?
  - ◇ To whom will recalls be reported?
  - ◇ What actions will you take and within what time frame when you have a recall?
- Check Health Canada's recall list on a regular basis and whenever new products are purchased. The list of recalls can be found at: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca) or [www.cmascanada.ca](http://www.cmascanada.ca)
  - Ensure that all indoor and outdoor space to be used for CNC is well-maintained and free from hazards (For more information about the CNC environment and space, refer to the Space Approval and Safety section).

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

### WEB RESOURCES

- Health Canada - [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)
- Where to find your public health office - <http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/index-eng.php>

## REQUIREMENTS

### 2-8 GENERAL SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- a. All space to be used for CNC
  2. Is clean and tidy.
  3. Is well-ventilated.
  4. Is a comfortable temperature for a child, between eighteen (18) and twenty-four (24) degrees C in winter and between twenty (20) and twenty-eight (28) degrees C in summer, measured at child level.



5. Has sufficient light to support activities and permit supervision, including natural light when possible.

## 2-9 WASHROOMS

- a. The CNC space includes a washroom or is close to a washroom.
- b. The washroom gives the children access to hot and cold running water for hand washing.
- c. The temperature of the hot water in all sinks accessible to the children is adjusted to prevent scalding.
- d. The washroom is clean and stocked with soap and paper towels.
- e. When CNC is provided for a child under six (6) years of age, the following are cleaned and disinfected:
  1. Toilet facilities shared with other populations, before being used by a child.
  2. Toilet training equipment, before being used by another child.

## 2-10 DIAPERING

- a. When a facility has diapering,
  2. A sink with hot and cold running water designated for toileting is located in the CNC space close to the diaper changing area, or written procedures for diapering developed in consultation with the local public health office are being followed.
  3. The diaper-changing equipment is sturdy and in good condition.
  4. Diaper-changing surfaces are non-porous, in good condition, and easy to clean and disinfect after each use.
  5. Soiled diapers and diaper-changing equipment are inaccessible to children and are disposed of in a sanitary manner away from food preparation or service areas.

## 2-11 SLEEPING EQUIPMENT AND BEDDING

- a. When providing long term CNC to a child, the program has a sufficient quantity of the following equipment:



2. Cribs or playpens, if CNC is provided for children under nineteen (19) months of age; and
  3. Age-appropriate sleeping equipment for children nineteen (19) months of age and over who need it.
- b. When bedding is used at a facility, it is washed weekly, or when soiled, or when used by another child.

## 2-12 FURNISHINGS

- a. Tables and chairs and other furnishings to be used by a child are clean and, when used for food service, sanitized before use.

## 2-13 GENERAL SAFETY

- a. All indoor and outdoor space to be used for CNC is well-maintained and, having regard for the ages of the participating children, is free from hazards or can be made free of hazards immediately before a CNC session.
- b. No products, including play materials and equipment and furnishings, to which children have access have been recalled by Health Canada.

## 2-14 SPECIFIC SAFETY CONCERNS FOR CHILDREN

### Concerns for All Children

- a. In addition to meeting requirements in 2-13, the ISO shall specifically ensure that
2. Windows that are accessible to a child and can be opened, are limited to opening less than ten centimetres (10 cm).
  3. Hot water pipes and heating units, including baseboard heating devices that pose a threat to children, are inaccessible to a child.
  4. No loose or exposed electrical wires are accessible to a child.
  5. No electrical equipment, appliances or cords that pose a threat are accessible to a child.
  6. All room dividers, barriers, bookcases and other heavy furniture are firmly in place.
  7. The amount and placement of furniture, equipment, appliances and supplies do not pose a hazard to a child.



8. A child does not have access to potentially dangerous substances or poisonous plants.
9. Any potentially dangerous substance is stored in a clearly marked container, preferably in the original container provided by the manufacturer.
10. Balloons, whether inflated or deflated, are prohibited for use in the CNC space.
11. Hot liquids that might pose a hazard to a child are not permitted in the CNC, except when being used for program purposes under close supervision by CNC staff.

### Concerns for Children Under Six (6) Years of Age

- b. In addition to meeting requirements in sections 2-13 and 2-14.a, when a child under six (6) years old is present, the ISO shall specifically ensure that
  3. Unused electrical outlets within reach of a child have covers.
  4. Potentially dangerous objects, including plastic bags, Styrofoam, and small items that could be a choking hazard are inaccessible to a child.
  5. Strings and cords long enough to encircle a child's neck are inaccessible to a child.
  6. Sleeping equipment for a child under nineteen (19) months is free of soft bedding, pillows and soft toys.
  7. Cribs, playpens and strollers used by children meet the requirements for design and manufacturing set out in Canada's Hazardous Products Act and are used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

### 2-15 PLAY MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY

- a. Play materials and equipment are maintained in good condition and are inspected and cleaned regularly or as soiled, except items that are mouthed which are washed and sanitized after each use.
- b. Large pieces of equipment used by the children are arranged so that the children can move freely without colliding with one another or the equipment and use by older children does not threaten the safety of younger children.
- c. When playground equipment, such as a climber, is used by children
  1. Indoors, the area around and under the equipment is equipped with landing mats that are



not a slipping hazard and provide sufficient protection for the children.

2. Outdoors, the equipment and its installation must meet current standards of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).