



PRESS RELEASE

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Increased regulatory supervision for the safety of playgrounds

The National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection (NATCP) and the government agencies under its professional supervision will continue to closely monitor the safety of playgrounds and playground equipment this year. Last year, the authority’s staff found violations at every third playground and piece of playground equipment, and imposed nearly 19 million forints in fines for various violations.

A playground is more than just a place for carefree play; it is also the first setting for social interaction, where children learn the basic principles of cooperation, adaptation, and community rules. At the same time, playground equipment poses certain risks, which can be significantly reduced through proper design, construction, regular inspection, and maintenance.

The justification for the inspection is supported by experiences from previous years; for example, last year, experts from the consumer protection authority inspected 495 playgrounds and a total of 3,659 pieces of playground equipment. Violations were found at 33% of the playgrounds and 30% of the equipment. At 18% of the inspected playgrounds, the information sign displaying the operator’s name and contact information was either missing or improperly posted. In cases of violations, the authorities took the necessary steps to remedy the deficiencies and, where warranted, temporarily prohibited the use of the affected equipment. Last year, fines totaling 18,850,000 forints were imposed.

In the case of public and institutional (daycare, preschool, and school) playgrounds, inspections are also conducted at locations classified as “gray zones,” such as playrooms in hotels and restaurants, as well as the courtyards of apartment buildings. The most important inspection criteria are the required records and the measures documented therein, such as the existence of documents certifying previous repairs, compliance with periodic inspection requirements, and the presence of clearly visible content labels on a separate sign.

The inspections cover all playground equipment specified in the relevant standard—including, in particular, swings, slides, rope courses, merry-go-rounds, seesaws, fully enclosed play structures, and climbing nets.

In addition to the increased presence of authorities, parents are also advised to look for several signs that may indicate whether a playground is safe or not. Check to see if the mandatory

information sign is posted at the entrance and whether it includes the operator's name and contact information. It's worth checking to see if the playground equipment is broken or damaged, or if there are any sharp or jagged edges.

Also check that the rubber surfaces are in good condition. At the same time, do not overlook the regulations regarding weight limits or age restrictions. If you notice any issues at the playground, immediately report your observations to the operator. If the operator's name and contact information are not displayed, file a report with the relevant government agency.

The authorities will continue to conduct inspections to ensure that playgrounds remain safe community spaces that support both children's physical and social development.

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National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection