

A Quantified Fire Risk Assessment Model for Designing Indoor Play Areas



Project Description

“Fully Enclosed” indoor soft play areas present a number of unique fire safety issues such as long and complicated escape routes, young and venerable occupants i.e. children and significantly difficult access for the fire brigade.

The main objectives of this project were to produce an unbiased technical guide for use when carrying out risk assessments, for new and existing soft play areas, and through sharing best practice reduce the probability of death or injury due to fire in these areas.

A great number of activities were undertaken as part of this project, a sample of which are as follows:

- Site surveys across the UK
- Ignitability and reaction to fire tests
- Experimental search and rescue exercises within the purpose built full size indoor play facility “Lavender World”
- Large scale fire tests involving typical orientations of play equipment

Chiltern Fire’s Involvement

Chiltern International Fire Ltd (CIFL) lead the project that was carried out under a Partners In Innovation (PII) contract, supported by DTI, play industries and associated organisations. The project was managed by ODPM and CIFL designed and conducted all the experimental testing and research aspects of the project. A Project Advisory Group was established to provide technical input and guidance on the general direction of the project.

Further project details including a copy of the report can be downloaded on the CIFL website – www.chilternfire.co.uk

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