

Quality fencing by...

Fencing Specialists INC.

Since 1983

Certified DBE / SBE / MBE / WBE / WOSB

Tel: (702) 644-3750 | www.fsilv.com



Providing a Standard of Care for Play Areas

ASTM F2049-11

The Standard for Fences and Barrier Systems at Outdoor Play Areas

KEY NOTES

- Intended for play areas designed for children 6 months—12 years.
- A guideline for greater play area safety in vulnerable play zones but not intended to be the only safety method in play areas.
- The location of the play area to a potential danger should determine if you need a fence or barrier system.
- Fence systems that comply with crash test requirements may be considered barrier systems and can serve both functions.



The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) established the ASTM F2049-11 Standard as a response to accident reports. Reports that varied from vehicles accelerating into play areas to children leaving play areas and entering onto adjacent busy parking lots or falling into bodies of nearby water. There are countless accidents reported on or around vulnerable play areas. The one common factor in all those reports was that the play areas lacked proper fence and barrier systems. The Standard provides the minimum requirements for installing fence and barrier protection at vulnerable play area locations and provides levels to determine if a play area requires this protection.

It is important to note that the Standard is meant to aide to the protection of play areas but not to be the only factor in keeping its visitors safe.

The ASTM 2049-11 Standard contributes to the protection of children in an outdoor play area by requiring fences and/or barrier systems if the play area is near a hazardous condition.

Is the Standard Law in Nevada?

As of November of 2020, The State of Nevada has not made this Standard law in Nevada. It is considered a guideline for safe play area environments in public, commercial and multi family dwelling environments.

Some local jurisdictions may require compliance with the standard as part of their design guidelines. Check with your local jurisdiction to see if this applies.



Fencing INC.
Specialists

ASTM F2049-11 Fence System Specifications

- A minimum height of 4 feet above grade;
- Designed and constructed to allow for visibility from the supervising area;
- No more than 4 inches from grade to bottom of fence;
- No climb fence design;
- Mesh no more than 1 1/4" between parallel sides and 1 3/4" horizontally between the corners of the mesh unless privacy slats are installed (chain link only);
- Fence framework to be industrial / commercial grade;
- Access Gates to have locking key-operated device;
- Single pedestrian gates opening outward away from play area, self closing with a self-latching device that is not less than 48 inches above grade. The latch/locking device for the self-closing latch to be no less than 54 inches above grade.
- Picket/Ornamental Fence and Gates shall not have any protrusions less than 54 inches above grade.
- The standard does not specify the type of material a play area should have for a fence system.



Does your play area need a fence?

Some local jurisdictions in Nevada have adopted this Standard as part of their design guidelines. For all other localities, this Standard is considered the best practice for protecting children from potential hazards.

Hazards are described as bodies of water, streets, highways, roads, parking lots, electrical and other utility fixtures, and other similar life-threatening or debilitating features.

The Standard provides three levels of concern to gauge how vulnerable your play area may be to a hazard:

Level I is where the hazard is less than 30 ft from play equipment or its use zone. This poses the greatest potential for harm. A fence system should be in place around a play area meeting this criteria.

Level II is where the hazard is 30 ft up to 100 ft from play equipment or its use zone. It is best practice to add a barrier or fence system to any play area within this distance to a hazard.

Level III is where the hazard is over 100 ft up to 200 ft from play equipment or its use zone. This is the lowest level of vulnerability but still requires a significant consideration when determining where to install a fence system.

Any hazard more than 200 ft away is not necessarily within a vulnerable play zone requiring a fence unless the owner/operator or its representative deems it as being required.

In Summary

It is best practice to ensure that a fence or barrier system is in place if there is a nearby hazard. In most parts of Nevada, the decision to implement ASTM F2049-11 will be the duty of the owner. There are a few jurisdictions that have adopted this standard into their design guidelines or codes. Your best course of action is to evaluate the threat level the hazard has to the play area. Before your final determination, please check with your local building entities to see if it is a requirement.

