

## BS8461 Football Goals - Code of Practice for their procurement, installation, maintenance, storage and inspection

### Inspecting Goals

Goals should be inspected regularly to ensure that they are still safe to be used. It is not possible to specify exactly what checks should be made or at what intervals, because the conditions under which goals are kept and used vary so widely. It may be necessary to check a goal which is permanently installed in an open public space every day, while one which is in a locked, fenced enclosure and is only ever used by an organised club at a high level with supervision may need to be checked relatively infrequently.

The type and thoroughness of the checks may also vary with the type of goal. The following inspection procedures should be used as a guide to establish the minimum frequency and level of checks required for any one set of goals. The parameters should be reviewed in the light of actual events; if the records show that faults are found at each inspection the frequency of inspections should be increased.

### Inspection type 1

Undertaken at least every week and before any game or training activity. Undertake a thorough visual check of the whole goal and check for the following:

- loose and missing nuts, bolts, pins and other fixings;
- firm attachment to anchoring points or signs of movement in sockets;
- broken or missing net fixings;
- any broken cord in the nets;
- bent sections or other damage to any part of the goal;
- that all identification and instruction labels are firmly attached and fully legible

### Inspection type 2

To be undertaken each time a goal is repositioned. Undertake all the checks listed under inspection type 1 and:

- check that the goal has been firmly reattached to all of its anchors;
- check that the anchors are secure;
- if weights are used, ensure that they are all present.
- The manufacturer's label on the goal should say what weight is needed to stabilise it;
- check that the goal has not been bent or otherwise damaged whilst being moved.

### Inspection type 3

Undertaken once every twelve months ideally prior to the start of every season. Undertake all the checks listed under inspection types 1 and 2 and the following:

- check (every goal) for strength and stability, in accordance with **BS EN 748 (Football goals – Functional & safety requirements, test methods)** or **BS 8462 (Goals for youth football, futsal, mini-soccer & small-sided football – Specification)**, as appropriate.
- A goal's strength or stability should never be tested by hanging or swinging from the crossbar.

**Further advice:** Inspections should be undertaken by competent person(s) and be recorded. Goalpost strength and stability testing as referred to in an Inspection type 3 should be undertaken by a **competent contractor**. There are a number of organisations that offer strength and stability testing; however it is understood that [Surface Performance Ltd](#) is the only UK based independent UKAS ISO 17025 testing institute with the relevant certification to perform goalpost strength and stability testing accredited to BS EN 748 and BS 8642.

*Schools that require goalpost testing may wish to arrange inspections together to share the cost of this service.*

[Harrod UK](#); a UK leading manufacturer of goals, posts and nets have produced a [goal safety information pack](#) which can be referred to for further information on goal post safety standards.