

Designated Grounds - Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975

The Secretary of State has designated and may further designate sports grounds as requiring a General Safety Certificate or Special Safety Certificate.

The responsible person for the ground is required to apply to the appropriate Authority for a General Safety Certificate or Special Safety Certificate.

On receipt of an application, the Local Authority must determine whether the applicant is the qualified/responsible person and if so must issue a General Safety Certificate.

The General Safety Certificate may contain such conditions as the Authority considers necessary or expedient to secure reasonable safety, e.g. management requirements, First Aid provisions, strength of structural elements etc.

In general these conditions will follow the guidance given in the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds.

Attention is also drawn to the Football Licensing Authority's Guidance on Safety Certificates and the London District Surveyors Association Specimen General Safety Certificate and Guide for Sports Grounds.

To prepare a Safety Certificate it is necessary to:

- (a) Request suitable drawings from the applicant.
- (b) Survey the ground in detail.
- (c) Hold Safety Team Meetings with the Emergency Services to determine overall requirements.
- (d) Consult with other expert/other interested bodies etc.
- (e) Seek structural, electrical, mechanical and any other pertinent certification.
- (f) Consult with ground management.
- (g) Determine works conditions and numbers of spectators to be permitted into the ground.

On the issue of the General Safety Certificate it is necessary to notify interested persons and advertise in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

After the issue of the General Safety Certificate, During Performance inspections should be made from time to time, on match days or during other sporting occasions, to ensure that the terms and conditions of the Certificate are suitable and appropriate for the use and to monitor the club's observance of the terms and conditions.

An annual inspection (and subsequent follow-up inspections) of the ground is also required by statute (Section 10B).

Special Safety Certificates are issued for activities which are not included in the General Safety Certificate and the process is similar to that for General Safety Certificates.

Advisory Groups/Safety Teams, comprising emergency services, the relevant clubs and their supports organisations and the appropriate local authority officers, should be set up to deal with all safety issues which might affect the spectators. This group should meet regularly (e.g. monthly) under the Chairmanship of the local authority.