



**For the attention of all RPII Annual Outdoor Inspectors**

We have had a second incident report from Milton Keynes concerning the Norleg (Denmark based company) Group Swing as shown in the image on the following page. The swing identified last year was 6-7 years old and I am assuming this one is of a similar age.

This incident has resulted a head injury to a child requiring 5 stitches; but clearly the consequences could have been much more severe and potentially fatal.

I did inspect the remnants of the first swing and from what we saw the evidence would point to water ingress along the three threaded steel bars on the front leg of the swing. It would appear that rainwater runs down the main beam until it reaches a blockage created by a spacer post inserted between the two verticals, at which point it runs down the side and migrates along the thread and subsequently rots the timber from the inside.

The biggest inspection issue concerning this failure is that it is impossible to see as all is hidden behind the large vertical posts on either side. I'm not even sure one would see the rot even if the threaded studs were removed one by one to inspect the inside. It may be possible to remove the small spacer post and check from the top, but there is no certainty with that approach.

From my perspective, the only way to identify the rot would be by removing the beam in its entirety and making an assessment. I do not believe that a resistograph test would provide a conclusive result, but it is possibly worth considering.

From an RPII perspective we should inform clients that the main beam should be dismantled and inspected with some urgency and even more so if it is over 5 years old.

The image at the bottom of the next page is from the initial failure around July 2016, subsequent images are from the current failure.

I have no information concerning the number of these units sold in the UK, but possibly we can obtain that information from the manufacturer in the near future. I am not aware of any current UK distributor for this equipment

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions concerning this item.

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