



BS EN ISO 9001
Certificate No. PM22118



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

GOAL POST SAFETY MANUAL FOR SPORTS GROUND EQUIPMENT

***Important information on
BS EN & PAS 36:2000
Safety Standards***

Version 2004 V1.01



An official Harrod UK Distributor

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Play It Safe

@ www.harrod.uk.com

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Tragically, during the past few years several children including Jack Sherrin, a 7 year old from West Yorkshire, and Jonathan Smith, an 11 year old from Essex, have been killed by falling goal posts.

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As the UK's leading Goal Post manufacturer we are very much committed to the issue of goal post safety.

This information pack has been designed to provide you with important facts and guidelines that will ensure your equipment is safe both in use and whilst being stored.

Harrod UK have been the UK's representative on the Comité de Européen Normalisation (CEN) safety standards committee since 1989 and have also been invited recently to participate on the 2003 FA Guidelines Committee. The committee's brief was to issue a definitive guide to goal post safety. This document has a strong emphasis on anchorage. Harrod UK manufacture anchorage solutions to suit every environment.

These guidelines are downloadable from the Harrod UK website www.harrod.uk.com/playitsafe or call our sales for a copy.

Unanchored posts have caused some alarming accidents and injuries especially when being misued.

To conform to European Safety Standards and FA Guidelines, anchors must be fitted to all freestanding goals irrespective of size or type. It is essential to conduct a risk assessment of your particular site to evaluate the suitability of specific types of anchorage.

Preferred options for freestanding goals are:

1. Attachment of back bars to FIXED anchorage points. i.e. permanently concreted in anchors
2. Attachments to surround fence by means of Fence Type Anchor
3. Attachment of adequate freestanding weights, i.e. Counterbalance Type

Freestanding weights are an effective temporary method of stabilising goal posts, but care should be taken to ensure the correct amount of weight is used i.e. Full size Freestanding and Five-a-side goals require 6 x ANC-005 per goal. Mini Soccer goals require 8 x ANC-005.

When other forms of anchors are to be used i.e. 'U' Pegs, Spira locks or Cork Screw Types, soil conditions play an important part as they may not hold adequately in certain ground conditions. Therefore these types of fixing should only be used where quantitative evidence exists of their effectiveness under the worst predictable ground conditions. Care should be taken to ensure the attachment of anchors does not create an additional hazard such as entrapment or trip.

Goal posts must be anchored at all times whether in use or storage.



BACKGROUND

The issue of football goal post safety is far from a new one, and as long ago as 1991, we were involved in the BBC "That's Life" programme with Esther Rantzen which highlighted the problem. For sometime previous to that programme, we had been advocating the use of anchors with ALL portable goals. Since then we have been successful in getting the Football Association and Health & Safety Executives to issue directives to all users of free-standing goals to advise them that they must be anchored at all times.

THE ISSUES

There are many thousands of sets of free-standing goals in use every day, and their sizes include full size (7.32m x 2.44m), various junior sizes, mini-soccer size (3.66m x 1.83m) and five a side goals which are 1.22m high. The vast majority of these are manufactured by bone fide company's like ourselves and many will comply with the new current European Standards (BSEN 748 & P.A.S 36:2000) if anchored as per our recommendations. They will be perfectly safe in use and we have never had a problem with any of our goals in this respect.

The problem seems to be when "home-made" goals are used, or when goals have been altered from their original specification (as we believe was the case in the recent tragic Jack Sherrin accident) and as a consequence the goals become unstable.

Goals are frequently moved and assembled ready for use by children these days, and they have little perception as to any dangers and if these goals are not inspected prior to use by either referees, coaches, teachers or parents, then potentially dangerous situations can develop.

The Industry (and in particular our own Company) has been doing all it can to eliminate these tragic accidents. Indeed we have represented the UK on the European Standards Committee for the last 10 years and standards now exist for goals. These include testing guidelines for toppling forces and crossbar strength.

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**PREFERRED GOAL POSTS:
(AS SET OUT BY THE 2003
FA GUIDELINES
COMMITTEE)**

1. Socketed Goal Posts
2. Folding Type Goal, with permanent anchor posts.
3. Integrally weighted Freestanding Goal Posts.
4. Freestanding Goals anchored to recommendations below.

Anchoring Options:

- i. Attachment of backbar to fixed anchorage point i.e. permanently concreted anchors.
- ii. Attachment to surround fence by means of a Fence Type Anchor.
- iii. Attachment of adequate number of freestanding weights.

For full details of Goals and Anchors please refer to pages 7, 8 & 9.

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OUR WISH LIST

1. Only goals that meet relevant BSI & PAS standards should be allowed to be sold or used in the UK.
2. ANY person responsible for organising any team sport that requires a free-standing goal should be aware of the dangers and take the necessary precautions i.e. anchorage, to ensure that they are safe to play with.
3. Home made goals are potentially lethal and should be avoided at all costs.
4. Ideally we need legislation to ensure that fatal accidents never happen again.

There has been a lot of press coverage since the tragic Jack Sherrin accident and we cannot stress enough that had these goals either been made by a bone fide manufacture OR anchored to conform to BS EN 748 or PAS 36:2000, then this fatality could have been avoided.

We have applied pressure via our local MP and have met with the Minister Of Sport, who is looking at the whole situation. Our industry has long campaigned for legislation, this issue is not new, and we hope that no other parents will have to endure the tragic loss of a son that Jack Sherrins have.

THE COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN STANDARDS (CEN)

The Committee for European Standards (CEN) is the governing body by which safety standards are set throughout the EEC. It is a committee aiming to ensure that all equipment is manufactured to the highest safety standards and creates awareness of the high level of responsibility bestowed upon the authorities responsible for the equipment and its use. You should always look for products that conform to BS EN standards.

New safety guidelines laid down by the Committee for European Standards (CEN), state that all full size free-standing goals & posts for sports such as Football & Hockey must be firmly anchored throughout their use. Failure to comply with these CEN directives could lead to prosecution, or worse still, fatal injuries. If you are responsible for sports equipment, then it is your responsibility to ensure that it is properly maintained, secure, and safe.

How the CEN Standards affect you.

- All free-standing goals must be anchored in use and storage, if stored against a wall or fence they must be securely attached so they cannot fall over.
- All socket type goals should be cemented into the ground.
- Steel Cup Net Hook are now illegal, as they are extremely dangerous.
- All equipment must be checked before it is used to ensure it is safe and it has not been tampered with or vandalised.



BRITISH STANDARD FOR EUROPEAN NORMALISATION



All Harrod UK Goals have been independently tested by a recognised testing house and conform to BS EN 748, certificates of conformity available on request.

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BS EN 748

Applicable for socketed and freestanding metal football goals, between the sizes of 4.9m x 1.85m to 7.32m x 2.44m

Elbow Net Supports to be supplied as per National Playing Fields recommendations. Metal cup hooks are banned.

TESTING

The crossbar must be tested for strength. To pass this test they must be able to withstand a vertical force of 180kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute.

The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm max. after 30 minutes have elapsed. They also undergo a stability test where a horizontal force of 110kgs is applied to the centre of the crossbar and the goal must remain stable and not topple over.

The net must be tested for breaking force and be a maximum 120mm square mesh.

INSTRUCTIONS

All manufacturers must provide written instructions for assembly, installation, use, storage, maintenance and anchorage.

WARNING LABEL

All goals must have labels bearing safety information and the goals intended use. Manufacturing must show the standard it conforms to, it's size, the name of the manufacturer, and the year of manufacture.

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SPECIFICATION

PAS 36:2000

The PAS is a standard that was implemented in the year 2000 and applies to all Mini Soccer goals below the sizes of 4.9m x 1.85m, the standard is based around the same regulations as the BS EN standard, although the weights used for the vertical and horizontal force test differ in accordance with the smaller size goals.

PAS 36-1:2000 - Applies To Steel & Aluminium Mini Soccer Goals

As BS EN except to pass the PAS test goals must be able to withstand a vertical force of 80kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute. The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm.

PAS 36-2:2000 - Applies To PVC (Plastic) Mini Soccer Goals

As BS EN except to pass the PAS test goals must be able to withstand a vertical force of 30kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute. The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm.

The stability test differs to BS EN, a horizontal force of 30kgs is applied to the centre of the crossbar and the goal must remain stable and not topple over.

GENERAL SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

ALWAYS refer to our instruction leaflets when dismantling and re-assembling the product:

Small children must be supervised by an adult when they are near all sports equipment.

The life expectancy of steel can be enhanced by the application of a polymer based wax to the product prior to use and annually thereafter.

Equipment must be safely secured at all stages of use.

ASSEMBLY

When erecting equipment always use these instruction and recommendations.

We remind you that the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times. I.E. Hard hat, steel toe cap boots, gloves etc.

When tall and/or heavy equipment is being erected it is recommended that scaffolding and/or heavy lifting equipment is used, and that the correct tools for the job are used at all times.

Assembly must be carried out by a sufficient number of competent persons.

When goals are brought onto the playing area and positioned for play, it is vital that they are not left unanchored whilst the next goal is being made ready.

DURING USE

Before using, always inspect the equipment to ensure that it conforms to our specifications and recommendations.

The product must be used for the purpose for which it has been designed, and no other purpose.

The product must be secured according to the instructions and recommendations provided.

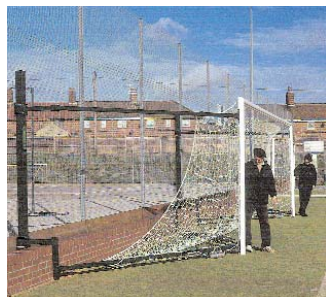
DISMANTLING

Follow the manufacturers assembly instructions and recommendations.

The same safety recommendations apply.

MOVING

Great care must be taken when moving the product when it is still assembled, if no transportation wheels are provided it must be lifted by a sufficient number of competent persons to prevent injury, or damage to the product.



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GENERAL SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED..



STORAGE

When freestanding products are stored assembled our recommendations regarding anchoring must still be adhered to.

If the equipment has folding back supports, it is recommended that the posts are stored flat on the ground. If they are required to be stored vertically, i.e.. leant against a fence, they must be attached in a way that they cannot fall over.

When dismantled parts must be stored safely and securely in order to prevent accidents in the storage area.

Nets must be stored out of sunlight and away from rodents.



BEFORE USE

Make sure that free standing equipment is secured to meet our recommendations.

- Check that all fixings are secure, and that all pivot points are in good condition, and are lubricated with grease.
- Check all locking devices are in good working order.
- Check that equipment for securing free standing products is intact and in good working order.
- Check for and repair any minor damage to nets as and when it occurs.



WEEKLY

Any chips or scratches to the paint work must be treated to prevent corrosion occurring at these points. (Touch up kits are available via your distributor)

Critical points such as fixing points, joints, and points where post enter sockets, which are most likely to rust, should be examined by a responsible person and a record kept of such inspections in a log.

The operator of the equipment has a responsibility to maintain the equipment in perfect working order. To do so will require positive action.

SAFETY

Never try to assemble large or heavy products with only one person, a second person is required, sometimes a third to support the parts while fixings are being secured.

When goals are brought onto the playing area and positioned for play, it is vital that they are not left unanchored whilst the next goal is being made ready.

Where anchors are being used a risk assesment of suitability must be carried out.

With grass type anchors soil conditions play an important part as they may not hold adequately in certain ground conditions, therefore this type of fixing should only be used where quantitative evidence of their effectiveness under the worst predictable ground conditions.

Care should be taken to ensure the attachment of anchors does not create an additional hazard such as entrapment or trip.

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PREFERRED GOAL POST OPTIONS



◀ SOCKETED GOAL POSTS

Sold in sets of two goals in steel or aluminium.

It is highly recommended that all ground sockets are concreted in. Elbow Bracket Net Supports must be in accordance with NPFA regulations.

Metal Cup hooks are banned.

The ideal goal post for grass pitches.



◀ FOLDING GOAL POSTS

Ideal for synthetic surfaces, the folding goal is easily wheeled by two people neatly back against a surround fence when not in use, allowing space and freedom for other sports.

Support posts made from 100mm x 100mm galvanised steel, and require permanent concrete installation.

Suitable for synthetic surface pitches.



◀ INTEGRAL WEIGHTED GOAL POSTS

Harrod UK's uniquely designed Integral Weight Portagoal has been developed and independently tested to meet BS EN standards for weighted goals. The goal is completely safe to use at all times without the need for separate anchorage, whilst still enjoying the manoeuvrability that is required of a portable goal.

Suitable for synthetic surface pitches, can also be used on grass.

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▼ FREESTANDING GOAL POSTS

Freestanding goals conform to BS EN when anchored to manufacturers instructions.

1. Attachment of back bars to FIXED anchorage points. i.e. permanently concreted in anchors (FBL-055/ANC-008/ANC-020)
2. Attachments to surround fence by means of Fence Type Anchor (ANC-022)
3. Attachment of adequate freestanding weights (ANC-005).



Counterbalance Weight Requirements:

Full Size Goals = 6 x ANC-005

Mini Soccer Goals = 8 x ANC-005

Five A Side Goals = 6 x ANC-005

GOAL POST ANCHORING SYSTEMS



ANC-008 Heavy Duty Anchor
FBL-055 Grass Anchor ▲



ANC-005 Counterbalance ▲

Denotes suitability for use on a particular surface:

G = GRASS
S = SYNTHETIC
I = INDOOR

Grass & Artificial Surface Anchor **G S**

For freestanding Football, Mini Soccer/Five-a-side and other Portable games posts.

- Complete with a galvanised chain carbine clip and 'U' type bracket.
- Patent No 9117137-1
- Suitable for either grass or for concreting below artificial surfaces.
- To fit up to 34mm diameter back tubes.
- Available in sets of four (can be supplied in ½ sets).

Weight 10kg per set. **FBL-055**

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal

Heavy Duty Anchor **G S**

Heavy duty version of FBL-055.

- Must be used for hockey goals on very soft ground, supplied in sets of two complete with anchor chain and clip for attachment to back rails.

Weight 14kg per set. **ANC-008**

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal

Spira-Lock® Kit for Shelters **G S**

Easy to install, the spira-lock ground anchor penetrates most ground conditions, dealing with obstructions such as tree roots, small bricks and stones.

- Easily removed and re-used.
- Removal tool included.
- Complete with locating pegs to ensure accurate installation.

Spira-Lock Kit for 4m Shelter (5 Included) **ANC-012**

Spira-Lock Kit for 2.5m Shelter (4 Included) **ANC-013**

ANC-012
Spira-Lock
Anchor ▶



Counterbalance Weight Anchor **G S**

- Comprises of a 17kg Handbag style weight complete with chain, carbine clip and a 'U' type bracket to fit up to 34mm diameter back tubes.

Sold singularly

Weight 17kg per Anchor. **ANC-005**

Requirements:

Full size goals = 6 Anchors Per Goal

Mini Soccer goals = 8 Anchors Per Goal

5-a-side goals = 6 Anchors Per Goal

Portagoal Counterbalance Weight **G S**

Counterbalance weight as per ANC-005, with square head bolt fixings to fit Harrod Portagoal.

Sold singularly

Weight 17kg per Anchor. **ANC-007**

Requirements as per ANC-005

Sports Hall Counterbalance Weight **I**

Counterbalance weight as ANC-005, with rubber pad on base.

Sold singularly

Weight 17kg per Anchor. **ANC-009**

Requirements as per ANC-005

Tarmac Type Anchor **S**

- Specification as FBL-055 Grass Type socket but with no stabilising bar.

- Designed to be installed below ground level, with hole pre-former for installing directly through tarmac surface.

- Available in sets of four (can be supplied in ½ sets).



Weight 3.5kg per set.

ANC-004

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal

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GOAL POST ANCHORING SYSTEMS



ANC-012 Spira-Lock Kit ▲



PEG-021 "U" Peg Anchor ▲

Denotes suitability for use on a particular surface:

G = GRASS

S = SYNTHETIC

I = INDOOR

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Flip-up Style Anchor Socket

Specifically designed for installation on synthetic pitch areas and tarmac.

- Flush fitting lid when not in use for optimum safety.
- Anchorage point flips up to enable easy attachment of a carbine clip.
- Galvanised steel construction with stainless steel top plate and flip up anchorage point.
- Anti tamper lid. Requires Allen key (supplied) to remove and reseal sand trap.

Anchors must be attached correctly to ensure goal conforms to relevant BSEN/PAS standards.

- Requires installing into 350mm cube of concrete.

ANC-020

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal

'U'-Peg Anchor

A risk assessment is required to evaluate suitability of soil conditions.

- Heavy duty 'U' style steel.
- Made from 10mm diameter solid bar, 450mm long.
- Easy to use - supplied in sets of 4.

Weight 2.3kg per set. PEG-021

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal

Fence Type Anchor

- Complete with eyebolt. 2x carbine clips and 3m length of chain.
- Suitable for all Harrod UK goals.

ANC-022

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal

ANC-022
Fence Type
Anchor ▶



S Sports Hall Type Anchor

Floor fixed for Mini Soccer/Five-a-side, Handball and Hockey.

- Set comes complete with SH2 anchor, eyebolt, 30cm plastic covered chain, carbine clip and 'U' type bracket to fit side frame of goal maximum.

28mm diameter.

- Installed into the floor.

SH2 160mm floor sockets

- for solid floors ANC-001

SH2 210mm floor socket

- for suspended floors ANC-002

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal

ANC-001
Sportshall
Anchor ▶



G SH2 Anchor Fittings

- Requires a 20mm hole so that the anchor can be dropped into place by specialist installers.

- 160mm deep for solid floors only, complete with T-bar bolts.

SHP-001

- 210mm deep for suspended floors only complete with T-bar bolts. SHP-100

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal



S

Wall fixed Anchor

(Only suitable for wall fixing)

Recommended minimum use of 2 sockets per goal.

- Set comprises 100mm Rawbolt, Eyebolt, 30cm plastic covered chain, carbine clip and 'U' type bracket to fit side frame of goal, maximum diameter 28mm

ANC-003

Requirements = 2 Anchors Per Goal



FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

The final version of the FA guidelines has been issued on their website and will be launched Feb 2004.

Listed below is a synopsis of the most important changes and actions that will be necessary for football goals to conform to these new guidelines.

END USER Action

Suitable goals

The F.A. recommends that "you buy a goal which at least keeps to the latest published British and European standards (BSEN 748 or PAS 36/2000). If a goal does meet these standards, the manufacturer will be able to provide evidence to show that it does. Do not buy goals that do not meet a relevant standard"

See page 8 FA Guidance Notes.

All Harrod UK goals have been independently tested and we can provide copies of these test certificates if required.

1. Socketed Goal Posts

All sockets must be installed into a minimum 600mm cube of concrete. Socket depth to be minimum 457mm and upright is to be inserted into socket a minimum depth of 300mm.

Back support sockets are to be installed in concrete also.

2. Side Folding Goals With Permanently Fixed Support Posts

Support Posts must be installed into a minimum 600mm cube of concrete.

3. Integral Weighted Goal Posts

Goals to have an integral weighted back frame weighing a minimum of 110kg.

4. Freestanding Goals Anchored as follows:

Anchorage options in preferential order for freestanding goals are:

Attachment of back bars to permanent fixing points i.e. eyebolts or stainless steel loops set in concrete blocks in the correct position.

Suitable attachment of back bars to points on a permanent fence, a risk assessment of the suitability of the fence must be carried out prior to attachment.

Attachment of adequate freestanding weights attached to the goals back bar in the correct position.

When other forms of anchors are used i.e. "U" pegs, Spira locks or cork screw types, soil conditions play an important part as they may not hold adequately in certain ground conditions. Therefore these types of fixing should only be used where quantitative evidence exists of their effectiveness under the worst predictable ground condition.

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FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

END USER Action cont.....

Log Book

Facility providers have responsibilities to provide safe goals and install and maintain them in safe condition. They should keep a log book to record when the goal was put together, how it was installed and how it is maintained. The goals should be regularly inspected and records made of action needed and carried out on the goal. (see page 10 of guidelines)

The manufacturer should provide sample blank sheets with a new goal".

A down-loadable version of a log book is available at www.harrod.uk.com/playitsafe

Sample sheets will accompany all Harrod UK instructions in future.

Samples of Inspection and log sheets are included in the guidelines.

Warning Safety Signs

You can get a sign, which summarises the dangers of not installing and using free-standing goals properly, from the goal manufacturer".

Manufacturers are to produce a sign that complies with the above.

Goal Sizes

The F.A. has now decided on the following 7 sizes of goals to be listed.

Full size	7.32m x 2.44m (24'x 8')
Junior size	6.4m x 2.13m (21'x 7')
Mini Soccer	3.66m x 1.83m (12'x 6')
Five a side Senior	4.88m x 1.22m (16'x 4')
Five a side Junior	3.66m x 1.22m (12'x 4')
Five a side Mini	2.44m x 1.22m (8' x 4')
Futsal	3mx2m

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Wooden Goals

During one of the F.A.'s research programmes carried out in 2002, all wooden goals that were tested failed the strength test. These goals were in apparently good condition so it seems extremely unlikely that any wooden goals will pass the BSEN 748 tests and are therefore unsuitable. They should be replaced with a suitable alternative a.s.a.p.

Home-made Goals

The F.A does not approve home-made goals, including modified goals, as these often fail to meet the most basic safety levels. Most deaths from accidents involving goals have involved home-made goals.

Providing Goals

People who own and operate leisure facilities often provide the pitch and goals for players to use. You should take steps to make sure that the equipment you supply is safe. This means, in the case of goals, that the goals themselves are safe."

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

ACTION REQUIRED BY MANUFACTURERS

Labels

Produce the following labels in accordance with the new guidelines:

Warning Label Football only, check fastenings, properly anchored, do not climb. (Harrod UK label exists but needs slight amendment)

Informative Label Standard, goal size, spare parts and manufacturer's number, year, no of weights required. Statement re spares availability

(Harrod UK label exists but needs slight amendment)

Insertion Depth Label Two lines to show that uprights are inserted to correct depth.

(New label required)

Instructions

Installation and assembly instructions are to be provided on a durable, laminated sheet.

All instructions are to be produced on waterproof paper in future.

Post Runback

For all goals less than 5m wide and less than 1.85m high (PAS 36) - the Runback on free-standing goals must be greater than or equal to 80% of the height of the goal".

Implement new design for all Mini Soccer posts with minimum 1.5m runbacks. It is widely accepted that this may take up to 12 months for manufacturers to implement fully.

Produce range of nets to suit new runback.

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Net Hooks

The spacing between net attachments should preferably be no more than 350mm. Manufacturers have requested that this is changed to 500mm in line with current specifications (BSEN748) and this is currently being reviewed by the F.A.

It is strongly recommended that you read the complete 'Football Association Goals for Football Guidance Notes' which are downloadable from our website at www.harrod.uk.com/playitsafe or are available from your Harrod UK distributor. Should you have any difficulties please contact our Sales Office on 01502-583515