

1. Amusements & Attractions



amusements & attractions

Having amusement attractions and rides at an event can create a vibrant atmosphere. If the event is operating at dusk or in the evening then the attractions can also add additional lighting adding to the overall ambience.

Attractions can be adult and juvenile rides and include such items as bouncy castles and other inflatables.

In recent years there have been a number of accidents with amusements and event organisers are ultimately responsible for ensuring people are kept safe, even if a third party is employed to manage the attractions on site.

There are a number of potential hazards with fairground rides, in particular, including fast-moving machinery, electricity, etc. Common accidents are operators falling from height when building or pulling down rides; poor maintenance; rides being run too fast; and riders not being properly secured in seats and poor crowd management.

There have similarly been serious injuries caused by attractions such as inflatables, with them not being effectively secured, being poorly managed (including wind speed monitoring) or properly supervised with regard to the occupants.

It is important to check that those bringing amusements and attractions onto a site have the experience and knowledge to run them safely, as well as holding the appropriate insurance should anything go wrong.

Those responsible for operating the amusements and attractions should provide the event organiser with a risk assessment (which is a written legal requirement if they employ more than 5 people).

This should include:

- Details of the control measures that will be used to reduce risks to people;
- Confirmation that the allocated site is suitable for the attractions so that they can be set up, positioned and run safely;
- Details of how the operation will be run and supervised including evidence of the competence of those involved in this;
- Details of procedures for fire, first aid and emergency evacuation for the rides and attractions and in some cases the fair as a whole.

Operators in immediate charge of a ride or attraction have a duty to conduct daily and running safety checks on the ride, and to operate it safely. They should be trained in their role so they can manage and run the ride safely in all conditions, including an emergency. They should also be trained in the evacuation of the ride in all foreseeable circumstances.

Attendants who help to operate an attraction also have a duty to take reasonable care for their own safety, the safety of the riders and others.

Compliance

Amusement devices such as adult or juvenile rides should have a current ADIPS test or in the case of inflatables either an ADIPS or PIPA test certificate or tag*. if the item is over 1 year old.

Other non-moving amusement attractions such as Side and Round stalls will need to have a valid electrical test certificate if they have an electrical supply present.

A copy of a current insurance policy covering the specific attractions/amusements as well as insurance cover for those operating them should also be evidenced.

Finding suppliers

Whether the event includes a complete fairground or just an inflatable device, it is important to use reputable suppliers/operators belonging to one of the recognised trade bodies in the industry, such as the:

- Showmen's Guild of Great Britain (SGGB)
- Association of Independent Showmen (AIS)
- Society of Independent Roundabout Proprietors (SIRPS)
- Amusement Catering Equipment Suppliers (ACES)

Note: Details of ADIPS certification can be found at www.adips.co.uk (<http://www.adips.co.uk>). Similarly, details of PIPA certification which covers inflatables can be found at www.pipa.org.uk (<http://www.pipa.org.uk>)

More detailed information about the above can be found in the Purple Guide at www.thepurpleguide.co.uk (<http://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk>)