

To Fairground Trade Associations

Safety Alert – Urgent Action Required

You will be aware of the serious incident at M&Ds Strathclyde Park, Scotland on 26 June, involving the Tsunami roller coaster which we are investigating. I am writing to you about issues emerging from the investigation that require immediate action by the industry to ensure the safety of the public. We request that you urgently communicate the information in this letter to your members, to ensure that effective action is taken, to secure the safety of the public using their rides.

Our investigation has identified significant issues surrounding the condition of the mechanical and structural parts of this ride. We also have serious concerns regarding the maintenance of the ride and the extent and thoroughness of the annual mechanical inspection and NDT examination carried out on this ride and others in the park.

The Tsunami rollercoaster was inspected by Mr Craig Boswell, trading as Amusement Inspection Services (AIS) who issued a Declaration of Operational Compliance (DOC) on 10 June 2016. Following the accident, Mr Boswell voluntarily removed himself from the ADIPS register. HSE has served a Prohibition Notice on Mr Boswell under s22 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, to ensure that he does not undertake any further inspections of fairground rides; unless and until he has assured us of his diligence in fairground ride inspection. There is clearly the potential for other rides examined by Mr Boswell to be unsafe and, in any case, public confidence in the safety of rides with current DoCs issued by him may be undermined.

For these reasons we are taking this opportunity to remind ride controllers of their duty under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that their rides are maintained in a safe condition. Whilst an annual in service inspection is used to verify that a ride is fit to be used at a specific point in time, it does not remove the ongoing duty on the controller to ensure that the ride is adequately maintained.

Ride controllers with a Declaration of Operational Compliance (DOC) issued by Mr Boswell must also take the following action to ensure their rides are safe to use.

Ride controllers must satisfy themselves immediately that the structure of their ride and the safety critical parts are in an efficient state, in efficient order and in good repair, to ensure that the ride remains safe to operate.

In particular ride controllers must maintain their ride to ensure that both structural and safety critical mechanical components do not deteriorate between annual inspections to an extent which presents a risk of failure. Ride controllers should pay particular attention to any corrosion of those parts, and where required, take appropriate remedial action to ensure that this will not lead to failure of any part of the ride whilst in use. Controllers must, as part of their regular inspection scheme, have access to all of the necessary parts of the machine so they can ensure these remain safe and fit for use. This may require specialist access equipment for work at height or confined spaces.

On many rides, parts of the structure and safety critical components will have been subject to NDT examination during their annual inspection. In light of this incident however, ride controllers should contact a competent ride inspector to satisfy themselves that the ride structure and safety critical components have been subject to the correct thorough NDT examination using the procedures required in the NDT schedule. Where this is not the case, further NDT examination must be carried out by a competent person and any necessary remedial action taken before the ride is used.

Those operating inflatable devices inspected by Mr Boswell should check their device has been built to the current British Standard (BS EN 14960), in particular has sufficient anchor points, and is in good repair prior to its use. Further information on the safe use of inflatables is available from HSE at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/fairgrounds/inflatableand.htm> and from the PIPA website at <https://www.pipainspections.co.uk/>

Ride controllers should write down and place in their Operations Manual the action taken to assure themselves that their ride is safe to use. This will include details of any further testing, inspection, or remedial work carried out on the ride. HSE Inspectors will request this information when inspecting rides with a DOC issued by Mr Boswell.

Our investigation into this incident will continue. We will share any further findings which may have an impact on wider public safety with the industry as appropriate. We will also consider what further action may be required to secure compliance with the law and the safety of the public using fairground rides.

Please communicate this information to your affected members, to ensure that effective action is taken by them to secure the safety of the public using their rides.

Further information on maintenance and inspection of fairground rides is available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg175.htm>

HSE

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