

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

INCIDENT BULLETIN — March 2015

016. Sky Swing ride, Cardiff Winter Wonderland

NAFLIC has been made aware of two incidents which took place on a Sky Swing ride at the Cardiff Winter Wonderland event.

The Sky Swing features a central tower structure, almost 200ft. tall at its highest point, and 12 arms, each of which has a two-seat, free swinging gondola hanging from it on a chain. The arms are attached to a cradle which rises up to the top of the tower and rotates. The device has a maximum operating wind speed and when this is reached, the device stops automatically.

Re the first incident, the device detected excessive wind speed and stopped rotation, at which point the gondolas started to come down automatically. However, the stopping of rotation reduced the centripetal force and the wind then caught two empty gondolas which hit one or two of those containing riders. No injuries were reported.

In a second incident on the same ride at the same event, it is reported that riders were left 65ft. up when the ride came to an unexpected stop. It is understood an electrical fault was to blame for the incident and the event operator was working with the manufacturer of the ride to ascertain the cause behind the fault.

Following the second incident, the attraction was removed from the event and replaced by another ride.