

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MARCH 2004

267. Coin-Operated Kiddie Ride Accident

NAFLIC member Tony Mogford Associates reported to us an accident involving a coin-operated kiddie ride - a single seat mini wheel (i.e. rotating in a vertical plane about a horizontal axis). There are several overseas manufacturers producing rides of this type.

The seat is provided with a chain lap restraint with an S-hook termination. When not in use, the chain hangs down on the approach side of the ride.

We believe that, during the sequence of events which led up to the accident, the injured child put the S-hook into its mouth. The child wanted to ride, but the mother said no and walked away. The protesting child ran after mother, tearing the hook out of its cheek in the process.

The events are highly likely to have been unforeseen and we have not received any report of an accident of this type in recent years. That having been said, we realise that there may be a need to consider the implications for coin-operated kiddie rides. They are unmanned and, in some respects, rely on parental (or other responsible) supervision for very young children and are accessible to unaccompanied older children. However, designers need to consider the extent to which supervising adults can be expected to foresee hazards and realistically picture the risks.

The accident was obviously somewhat obscure and may well have evaded most professionals' hazard lists. Yet, as is so often evidenced, hindsight has 20/20 vision. From such a viewpoint, the type of restraint, the location of the chain fixing and the choice of chain termination / catch are all factors which might enable dutyholders to control the level of risk.

Committee Members :- Dr Garry Fawcett (Chairman), Mr Richard Barnes, Mr Peter Smith, Mr Ian Grant,
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