

# NAFLIC

*National Association For Leisure Industry Certification*

## **Standards & Related Documents Committee**

### **TECHNICAL BULLETIN - JULY 2005**

#### **287. Reverse Bungee Fatality**

A 14-year-old girl was killed at an amusement park in Cologne, Germany, in August 2004 when the operators of a catapult-bungee ride released her carriage before her safety harness was secured. The carriage launched to 150 feet in the air, ejecting the victim, who fell to her death. A 16-year-old girl who was riding with the victim was able to cling on to avoid serious injury.

According to witnesses, two ride attendants were in the process of securing the girls into their seats when the third attendant released the carriage.

The ride was closed pending an investigation. At the time of the investigation (results of which we have not seen) three park employees were said to be facing charges of “negligent manslaughter”.

Because of the serious risk associated with early release, it is a general principle that it should not be possible until the restraints are properly in place. This should be achieved at the design stage by some sort of logical and reliable interrelationship between restraint and release. Some designs also inhibit tensioning of the bungee cords until the restraints are locked. We note that control logic to achieve these ends is normally present on such devices but that it is not uncommon for the design to have insufficient safety integrity (i.e. not adequately failsafe).

A similar accident has been reported this month in New Jersey.

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