

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - SEPTEMBER 2005

294. Safeco Crazy Frogs

A year ago we were informed by the Health and Safety Executive of an investigation following an accident involving a Safeco Crazy Frog amusement ride.

Since that time the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) completed a report on the accident, in which a passenger suffered a compression fracture to a vertebra.

On the evidence for the device concerned, as measured and reported by HSL, the accelerations to which the passengers may have been exposed were thought to have been a potential risk for some passenger subgroups. We note that the accelerations assessed in the HSL report were within the guidelines included in EN 13814 for the configuration concerned. If the HSL report is correct, there is therefore reason to doubt the "Informative Annex", Annex G, in EN 13814 when the circumstances of a Crazy Frog apply.

The information supplied to us does not make clear whether the reported problems resulted from unsatisfactory design, manufacture, or from unauthorised modifications.

In January 2005, Mr Barry Baker, an HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety, wrote to us expressing his concern that there was a serious shortage of design safety information available for the Safeco Crazy Frog involved in the accident. They had previously taken enforcement action with respect to this ride because it did not meet the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (as amended by the Consumer Protection Act 1987) in relation to the safety of the design.

Just after the accident described above we received photographs of another Safeco Crazy Frog which had experienced a fatigue failure, in Ireland, of one of the main arms which carry the passenger units. In March 2005, Mr Baker notified us of serious limitations with respect to fatigue lives of some components of these rides, as well as some other concerns about design safety.

All of the above matters involved rides supplied by the Spanish manufacturer Safeco S.A.

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