

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - AUGUST 1998

169. Injuries on the Gyroscope / Spaceball Type of Ride

There have been recent press reports of more injuries occurring on a Gyroscope / Spaceball type of ride in use in a pub car park in Barnsley. On this occasion five young people suffered burst blood vessels in their eyes.

The Gyroscope is a very simple ride, being merely a gimbal-mounted seat into which the single passenger is strapped. By turning the gimbals the passenger is moved with two degrees of rotational freedom. There are two key ride types - motor driven and manually spun.

NAFLIC member Wilson Consultants has investigated a previous case of injuries on a similar design and tells us that it is possible to spin some manual versions at excessive speed unless control measures are taken. G-forces at eye level of up to 8½ g were identified, magnitudes which could persist for many seconds.

Speed-limiting devices are a possible means of control but they are not a normal feature of these rides. Nor are speed indicators, which might be sufficient if the ride were run by trained operators.

It is our view that, unless adequate speed-limiting devices are fitted, these manually-spun rides are likely to be unsuitable for use by untrained personnel.

Committee Members :- Dr Garry Fawcett (Chairman), Mr Richard Barnes, Mr Bob Nicholls, Mr Robert Casey, Mr Peter Smith and representatives of Plant Safety Ltd, and Banwell & Associates Ltd

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