

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MAY 2004

274. Sonacase Twists

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We have recently received correspondence, from Health and Safety Executive's Mr Gerry Muir and addressed to members of HSE's FJAC (Fairgrounds and Amusement Parks Joint Advisory Committee), regarding serious concerns about the design safety of restraint systems on some Twist rides manufactured by Sonacase. Mr Muir's covering letter asked industry associations to pass the information on to their members. Because of the seriousness of the safety issues, the HSE letter says :-

"8. ... We do not expect to find any rides that have not had modifications made to the passenger containment system.

9. We will be asking NFIT members that when they find a Sonacase Twist ride that has had modifications made to the passenger containment system, and has current valid DoCs, they should carry out a check to ensure that reference is made in the Operations Manual to the modifications and that any modifications have been the subject of design review (as specified in Appendix 3.12 and paragraph 62 of HSG175). If it is found that no reference has been made in the Operations Manual to any safety critical modification, then that fact would render any subsequent DoC as invalid. The Inspector would then take action appropriate to that agreed for finding a ride operating or about to operate without a valid DoC.

10. We would not expect to find a Sonacase Twist ride operating or about to operate without valid DoCs, as such a scenario should not be possible on fairs organized and attended by FJAC members."

Please note, then, that for the unmodified, problematic passenger containment design specification, any existing Report of Design Review is, in the eyes of the HSE, not reliable, and they expect to see additional Design Review for modifications to properly take into account the issues that have been identified. The implication is that the HSE believe there are Design Reviews in existence, which are being relied upon, and which are invalid. We also understand that, with respect to a certain type of Sonacase design, there is still an Urgent Defect

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Report (issued by registered inspection body Wilson Consultants) which was concerned with the problems mentioned by Mr Muir as well as some others, and which has never been rescinded. We remind registered inspection bodies of the ADIPS *Rules of Procedure for the Issuing and Resolution of Urgent Defect Reports (UDRs)*, version "UDR181201". This document includes a procedure which ADIPS expects to be followed when it is wished to resolve safety issues included in a UDR.

We have previously written about 4 accidents on Sonacase Twists - in Technical Bulletins 014, 134, 157 and 224. These all followed from passenger ejection as a result of restraint problems.