

CARES Notification

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Subject: Expo Wheel Set-Up Bracket

Ride(s) affected: Wadkins Expo Wheel

Date: February 11, 2017

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The following information has been provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services about an incident (without injuries) that occurred on February 10, 2017.

Authorities were notified by telephone of an incident on an "Expo Wheel" built by Wadkins Expo Wheel of Upper Falls, MD. Four teenagers were riding in a carrier when it started to roll over after the opened carrier door contacted a section of the sweep. The four patrons arrived in the station riding in the overhead bonnet and then exited without any reported injuries, running off onto the midway. According to the reporting individual the patrons were not seen again. The ride was closed until an inspector arrived on Saturday.

An inspector was dispatched to the site Saturday and completed an inspection of the device. During the inspection he and the owner's representative rode in the carrier involved and found that there were no restrictions as described during Friday night, but once they opened the carrier door it made contact with spoke #16 at the twelve o'clock position. It was found that with the carrier door opened it would contact a plate, welded to the spoke by the manufacturer that is used for tear down and assembly of the ride. The Bureau was in contact with the manufacturer over the weekend who required the doors of the carrier involved to be tied off from use. The inspector also issued an out of service tag on the affected carrier.

A letter from the manufacturer was received giving the owner approval to remove the plates from spoke #16 and a removal bolt be added in its place. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services was informed by the manufacturer that all Expo Wheels built since 2011 were designed with a bolt-on set-up bracket which is to be removed after the ride is set up. The Bureau has instructed all of its inspectors to make sure that the set-up bracket has been removed from all Expo Wheels and has instructed that under no circumstances is an Expo Wheel permitted to operate with the set-up bracket installed.



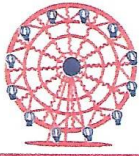




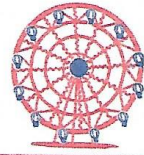








Wadkins Expo Wheel, Inc.



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February 11, 2017

VIA EMAIL: trbillyt@aol.com

allan.harrison@freshfromflorida.com

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to give authorization to Mr. Billy Tucker, to modify the #16 spoke on the Expo Wheel. It has been brought to our attention, that the plates welded to spoke #16, that are only used during tear down and set up of the ride to hold the spoke cradle, can contact with the seat door if opened while passing the plates while operating the wheel. This can cause an unsafe condition by holding the seat in a fixed position and not allowing a full revolution of the seat. After evaluating the information given in phone calls, we feel that the plates need to be permanently removed and a removable bolt on unit be used in its place instead. Mr. Tucker is authorized to make these modifications on site, by cutting the plates off of spoke #16 and Wadkins Expo Wheel will ship the replacement parts to be used in the place of the plates being removed, to correct the issue. Until the plates are removed, it is recommended that seat #16 not be used and the doors be secured together with wire ties to prevent opening of the doors by the operator.

If any further information is required, please call at (443) 463-1637.

Thank you,

Roger Wadkins, Jr.

Wadkins Expo Wheel, Inc.

Text of the letter:

February 11, 2017

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