

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Sub-Committee

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Passenger Restraints on Roller Coasters (& other rides)

A fatal accident occurred last summer on an imported (Cavazza) roller coaster ride when a passenger fell out of a car. Although the investigation is not yet complete it is possible that the passenger restraint design was inadequate for the purpose of resisting the forces which the passenger was able to apply.

We draw attention to the need to review the design and construction of, examine, and test passenger restraints. Unfortunately there is little guidance on design loading but it is clearly important to be aware of additional loading that can be imposed by the passenger in straining against the restraint.

Restraint locking mechanisms are obviously significant and it is therefore also important to consider their design safety and / or their failure to safety. The adequacy of inspection schedules for passenger restraints may also need to be considered. We suggest that you ensure that you are completely satisfied with relevant rides on this point.