

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - OCTOBER 1998

173. Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Certain types of ride give rise to the possibility that passengers may be stranded in remote positions. For instance, a roller coaster may be stopped away from the station or the gondola of a Miami Trip may be stranded, without power, in the “top dead centre” position.

When this is reasonably foreseeable it is essential that emergency evacuation procedures should have been specified. Certain principles may often apply to these :-

- It is important that recovery should be completed within a short duration and the length of time that is considered reasonable will depend upon the circumstances. For instance, it might be unreasonable to leave passengers inverted for more than a few minutes while, in a more comfortable position a longer delay could be satisfactory.
- Where recovery procedures are needed they should be written and incorporated in the ride’s specification / instructions so that they are available for the Operations Manual.
- Where recovery procedures exist, operators and attendants should receive relevant training and should practice the procedure at sufficiently frequent periods. (We sometimes hear of incidents where it is clear that the staff were not sufficiently familiar with the procedures).
- The procedure should mention, and make provision for, any special equipment or personnel, e.g. the Fire Brigade. (The Fire Brigade should not be included in the written procedure without their agreement).
- It would be appropriate for emergency recovery procedures to be demonstrated at Initial Test and the annual functional test.

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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