

Engagement & Policy Division

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Principal Inspector  
Tracy Hamilton

Amusement Device Safety Council

National Association of Leisure Industry Certification

British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and  
Attractions

British Amusement Catering Trade Association

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Reference: 2021/50423

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

## **ANNUAL INSPECTION OF AMUSEMENT DEVICES**

This letter formally sets out HSE's position on the annual in-service inspection of amusement devices.

In February 2021 the Amusement Device Safety Council wrote to HSE requesting a review of HSE's position as set out in correspondence dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

I would like to reaffirm that HSE's position remains unchanged, in that no amusement device should be used if it has not been maintained effectively and has not been subject to a suitable inspection within the last 12 months by a competent person.

As was set out in the previous correspondence, HSE expects operators to make all reasonable efforts to arrange for inspections to be carried out within the specified time limits with their RIBs. This will include

- Contacting your RIB at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss how to organise the inspection of your amusement devices.
- Consulting with your RIB to ascertain if the inspection of your amusement device can be on a phased basis with a final "functional test" or "review" of the amusement device to be undertaken prior to the issuing of the annual Declaration of Operational Compliance (DoC)
- Prioritising the inspection of your amusement devices, giving due consideration to the current situation and the likely timeframe for operation of your devices during the current season. i.e. if you operate 15 amusement devices but anticipate only using 5 during the shortened season, only have those 5 devices inspected to ensure that the RIBs can meet the demand for inspections across the whole industry.
- Ensuring inspection bodies have access to equipment in a timely manner.

- Working with the RIBs to manage appropriate Social Distancing (SD) in the workplace, to satisfy both your needs and those of the inspection body, as part of the Government drive to manage the spread of COVID-19.
- If your business is not currently operating and staff are furloughed, consider allowing access to the inspection body so that equipment is ready for when your business reopens. Otherwise you may have to delay restarting that amusement device until it has been subjected to an inspection.
- If your inspection body is unable to provide engineers due to staff absence, make reasonable attempts to source engineers from another provider.

Furthermore, Registered Inspection Bodies (RIBs) are expected to undertake inspections to meet their clients' needs, and also to consider how they may prioritise resource. This will include:

- Working with the operators to manage access for inspection with appropriate SD in the workplace, to satisfy both your needs and those of the dutyholder, as part of the Government drive to manage the spread of COVID-19.
- Consider seeking access to businesses that have furloughed staff and are not currently operating so that amusement devices are ready for when your business reopens.
- Where availability of engineers and other inspection staff becomes a limiting factor consider how resource can be prioritised to inspect amusement devices that the showmen intend to use during this current season and to address the most significant areas of risk.

Finally, should you require further assistance or guidance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

**David Kivlin**  
**HM Inspector of Health and Safety**