

Source: Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

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The following information is an update from HSE Inspector David Kivlin, Inspector of Health and Safety, Entertainment, Leisure, Commercial & Consumer Services Sector, on issues the HSE has identified during visits during 2022 and 2023.

Feedback on 2022/2023 work

The material breach rate for the year was 34%

HSE can confirm that the following enforcement action was taken

- 10 INs/PNs served against Twist devices
- 2 INs/PNs served on Star Flyer rides
- 1 IN served on a log flume device relating to work at height issues

In more general terms, HSE found the following issues and topics across the work we undertook:

Electrical

- Damaged cabling exposes live conductors
- Incorrectly jointed cables allow access to live conductors i.e., “choc box” - connectors and inadequate mechanical strength
- Damaged or missing bulbs allowing access to live conductors
- Defeated isolation switches allowing access to electrical distribution boards
- Missing blanks on distribution boards allowing access to live terminals
- Control systems overridden to allow devices to run with restraints open.
- Incorrect IP rating on electrical system i.e., domestic sockets used outside
- Use of single insulated cabling on 240v lighting system
- Unhindered access to safety switches on restraint system, which allowed a MOP to unplug them whilst the device was in motion
- No functional testing procedure for control system
- Missing e-stop
- Main isolator inoperable
- Poor earthing arrangements

NDT

- Poor NDT practice including use of techniques not specified in the NDT schedule i.e., MPI specified, but Eddy current undertaken etc

Mechanical/structural

- Incorrectly rated pins used to replace missing or damaged pins on restraint systems etc.
- Missing r-clips
- Missing slew ring pins
- Poor packing of devices using unsuitable materials.
- Devices operated well above specified R.P.M. on several amusement devices.
- Welding defects and corrosion on amusement devices.
- Access to dangerous moving parts on an amusement device including drive wheels etc.

Work at height

- Poor practice observed at number of visits including employees climbing onto structures without adequate safeguards during build up and pull down
- Non integrated work platform in use without adequate provision to prevent tilt mechanism operating when platform is elevated
- Unguarded edge on coaster platforms
- Poor practice during the emergency evacuation of a coaster
- Defective scaffolding used during the erection of large coaster.

Operational procedures

- Lack of suitable operational risk assessments or other instructions
- Poor practice observed and lack of checks of restraints at each ride cycle
- Poor practice for loading a device to "balance" it out
- No effective emergency rescue procedures on several amusement devices
- No height restrictions specified for an amusement device
- Lack of suitable staff numbers to ensure safety of devices during operation
- Inadequate use of suitable lap bar and/or seatbelts on Crazy Mouse devices

Inflatables

- High level anchors not being used or incorrectly tied off to fencing etc.
- Damaged webbing straps and D-rings

Chemicals (COSHH)

- Lack of face fit testing for RPE provided to prevent/reduce exposure to chemicals hazardous to health in engineering workshop
- Lack of control of welding fume.

Lifting Operations

- No effective lift plan for loading carriages onto track
- Employee observed being lifted on top of a load during lifting operation.

Inspection

- Amusement devices in operation with outstanding issues identified at pre-inspection stage not satisfactorily addressed including safety envelope being compromised and devices not secured correctly

Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regs

- Paints and thinners incorrectly stored

Workplace transport

- Poor practice observed during set up of large fair, with suitable plan or schedule to manage vehicle movements