

ADSC meeting December 2009

The most recent meeting of the Amusement Device Safety Council (ADSC), which oversees the ADIPS ride inspection scheme, took place on the afternoon of 8th December. This followed the meeting of the Fairground Joint Advisory Committee (FJAC), which took place on the morning, hosted by the HSE. ADIPS Compliance Officer Andrew Potter spoke on the subject of Competency Assessment for Inspection Bodies (IB's), which had been discussed at length by the sub-committee overseeing this project. This process would audit the quality of inspection work carried out by ADIPS Inspection Bodies (IB's). The sub-committee recommended the outline framework proposed was a sound approach, which should be considered by the ADSC. Member Associations agreed to discuss this document further and provide feedback.

Luke Ditchburn, General Manager provided the Group with an update of activities within the ADIPS Registration Group who assess all Inspector applications.

Regarding the revised ADIPS Requirements for Registration, several points were clarified at the meeting before it was agreed that the new document be adopted for 2010 registration. The new requirements to include the new Inspector Classification Group 'S', which allows inspection activity of simple devices such as basic juvenile rides and inflatables.

Following previous discussions on the 'Advice' series of guidance notes, ADIPS General Manager Luke Ditchburn informed the meeting that the next proposed publication, Guidance on Pre-Use Inspection, had been through a tender process for its writing and publication, with a good level of interest shown for the project.

The subject of training courses, specifically pertaining to hydraulic and mechanical inspection, was also discussed, with information being provided on one course in particular. Following a short debate it was agreed that if a newly registered inspector did not have a qualification in hydraulics but wished to carry out this part of an inspection, he must go on a suitably recognised course. Furthermore, it was also agreed that all registered inspectors must complete such a course for 2012 registration.

In relation to the same subject, ADIPS Chairman Adrian Mahon noted that discussions had taken place with HSEC regarding courses and this organisation was preparing a proposal on various courses for ADIPS.

A brief overview of the inaugural conference for IBs, held the day after the December ADSC meeting, was provided by Luke Ditchburn, who explained that the event provided an opportunity to communicate different issues and areas relating to ADIPS to IBs. This was followed by mention of the previously proposed ADIPS Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme for IBs, it being agreed that Luke Ditchburn should consult with Inspection Bodies to determine the level of interest in such a scheme.

Luke Ditchburn also reported that since the previous ADSC meeting, he had consulted with IBs on the subject of the ADIPS On-Line project. Some had called for further functionality and he informed the meeting that he was planning to go 'live' with the system in April 2010. New functionality included photographs of devices being included to assist with the identification of devices. It was noted by the Showmen's Guild (SGGB) representatives that there had been a lot of interest in the project from SGGB members, while Luke Ditchburn commented it was anticipated that a test site would be available a month before the actual site came into operation.

The revision of the European Standard - EN 13814: Fairground and Amusement Park Machinery and Structures was discussed and a commitment to supporting the revision shown.

Also discussed briefly was the subject of qualifications for ride operators and it was again confirmed that an NVQ Level 2 course on mechanical ride operation was available from Skills Active, who had offered this since 1994, and that anyone could take it. The course had been updated since then and is a City & Guilds course and the relevant information is to be added to the ADIPS website.

Finally, among the subjects brought up under the ADIPS Ltd. agenda item was that of DOC processing. It was noted that one of the most frequently asked questions from Association members was why it took so long to obtain paperwork, the answer being that the ADIPS office experienced delays in receiving paperwork. It was noted that the On-Line system referred to earlier in the meeting should help alleviate this.

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