

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Subcommittee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - APRIL 1994

085. Evacuation of Roller Coasters

Two incidents on gravity rides (e.g. roller coasters) in the 1993 season highlighted the need for a safe means of escape in the event of an emergency and a defined evacuation procedure (as required by paragraph 31 of "Fairgrounds and Amusement Parks - A Code of Safe Practice").

Although it might at first be thought that evacuation procedures are of no concern to an Appointed Person carrying out Thorough Examination, it is in fact essential that he be informed of them. The equipment used in evacuation is part of the amusement device and needs to be of suitable design and in satisfactory condition. The routes to be followed in evacuation will govern where barriers need to be located. The Committee are also aware of cases in which barriers on escape routes, although present, have been inadequate. Railings need to be sufficiently high, should have an interlocking rail and should have calculations, confirmed by Design Review, demonstrating that they are of sufficient strength to withstand normal horizontal and vertical imposed loads.

If evacuation involves passengers walking down steps or ramps (e.g. alongside the main lift of a roller coaster) then these must also be of satisfactory design and maintained in good condition.

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