

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MAY 1999

182. Entanglement of Hair and Clothing

A recent accident reminds us of the hazard of entanglement of hair, scarves, saris etc. in moving parts of fairground equipment, particularly rotating components such as axles, shafts and chain and belt drives. The severity of harm associated with this hazard obviously depends on the precise circumstances, but it should be remembered that a variety of deaths and serious injuries have occurred.

It is normally “reasonably practicable” to minimise risks associated with this entanglement hazard at the design stage - by the provision of guarding to prevent trailing items from accessing the dangerous components. In the rarer circumstances when it is not possible to design out the risk it will be necessary, if the risk is significant, to monitor intending passengers and insist on long hair being worn up (e.g. provision of hair nets is sometimes arranged), and the removal or fastening of trailing items of clothing. In conjunction with such measures it may be a useful adjunct to display signs stating the exclusion. But such signs should not be thought of as a primary risk reduction measure - it is not sufficient to rely on people reading them and some (e.g. foreign visitors, poor readers) may not be able to.

It should not be assumed that this hazard is confined to larger rides (e.g. see HSE Guidance Note PM 57 on Big Wheels), go-karts (as mentioned in NAFLIC Technical Bulletin 141), and the like. Small coin-operated children’s rides may also be implicated as evidenced by a recent accident in Cornwall.

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

© May 1999

2A GROVE PARADE, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE. SK17 6AJ
TEL: (01298) 22384 FAX: (01298) 70784