

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MAY 2003

259. Round Up - Failure to Stop

On 18 April 2003 a ride operator was unable to stop an amusement ride, said to be similar to a Round Up, for a period of about 10 minutes at a carnival in Knoxville, Tennessee. The ride was running for this extended time at full speed in the tilted position, leaving 12 passengers sick, although nobody was seriously injured.

The problem was said to be the result of an electrical malfunction.

We have reported on instances of failure to stop or continuation beyond limit switches, etc., in Technical Bulletins in the past (e.g. 34, 199, 229). We have not previously reported on this type of running on, although we are aware that it has occasionally happened before.

The accepted method of controlling such risks is the inclusion in the design of an emergency stop system. If designed and installed correctly, this should bring the ride, or passenger unit as appropriate, to a safe halt using, if necessary, means other than those provided for normal operation such as raising / lowering or driving the ride. Subject to risk assessment and operational considerations, the ride or passenger unit should reach standstill in the shortest time commensurate with avoiding hazardous conditions with regard to all safety requirements including:

- the general integrity of the machine and structure;
- safe accommodation of passengers; and
- decelerations.

Subsequently the power has to be removed.

In circumstances where an emergency procedure may need to be applied, such as an emergency stop, or where people may be left in discomfort for a protracted time period, all operators (and attendants) need to have adequate training in the use of such systems. The importance of carrying out periodic rehearsal of emergency procedures is emphasised so that familiarity is not lost. In some cases inspection bodies may require an emergency procedure to be demonstrated as part of functional tests.

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