

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2006

314. Swinging Gym Fatality

The HSE has informed the committee of a fatality involving a Swinging Gym ride. The details provided by the HSE are included below:

Fatality to employee - Swinging Gym 28/8/06

There has been a fatality to a 17 yr old worker, crushed when he was trapped between the platform and the moving car of a swinging gym fairground ride. We are currently investigating and will report back in full at a later date.

However one factor that is apparent was the need for employees to initiate the movement of the car by pulling/lifting it backwards using a bar across the front of the car. This appears to pose a serious potential risk of contact with the moving car (e.g. in the event of a slip forward, or any other action that could result in the person moving into the danger area).

As part of our investigation we are looking at alternative ways of providing the first "push" to get the car moving that would keep an employee a safe distance away. One potential method that has been suggested would be the removal of the current handle bar across the cage and the use instead of a pole, pushing against a mount plate on the car. I would be grateful for any feedback about the reasonable practicability of this method, any potential drawbacks and any other solutions that you may be aware of.

This Technical Bulletin has been issued as a result of the Alert issue by HSE and NAFLIC has not, as yet, been able to confirm the validity of any suggestions proposed by the HSE. However, this incident serves as a reminder of the types of injuries that can and have occurred in the past on this type of device.

Swinging Gyms have been the topic of a previous bulletin TB 32.

Committee Members:- Mr. Doug Dadswell (Chairman), Mr. Richard Barnes, Mr. Peter Smith,
Mr. Ian Grant, Mr. John Green, Mr. Phil Mitchell, Mr. Ron Dale Dr Garry Fawcett MBE, & Mr. Dave Inman

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PO BOX 752, SUNDERLAND, SR3 1XX

TEL & FAX: (0191) 5239498

standards@nafllic.org.uk