

# NAFLIC

*National Association For Leisure Industry Certification*

## Standards & Related Documents Sub-Committee

### TECHNICAL BULLETIN - NOVEMBER 1992

#### 038. Caterpillar

Adventure Inspection (Fairgrounds) Ltd have brought to our attention an incident on a Caterpillar ride (which they do not thoroughly examine). This is the type of rotating ride, following an undulating tram track, in which a fabric hood closes over the passengers.

On the ride concerned there were no lap bars or restraints nor was there a barrier closing the entrance to each car. The heaviest passenger (the adult) sat in the car's outer seat, with a 5 year old boy next and a 7 year old girl in the innermost position. Dynamic forces caused the boy to be squeezed out from between his mother and sister, neither of whom was able to prevent it. An attendant, who as with the others had been jumping on and off the edge of the ride, jumped into the car and held the boy in place.

The description of the incident implies the existence of one or more of the risks identified in paragraph 145 of "Fairgrounds and Amusement Parks : A Code of Safe Practice". Sub-paragraphs 146 (b) and (c) specify the options available. It is our view that Appointed Persons should give careful consideration to these sub-paragraphs. If a permissible speed satisfying 146 (c) can be determined it should be clearly noted in the Log Book and checked at each examination.

The Committee also discussed other potential problems on some rides of this type. We list these for the consideration of Appointed Persons:-

- a) insufficient seat friction to avoid sliding
- b) lack of separation between seat components
- c) unguarded tram wheels
- d) finger traps in the hood mechanism
- e) finger trap between adjacent cars passing through a trough

Committee Members :- Dr Garry Fawcett (Chairman), Mr Richard Barnes, Mr Peter Steffens, Mr Doug Dadswell, Mr Peter Smith and representatives of LTC Ltd, Plant Safety Ltd, and Banwell & Associates Ltd

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