

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Sub-Committee

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112. Ferris Wheel Accident - Manningtree

Following the 1994 fatal accident at Manningtree we have received correspondence on the subject of Ferris Wheel passenger restraints.

It is our view that there are at least two particular safety principles which ought to be considered (in addition to other general principles) when assessing the adequacy of these restraints.

1. Consideration should be given as to whether passenger access to the restraint bar release should be made impossible. Methods sometimes used to achieve this include constructing a guard around the release handle, and the use of a release key or tool to do away with an accessible handle.
2. Bearing in mind that it is foreseeable that passengers may attempt to stand up in the car if they are able to do so, consideration should be given to limiting their potential movement. One method which has been used to achieve this is by replacement of the conventional single lap bar by a double bar type (either arranged one above the other or angled inwards).

It is known that some types of Ferris Wheel restraint bar mechanisms suffer failed plungers. On these types we suggest that consideration needs to be given to installing double (redundant) plunger mechanisms or otherwise improved designs.

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