

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - APRIL 1998

164. Juvenile Log Flume Accident

We have recently been informed of an accident involving a juvenile 4 metre Log Flume located in Manila and manufactured by SBF s.r.l., Italy. The result was that a young girl was very seriously injured.

The operator stopped the ride, with a loaded log on the escalator belt, in order to disembark a disabled passenger. The escalator was situated inside a covered themed mountain and was hidden from the operator's view. While the ride was stopped, a child climbed out onto the wooden slatted escalator. After the disabled passenger had been successfully disembarked the operator re-started the ride. This resulted in the child being dragged round by the escalator.

We believe that the main problem was a procedural error. However, *Fairgrounds and Amusement Parks - Guidance on Safe Practice*, does not exactly address the specific problem (see, for instance, paragraphs 210, 220d, 221, 225, 235b and 236).

We list the following points for consideration :-

- The escalator has an access stairway alongside. Bearing in mind that, for good reasons, restraints aren't fitted into the logs, there is a foreseeable possibility that a passenger may believe that he should alight if the ride stops. If the escalator is slow moving there is also the potential for foreseeable misuse, with misbehaving passengers climbing out while the ride is in motion. A view of the escalator by the operator or by an extra attendant needs to be considered, or the provision of CCTV.
- It would be normal for designers and controllers to carry out an additional risk assessment in relation to any proposal for use of a ride by disabled persons. This needs to include the risks to other users.
- Generally, in circumstances of loss of power / emergency stop / safety stop / deliberate stop there will be a need to specify a safe restart procedure.

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

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