SAFETY ALERT
GO-KARTS

April 2010

This alert has been issued following an incident where initial indications are that the rider’s loose clothing became entangled in the unguarded rear axle of a go-kart, causing fatal injuries. The incident is being investigated, but it would appear that the axle was unguarded as shown in the photograph of a similar go-kart below.

EXPOSED AXLE

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Occupational health and safety legislation requires employers, and those in control of plant, to provide plant and systems of work that are safe and without risks to health and safety of workers and others in the workplace.

The legislation also requires powered amusement devices, including go-kart tracks, to be registered with WorkCover, and for those amusement devices to be safe for patrons to use. NSW Sport and Recreation also requires the licensing of go-kart tracks for racing and competition.

RISK CONTROLS

To avoid similar incidents, owners and operators of go-kart amusement facilities should:

• provide guarding to prevent contact by the operator or patron, or by their hair or clothing, with moving parts, eg drive chains and axles
• inspect and maintain the go-karts in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions
• provide instruction to patrons to secure loose hair and clothing. They may also provide equipment such as overalls or balaclavas to help patrons secure long hair or loose clothing
• implement procedures to prevent persons who have not secured long hair or clothing from using the go-karts
• ensure the go-karts, the track and operating procedures comply with the relevant part of AS 3533 Amusement rides and devices.

making a difference
WorkCover encourages all go-kart track operators to take action now to ensure that their go-kart facilities are registered and/or licensed and risk controls are in place.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about design and use of amusement devices, including go-karts, or motor vehicle racing see:

- AS 3533.1-2009 Amusement devices Part 1: Design and constructions
- AS 3533.1-2009 Amusement devices Part 2: Operation and maintenance
- Motor Vehicle Sports (Public Safety) Act 1985

For more information visit www.workcover.nsw.gov.au or call WorkCover on 13 10 50.

Disclaimer

This publication may contain occupational health and safety and workers compensation information. It may include some of your obligations under the various legislations that WorkCover NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website (www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

©WorkCover NSW