

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Sub-Committee

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111. Barrier Heights

Since the introduction of the Workplace Regulations there has been some confusion regarding the requirements for the heights of barriers on amusement devices.

"Fairgrounds and Amusement Parks - A Code of Safe Practice" talks about barriers, guard rails and hand rails in paragraphs 30, 130, 160, 300 and 305. In summary :-

- Barriers which stop persons falling from a height greater than 1000 mm, barriers which prevent access to moving parts, and barriers to enclose the ends of shooting galleries, are normally required to be not less than 1 metre high.
- Handrails for ramps should be between 900 mm and 1 metre high measured from the ramp surface.

These guidelines must, however, be modified if it is clear that the part of the amusement device under consideration should be considered a "workplace". The Workplace Regulations require barriers to prevent falls. Certainly when the fall height exceeds 2 metres, fencing should be at least 1100 mm high. Stairways forming workplace traffic routes should be fenced, having an upper rail at 900 mm or higher and a lower rail.

We note that some European countries have, until now, worked to minimum amusement ride barrier heights of 900 mm (rather than the UK's 1 metre). This seems to be changing, however, with the work on the proposed European Standard for design and manufacture. The representatives of 11 countries attending the meetings of committee CEN TC152 appear to concur with the adoption of a 1 metre barrier height.

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