

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MARCH 2002

225. Electrically Driven Climbing Wall

We have been informed, by Tony Mogford Associates, of an inspection carried out on a "The Rock" climbing wall. It is an American Ride, from Ascent Products Inc., and involves a wall much like a roller garage door, which revolves. Fixed to the wall are hand and footholds of the type used on all climbing walls.

The maximum fall height is 3m and there is an impact absorbing surface on the floor. Sensors ensure that if anyone falls off or climbs too high the wall stops. But in the normal way of things the climber climbs at the same speed as the wall comes down so that he never gets anywhere.

The wall is made of Aluminium slats, and they are guided on a nylon track inside the ride. The motion is imparted by two large nylon gears top and bottom. The wall speed is variable and the angle can vary during a ride so that on occasions the rider can be climbing an overhang. Variations in inclination are imparted by a worm drive.

It was found that the aluminium slats of the wall were not earthed and the earthing of the main support frame was just through the worm drive and not via a dedicated connection.

It is believed that there are at least 20 such rides in the country.

Committee Members :- Dr Garry Fawcett (Chairman), Mr Richard Barnes, Mr Peter Smith, Mr Ian Grant,
Mr David Geary, Mr Steve Parker, Mr Eddy Price and Mr Mike Preston

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