

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MARCH 2002

233. Juvenile Drop Ride Incident

MP Fairground Inspections have provided us with more details of a Dangerous Occurrence affecting a 6-seater juvenile drop ride built by J4 Rides of Hinckley. This happened in North Wales in September 2001 and the ride was about 18 months old at the time.

The lifting and lowering of the bench set is effected by two wire ropes both of which were found to have failed after the bench fell.

We are reminded of the accident in Canada on 1 September 1999 in which the four wire rope suspension cables which lift the centre of a Zierer Wave Swinger broke with the result that 18 people suffered minor injuries.

The design specification, inspection and maintenance of wire ropes can be very important when they are used in safety-critical situations in fairground equipment. It would appear that the wire ropes were specified such that their design lives on this J4 ride were quite short, although wire rope inspection and replacement was apparently covered in the Instruction Manual. There is clearly a trade off to be made between design lives and inspection and replacement policy.

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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PO BOX 752, SUNDERLAND, SR3 1XX
TEL: (0191) 5239498 FAX: (0191) 5239498