

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - AUGUST 2003

261. Lighthouse Slip Accident

We were recently informed, by NAFLIC member Mr I G Grant, of an accident involving a Lighthouse Slip (Helter Skelter).

An adult descending the slide did not have both feet in the "sack". When it hit the run-off mats one trainer-clad foot stopped dead with the result that the passenger somersaulted, landing awkwardly, and broke his ankle.

Modern materials had been used for the "sacks" and "run-off mats". The latter were made of plastic foam covered with a plastic-coated material. We are told that, when new, the material combination proved to be suitable. However, it must be remembered that shoes and trainers may make contact with the run-off mat, so there can be more than one material combination to consider.

Slides of this type are "fairground equipment" as defined in the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (as amended). Furthermore, changes of sack and / or mat material can dramatically influence coefficients of friction. Such changes are therefore safety-critical modifications, as defined in the industry's main guidance publication *Fairgrounds and Amusement Parks - Guidance on Safe Practice* (HSG 175; HSE Books; ISBN 0 7176 1174 4).

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