15th April 2020

LETTER TO THOSE AND MANUFACTURING/OPERATING INFLATABLE DEVICES

It has been brought to the attention of Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that a number of organisations within the inflatable industry are claiming accreditation by HSE for their inspection schemes for inflatable devices that fall within the scope of BS EN 14960:2019.

HSE would like to confirm that it does not support these schemes, nor has it made any assessment relating to the competence and diligence of the inspectors associated with these inspection schemes or the organisations administrating them.

HSE would like to reiterate that it formally recognises and supports the Pertexa Inflatable Play Accreditation (PIPA) and Amusement Device Inspection Procedures Scheme (ADIPS) as set out in HSG 175 (Fairgrounds and amusement parks: Guidance on safe practice) to run schemes for the inspection and testing of amusement devices including inflatables.

HSE does not endorse any other inspection schemes, nor has it given accreditation to any other inspection schemes.

However, it should be noted that there is no legal obligation to use either of these schemes, and the legal requirement regarding the inspection of inflatable equipment to ensure that it is safe is set out in Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER).

The legislation requires that work equipment such as inflatables be inspected regularly by a competent person to ensure it can be operated, adjusted and maintained safely and that any deterioration (for example defect, damage, wear) can be detected and remedied before it results in unacceptable risks.

The overriding requirement of the legislation is that the person carrying out the work is competent, and long as this is the case there is no legal bar to a manufacturer or owner using someone else other than an ADiPs or PIPA registered inspector for the initial inspection and in-service inspection.

However, if an inflatable manufacturer/owner chose to use someone other than an inspection body registered with PIPA or ADIPS, they will need to assess the competence of the that individual or organisation to carry out the initial test or inspection of their inflatable device in order to discharge their own legal duties.

Further guidance on the inspection and use of inflatable devices can be found at

https://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/fairgrounds/inflatables.htm