



Industry bodies respond to sentencing in Harlow incident

The Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) and PIPA are saddened by the tragic death of Summer Grant and those accredited to these two bodies extend their sincere condolences to her family.

RPII is the body which accredits Inspectors of inflatable play equipment and PIPA is an inspection scheme set up by the industry that provides the only UK database of tested inflatable play equipment.

This accident was entirely preventable, and the sentence handed down by the court reflects the seriousness of the offence, the tragic loss of life and the fact that the operators of this unit were culpable.

This very sad case highlights the need for the European standard to be followed in terms of manufacturing and for the correct operation and safety protocols to be diligently followed, especially regarding weather monitoring.

The RPII and PIPA fully supports the HSE in their surveillance and enforcement activities.

Members of the public can also help by ensuring that the inflatable play equipment they hire or use is tested by checking for the blue PIPA tag containing a unique number which should be affixed to the product. It may be the equipment has been tested using a different scheme, but the owner or operator of the unit must be able to prove that testing has been carried out by a competent person.

Checks should also be made that those operating any inflatable play equipment are trained and complying with the requirements of the standard and fully aware of weather conditions when the unit is being used outside.

Further information can be found at www.pipa.org.uk

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

The RPII and PIPA are unaware of any commercial inflatable intended for childrens' play being blown away with the correct anchorage in place as determined by the only British and European Standard for such products (BS EN 14960) and where operated within the safe operational limits of the device.

It is estimated there are 23 million uses of such equipment every year in the UK and RPII and PIPA are committed to improving standards in the industry and ensuring inflatable play continues to be safe and enjoyable.