

# HSE Confirms enforcement action to commence in 2022



Information Sheet	7
Title	HSE Enforcement – PIPA press release
Date	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear inflatable hirer,

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and PIPA Leadership Group (PLG) have been working closely to ensure that all applicable standards, rules, and legislation are followed by those working within the inflatable industry.

The HSE acknowledge the significant progress that has been made to improve safety standards within the inflatable industry but recognise that further work is still required.

This is reflected in the recently published HSE operational guidance, which sets out the inspection priorities for HSE and Local Authority (LA) Regulators in 2022 and 2023 and details the planned interventions with the inflatable industry.

The priorities set out in operational guidance are specifically targeted at the operators of inflatable devices to ensure that required safety measures are applied.

The planned work will include site inspections by both HSE and LA inspectors to ensure that.

- devices are subject to an ongoing maintenance and regime, including daily checks in line with manufacturers' instructions and the operational risk assessments.
- devices are operated correctly and in line with the manufacturer's instructions and the operational risk assessments.
- operators have equipment available to monitor local wind speeds and the internal pressure of devices.
- attendants and operators have the necessary level of information, instruction, training, and supervision to operate their devices safely.

The HSE make it quite clear in their operational guidance, that where non-compliance with the relevant safety standards is found, enforcement action will be taken to ensure safety.

The PLG understand that the inflatable industry must meet its legal and moral health and safety requirements, and will work with and assist affected businesses and persons where they can.

# HSE Confirms enforcement action to commence in 2022



To these ends the PLG have several initiatives in development, the first of these, an improved inspector training and accreditation system is already up and running, as are enhanced and improved CPD events.

The next initiative is the introduction of an operator training scheme, this is already in an advanced stage of development with the PLG and its hoped that it will be launched soon.

This training scheme will be the most advance and comprehensive of its kind and will be delivered by independently qualified instructors who have real hands on experience within the industry, and, in time, it is the aim of the PLG for the qualification to become a nationally recognised qualification.

The HSE has welcomed the initiative by the PLG to develop an operator training scheme, which will allow operators to demonstrate their competence as well as also help operators to show that they have complied with their duties under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974., which again, aims to become a nationally recognised qualification.

In addition to improving the safety of rental and use the HSE intends to address longstanding issues within the industry relating to inflatable designers, manufacturers and suppliers.

The HSE are aware that there are industry-wide concerns relating to inconsistencies with the standard of design, manufacture, initial testing, as well as the level of detail provided in instruction and operational manuals. Indeed many inflatables are supplied with no certificate of conformity, log book or any form of operator instructions.

Due to their concerns, the HSE will be writing to all known manufacturers and suppliers reminding them of their legal obligations detailing specific recommendations for improvement, including specific reference to the need to provide all the relevant test documentation and operating instructions.

The PLG will try to work with all businesses and persons involved in the inflatable industry to assist them to meet their health and safety requirements.

The PLG hope that this intervention by the HSE will raise standards within the industry and make it easier for operators and Inspection Bodies to ensure that devices are safe throughout their operating life.

# HSE Confirms enforcement action to commence in 2022



Going forward PLG will continue to work with HSE and represent the interests of the whole industry, with the aim of developing and improving safety standards.

The PLG thank you for reading this note, and we look forward to providing further updates for you in due course.