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Title	INTERIM FLAME RETARDANCE GUIDANCE NOTES
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Interim flame retardance guidance notes for PIPA inspectors

These notes are only intended to provide guidance to PIPA inspectors, while the HSE considers recommendations for a more acceptable way for PIPA inspectors to competently assess the flame retardant properties, of materials used in inflatable (bouncy castle) production.

Guidance for portable equipment intended for outdoor use or no more than 24hours in a given indoor location.

Actions where evidence of flame retardance is presented

1. If a manufacturer has indicated on the product labelling that the unit is BS/EN14960 compliant then the inspector can accept this as correct, this is the responsibility of the manufacturer.
2. If a manufacturer has supplied certification for the materials used in the production of the inflatable (bouncy castle) then the inspector can accept this as correct, this is the responsibility of the manufacturer.
3. If the operator has certification for the materials used in the production of the inflatable (bouncy castle) then the inspector can accept this as correct, this is the responsibility of the operator.

Actions where no evidence of flame retardance is presented or the Inspector feels that the evidence is insufficient or questionable.

4. The PIPA inspector can perform the current “indicative” test as prescribed in “RPII guidance note 7” and based on the results choose to decline or provide a positive inspection. Inspectors should be aware that this type of test is based on their judgement, and they are responsible for decisions based on this test.

Inflatables certified following an indicative test must be recorded as such under “notes” or “risk assessment” on the front facing sheet.

5. The PIPA inspector can decline a PIPA certificate until such a time as the operator or manufacturer can produce valid certification for the materials used in the construction of the inflatable (bouncy castle). It is not the responsibility of the PIPA inspector to validate such certificate, but he may exercise judgment and seek assessment of the certificate from a competent person.



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6. The PIPA inspector can approach the manufacturer and request written attestation that the materials used in the construction of the inflatable (bouncy castle) conformed to BS/EN14960, this then becomes the responsibility of the manufacturer

Guidance for fixed installations & inflatables set up indoors for more than 24hours

Actions where evidence of flame retardance is presented

7. If a manufacturer has indicated on the product labelling that the unit is BS/EN14960 compliant then the inspector can accept this as correct, this is the responsibility of the manufacturer.
8. If a manufacturer has supplied certification for the materials used in the production of the inflatable (bouncy castle) then the inspector can accept this as correct, this is the responsibility of the manufacturer.
9. If the operator has certification for the materials used in the production of the inflatable (bouncy castle) then the inspector can accept this as correct, this is the responsibility of the operator.

Actions where no evidence of flame retardance is presented or the Inspector feels that the evidence is insufficient or questionable.

10. The PIPA inspector can decline a positive test until such a time as the operator or manufacturer can produce valid certification for the materials used in the construction of the inflatable (bouncy castle). It is not the responsibility of the PIPA inspector to validate such certificate, but he may exercise judgment and seek assessment of the certificate from a competent person.
11. The PIPA inspector can approach the manufacturer and request written attestation that the materials used in the construction of the inflatable (bouncy castle) conformed to BS/EN14960, this then becomes the responsibility of the manufacturer.

Guidance for operators in all the above circumstances

Inspectors should record their rationale for any actions, findings or comments in relation to any of the above, either on the front facing sheet or where required on continuation sheets. Pictures can also be added to continuation sheets should the inspector wish to add further evidence.

Guidance for operators in all the above circumstances

Operators should in all circumstances complete a fire risk assessment that considers the environment, conditions and any additional hazards that could increase the risk of fire.

A similar note to the above should be placed into the notes section of the inspection report.