



PIPA[®]

INFLATABLE SAFETY CHARTER



— RAISING STANDARDS. PROTECTING PLAY. —

A Commitment to Safety

By following the principles within this charter, we commit to ensuring that all inflatable play equipment is safe, properly maintained, and responsibly supervised at all times.

We recognise that safety is an essential part of delivering inflatable play and that serious incidents can occur if risks are not properly controlled.

This commitment applies across all aspects of our work, including procurement, setup, operation, and maintenance.

We will take proactive steps to minimise risks and protect users, staff, and the wider public at all times.



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Using Safe Equipment

which has been inspected

We will only use inflatable equipment that has been inspected and meets recognised safety standards.

- Only inflatables that have been professionally inspected under a recognised scheme be used, ensuring compliance with safety frameworks
- Equipment must display a valid inspection tag, or hold a declaration of compliance or inspection report, demonstrating that it has been independently tested
- We will only purchase equipment from trusted suppliers and ensure it is supplied with a clear operator manual containing safe operating instructions

Using properly inspected equipment ensures that the inflatable has been assessed for structural integrity, safe operation, and suitability for public use.



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Always providing a **Safe Setup** or installation

Inflatables must be installed safely and in line with manufacturer instructions to prevent movement, collapse, or instability.

Installation must be carried out by trained or competent persons following the operator manual.

- All anchor points must be used:
 - Ground stakes must be of sufficient size and strength
 - Alternative ballast systems must be used where staking is not possible
- Inflatables must be secured so that wind cannot lift or move the structure.
- Ropes, fixings, and anchor systems must be in good condition and suitable for purpose.
- Electrical equipment (e.g. blowers) must be correctly connected, maintained, and free from defects.

In addition, before use:

- The inflatable should be fully inflated and visually checked for damage, deformities, or instability
- Safety mats must be placed at entrances
- Connections (e.g. blower tubes) must be secure

A safe setup is critical, as incorrect anchoring or installation is a key factor in serious inflatable incidents.



Ensure inflatables have a **Designated Supervisor**

All inflatable use must be supervised by a responsible and competent person at all times.

A designated supervisor must always be present while the inflatable is in use.

- Supervisors must:
 - Monitor behaviour continuously
 - Enforce safety rules and user limits
 - Separate users by size or age where required
 - Prevent unsafe behaviour (e.g. climbing walls, rough play)
- Supervisors must control access and ensure:
 - No overcrowding
 - Users remove shoes, sharp objects, and glasses
 - Intoxicated individuals are not permitted to use the inflatable

Effective supervision is essential to ensure risks are managed in real time and users behave safely.



Only using inflatables in **Suitable Weather**

Weather conditions must always be assessed before and during use, particularly outdoors.

- Inflatables must not be operated in wind speeds exceeding 24mph or lower if specified by the manufacturer.
- Wind speed should be measured using an appropriate anemometer, not estimated or taken from general weather apps.
- Regular checks should be carried out during operation, including monitoring wind direction changes.
- Inflatables must not be used during:
 - High winds or gusts
 - Storms or extreme weather
 - Operations must stop immediately if conditions become unsafe.

This is critical because strong winds can cause inflatables to become unstable, collapse, or be lifted from the ground.



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Ongoing checks and Maintenance of inflatables

Regular checks and maintenance are essential to ensure continued safety during use.

- Equipment must be checked:
 - Before each use
 - During operation
 - As part of routine maintenance schedules
- Daily and pre-use checks should include:
 - Blower condition and operation
 - Anchor points remaining secure
 - No damage (holes, tears, or seam failures)
 - Correct internal pressure (measured where required)
- The inflatable must be removed from use if:
 - It becomes misshapen or unstable
 - It shows signs of damage
 - It cannot maintain safe inflation

Maintenance also includes ensuring the inflatable can deflate safely in a controlled manner, allowing users to evacuate without injury in the event of power failure.

Understanding health and safety Responsibilities

All parties involved in the supply, hire, or operation of inflatables must understand and fulfil their legal responsibilities.

- Health and safety law applies to commercial use of inflatable equipment, including hire and public events.
- Owners and operators are responsible for ensuring:
 - Equipment is safe and properly inspected
 - Risks are identified and controlled
 - Appropriate procedures are in place
- A suitable risk assessment must be carried out to:
 - Identify hazards
 - Implement control measures
 - Ensure safe operation

Understanding responsibilities ensures that safety is effectively managed and consistently applied.





Committing to Continuous Improvement

We are committed to continually improving safety standards across our operations.

This includes:

- Staying up to date with:
 - Safety guidance
 - Industry best practices
 - Regulatory updates
- Undertaking training to maintain competence
- Learning from:
 - Incidents
 - Inspections
 - Industry developments

A commitment to continuous improvement ensures that safety standards evolve and remain effective over time.

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Encouraging Safe & Positive Play

We recognise that play is vital for children's wellbeing and development, and we are committed to providing environments where children can enjoy inflatable play safely.

- Users should be able to play freely within a managed and controlled environment
- Supervisors should encourage:
 - Inclusive participation
 - Positive behaviour
 - Respect for others
- Safety measures should be applied in a way that:
 - Reduces risk
 - Maintains enjoyment
 - Supports confidence and development

By combining safety with positive play, we create an environment that is both enjoyable and responsibly managed.



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SIGN UP TO THE



INFLATABLE SAFETY CHARTER

— RAISING STANDARDS. PROTECTING PLAY. —

Join the growing number of responsible operators, hirers, inspectors, and organisations choosing to stand behind safer inflatable play.

Sign the charter today and show your customers, colleagues, and community that you are committed to safer equipment, better practice, and continuous improvement.

Visit our website or scan the QR code

www.pipa.org.uk/inflatable-safety-charter



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