



IS013 – Land Owner Advice For Hired Inflatables

Document Number	IS013-100		
Release Date	29-09-2026	Version	V1.00
Title	IS013 – Land Owner Advice for Hired Inflatables		

Version	Date	Notes
V1.00	29-09-2026	First release – Authorised by CWW
	29-09-2028	Next date for review

1) Overview

It has recently been brought to PIPA's attention that some land owners, trustees and venue managers are considering blanket bans on bouncy castles and other inflatable play equipment on their premises or land. This may include public land owned by local authorities, community or not-for-profit halls, and commercially owned indoor venues.

Land owners, trustees and venue managers have a responsibility to protect the safety of their facilities and users. However, a blanket ban on inflatables is not usually necessary where suitable checks, risk assessment and supervision are in place.

Better education and understanding improve health and safety for everyone. Simply banning equipment can move responsibility elsewhere and may have a wider negative impact by discouraging good practice within the industry.

We understand the concerns of managers and trustees with regards to potential risks and liabilities of using inflatable devices at venues. This guidance helps to address these liabilities through simple checks of the providers of equipment to your premises or land.

This document aims to give information and guidance on steps a venue can take when inflatables are to be used.

Find out more about PIPA by visiting our website: www.PIPA.org.uk

2) Benefits of Inflatables

There are a wide range of benefits for the use of inflatables when done so correctly.

Mental and Social Well-Being

- **Muscle strength:** Builds strength in the legs, core, and upper body.
- **Heart health:** Provides high-energy aerobic exercise that strengthens the heart and lungs.
- **Balance and motor skills:** Improves coordination, spatial awareness, and balance on an unstable surface.
- **Bone density:** Supports healthy bone growth through low-impact jumping.
- **Stress relief:** Releases endorphins ("feel-good" hormones) to reduce anxiety and let off steam.
- **Social skills:** Encourages sharing, communication, teamwork, and making friends.
- **Imaginative play:** Inspires creative role-play using themed designs like pirate ships or castles.
- **Better sleep:** Burns physical energy, helping children sleep better at night

Financial & Business Growth

- **Higher rental income:** Charge extra fees for site access or include inflatables in premium party packages.
- **More bookings:** Attract families, schools, and event planners looking for all-in-one kids' party spaces.
- **Vendor partnerships:** Earn commission or referral fees by partnering with local inflatable hire companies.

3) Key Points for Trustees and Venue Managers

Before deciding whether inflatable equipment can be used at a venue, land owners, trustees and venue managers should consider:

- ✓ Whether the inflatable has a current valid inspection, such as a numbered PIPA tag, ADIPS declaration of compliance or other suitable inspection evidence where appropriate.
- ✓ Whether there is sufficient space for the inflatable, including required clearance distances around walls, beams, lighting, fire exits and other obstacles.
- ✓ Whether the venue structure, floor surface and access arrangements are suitable for the safe installation and use of the inflatable.
- ✓ Whether appropriate supervision will be provided throughout its use.
- ✓ Whether the operator or hirer has suitable public liability insurance.
- ✓ Whether emergency exits and evacuation routes remain unobstructed.
- ✓ Whether the equipment will be installed and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and relevant safety standards.

In most cases, asking the operator or hirer for three pieces of evidence will help confirm that the key safety points have been addressed:

1. A copy of the operator's safe working arrangements, such as a risk assessment, method statement or standard operating procedure.
2. Evidence of suitable public liability insurance.
3. A copy of the device's current safety inspection report, or a PIPA tag number that can be checked on the PIPA website.
 - a. To check a PIPA tag number, look for the blue PIPA tag
 - b. Visit www.PIPA.org.uk to check whether there is a current safety inspection

3) Key Points for Hirers and Operators

Anyone hiring out, setting up or operating an inflatable should ensure that:

- The inflatable has received an annual safety inspection which has not expired.
- The equipment is suitable for the venue, the intended users and the planned activity.
- The set-up and operation follow the manufacturer's instructions and relevant safety guidance.
- Adequate supervision is provided at all times.
- Capacity and height restrictions are adhered to.
- Any concerns raised by venue management are addressed before use.

4) Working Together

Safe use of inflatable play equipment depends on cooperation between land owners, trustees, venue managers, operators and hirers. When each party understands and fulfils their responsibilities, inflatables can often be used safely and successfully.

PIPA recognises that land owners, trustees and venue managers may not be specialists in inflatable safety. This information sheet is intended to support practical, proportionate decisions based on evidence, risk assessment and good practice rather than unnecessary restrictions.

For more information about PIPA, inflatable safety, inspections and responsibilities, visit www.pipa.org.uk