

SAFETY BULLETIN

MAKING MODIFICATIONS TO AMUSEMENT RIDES



FOLLOWING MANUFACTURER GUIDELINES IS CRITICAL WHEN MAKING MODIFICATIONS TO AMUSEMENT RIDES

Modifying or making alterations to any amusement ride is a serious undertaking, an undertaking which could result in significant liability exposure to the ride owner should the manufacturer guidelines and proper steps not be followed closely. The content in this Safety Bulletin will outline the necessary steps ride owners/operators should adhere to when modifying amusement rides located at their facility.

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EXPOSURES & IMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH MODIFYING AMUSEMENT RIDES

Modifying amusement rides should not be taken lightly as it can greatly increase the ride owner's exposure to liability losses. Modifying amusement rides without the expressed, written consent from the original manufacturer could quickly transfer the product liability from the manufacturer to the ride owner.

Additionally, a ride owner who does not comply with manufacturer safety bulletins, or who chooses to remove manufacturer-installed guards/covers, can easily subject themselves to liability in the event of an incident. If the ride owner is not operating or maintaining the ride in accordance with the original manufacturer requirements, the liability may transfer from the manufacturer over to the ride owner.

In the event either of the above situations occur, full responsibility for the ride and its future maintenance and operation could shift to the ride owner. In essence, the ride owner could become the ride manufacturer.

MODIFYING AMUSEMENT EQUIPMENT: *Planning & Review*

The following are some important recommended steps that should be considered before modifying amusement rides:

- Obtain written approval from the original manufacturer of the amusement ride (most important).
- Obtain written approval from the authority having local jurisdiction (if applicable).
- Review modification plan with your insurance carrier to ensure the modification meets all applicable insurance requirements.
- Ensure conformance with the Facility Operations and Maintenance Training program per ASTM F770.
- Review conformance with manufacturer's maintenance requirements, inspections, and documentation per ASTM F1193.

- Confirm that all information pertaining to the modification was included in the supporting documentation needed to properly inspect, maintain, and operate the ride or device per the design requirements.
- Review conformance with the operational functionality (testing the equipment after the modification) in accordance with ASTM F1193.

Note: ASTM (as referenced above) is one of the largest voluntary standards-developing organizations in the world. ASTM is generally recognized as the leader in developing and publishing standards for the amusement industry. ASTM has developed design and modification standards that should be followed under ASTM F2974.

CONCLUSION

Modifying amusement rides without taking the proper steps outlined above can have major liability implications for ride owners and operators. Implementing a well thought out plan as it pertains to making modifications to amusement rides is a good risk management practice that can reduce a facility's exposure to liability losses.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning this important Amusement Ride Modification Safety Bulletin, please contact us today.



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