

# AMUSEMENT DEVICES

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR OPERATORS

### Overview

This Information Sheet provides advice for small businesses and workers including operators, on the safe operation of amusement devices. The checklist can assist with managing risks when operating an amusement device.

For more information see the [General guide for amusement devices](#).

### Operators

Operators of amusement devices must be provided with the information, training, instruction or supervision necessary to protect themselves, patrons and others.

The operator of an amusement device should:

- be familiar with the device and be able to follow the safe operating procedures
- be able to give clear instructions or warnings to patrons and attendants and check patrons are safely restrained
- immediately report faults or malfunctions and stop the amusement device, and
- be familiar with emergency and first aid procedures.

The attached *Amusement device operator checklist* can help operators make sure the amusement device will operate safely.

To safely operate an amusement device, the operator should be able to answer “Yes” to all questions in the checklist.

If the answer to any question is “No” the device should not be operated until the issue has been resolved.

### Operating the device

The operator should not:

- operate the amusement device in a reckless or negligent manner
- operate the amusement device faster than the safe operating speed
- operate the amusement device in bad weather conditions e.g. high winds, winds identified by the manufacturer or supplier as critical, or in torrential rain

- operate the amusement device without checking health and safety equipment is provided and functional
- board or mount an amusement device while it is moving
- enter a hazardous area while the amusement device is moving
- be under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- operate the amusement device when impaired by illness
- use a mobile phone or other items which may distract the operator, or
- leave the amusement device while it is operating, regardless of whether it is carrying patrons or not.

### Managing patrons

The operator’s role includes managing patrons. For example, an operator should:

- assist patrons on and off when necessary, if patrons have agreed
- shut down the amusement device immediately if it is being misused by patrons e.g. seats being rocked or patrons standing up when they should be sitting down
- remain alert when the amusement device is operating and be prepared for an emergency stop
- be cautious and ready for unexpected behaviour
- ensure an adult accompanies a child where this is necessary
- enforce restrictions e.g. height or size of patrons
- keep patrons who are waiting to participate outside of operating zones
- not allow a patron who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs or who is visibly ill onto the amusement device, and
- not allow smoking by patrons when on or near an amusement device.

For further information see the [Safe Work Australia](#) website ([www.swa.gov.au](http://www.swa.gov.au)).



## Amusement Device Operator Checklist

| Set-up of amusement device (including operating without patrons)  | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Have you been provided with instruction and training to operate the device safely?  |     |    |
| Is a copy of the operating instructions and log book available?   |     |    |
| Have the required inspections, maintenance and repairs been carried out?  |     |    |
| Is the device set up correctly?   |     |    |
| Have any site-specific requirements and arrangements been addressed?  |     |    |
| Are emergency exits and signs clearly visible?  |     |    |
| Is emergency equipment accessible and operational e.g. fire extinguishers and harnesses?  |     |    |
| Is the automatic response safety control system enabled?<br><i>Note: Safety control systems may be capable of being bypassed for maintenance, setup or dismantling tasks.</i>   |     |    |
| Is the device operating at a safe speed or slower speed than the manufacturer's maximum specified speed?  |     |    |
| Are attendants being supervised and performing their duties according to the instructions and training provided?  |     |    |
| Additional checklist for inflatable amusement devices   |     |    |
| Is the device securely anchored?  |     |    |
| Is there soft fall on open sides of the device?   |     |    |
| Are all patrons using the device at the same time of similar size and weight?   |     |    |
| Are you managing patron behaviour? For example, checking no one is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• doing somersaults, flips, pushing or tackling others, or</li> <li>• jumping from the top of slides or sliding head first.</li> </ul> |     |    |
| Before operating an amusement device with patrons   |     |    |
| Are the patron entries to and exits from the amusement device clearly defined, lit and where necessary supervised?  |     |    |
| Are patron warning and information signs in place and clearly visible?  |     |    |
| Have patrons been told about how to use the amusement device safely without putting themselves or others at risk?   |     |    |
| Have patrons with loose clothing, accessories or unrestrained hair been identified and stopped from using the device until there is no longer a risk of entanglement?   |     |    |
| Have loose items that could escape during the ride and create a hazard been removed?  |     |    |
| Are the patron restraints being correctly used and have they been checked for function, correct fit and adjusted for each patron?   |     |    |
| Are entrances and exits to the device closed off before the device is started?  |     |    |
| If less than the maximum number of patrons are using the device, have patrons been loaded to ensure it will not be out of balance during use?   |     |    |
| Operating an amusement device with patrons  |     |    |
| Is the device operating at a safe speed or slower speed than the manufacturer's maximum specified speed?  |     |    |
| Are patrons and attendants moving on or within the device in a controlled way to minimise, so far as is reasonably practicable, the risk of collision or injury?  |     |    |
| Is the noise level to which operators, attendants and patrons are exposed below the workplace exposure standard for noise?  |     |    |