

SAFETY BULLETIN

UPDATED INFLATABLE AMUSEMENT DEVICE STANDARD



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE PURCHASING YOUR NEXT INFLATABLE DEVICE

ASTM's newly published Inflatable Amusement Devices safety standard (ASTM F2374-17), has been updated and expanded upon from the previous standard that was last published in 2010. The new standard includes updates for both existing inflatables and newly manufactured inflatables. The following summarizes the updated ASTM standard that applies to the manufacture of new inflatables which includes the following:

1. New impact mat requirements
2. Deflation alert systems
3. Permanent labeling and certifications for new inflatable units

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IMPACT MAT REQUIREMENTS

ASTM F2374 5.12.7 (Ingress/Egress and Device Landing Surfaces) - sets standards for impact mats to be located at all entrance and exit locations of the inflatable device. The standard states that the impact mat should be designed to attenuate a fall from a maximum height of 30 inches and be designed in a way that reduces the ability of the mat to slide away from the entrance/exit during patron use. The facility operator should obtain a certificate from the manufacturer to ensure the impact mat has been tested and meets all ASTM F2374-17 requirements.

DEFLATION ALERT SYSTEMS

ASTM F2374 5.16.5 (Deflation Alert System) - requires a deflation alert system for inflatable devices manufactured after February of 2018 that have platforms or play areas higher than 8 feet off the ground. Deflation alert systems, also known as blower alarms, are devices that automatically monitor the onset of deflation or loss of blower function. These systems will alert the attendant typically via an audible alarm. This standard also alludes to an expansion to the current scope and requirements in future standard updates.

PERMANENT LABELING AND CERTIFICATIONS

ASTM F2374 6.1.2.2 (Permanent Labeling) - requires that new inflatables should include a permanently affixed information plate on the structure of the unit that includes the following information:

- a. Minimum number of operators/attendants required
- b. Maximum sustained wind speed before terminating operation of the device

- c. Blower requirements
- d. Anchoring notice
- e. A statement that the unit was built in conformance of ASTM F2374-17

ASTM 6.1.3 (Certifications) - in addition to the information plate, the manufacturer should supply certification records that the unit complies with ASTM F2374-17. The manufacturer should also supply certification records stating that the materials used in the construction of the device have been treated with U/V degradation inhibitors, have been tested and meet flame or smoke development requirements of ASTM, and meet the lead and phthalates (chemicals used to soften and increase the flexibility of plastic and vinyl) requirements of ASTM.

CONCLUSION

Owners and operators of inflatable amusement devices should become intimately familiar with ASTM F2374 – 17 standards prior to purchasing a new inflatable unit. Knowledge of ASTM standards will help protect your future inflatable unit investment and reduce your exposure to loss by complying with the leading industry standards.

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



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