



AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY REGULATION

• **Background:** Safety is the foremost priority for the attractions industry. Study after study continuously shows that amusement rides in the U.S. are safe and well-regulated within the current state-led safety model.

The U.S. attractions industry is a world leader in the promotion and development of ride safety standards. IAAPA, the main association for the industry, works closely with ASTM International and other standards-setting groups worldwide to develop and update industry safety and maintenance requirements. These standards cover all aspects of a ride, including design and construction, operation, inspection, maintenance, and more. This work in conjunction with state and local regulation of amusement rides and devices, has resulted in a strong safety record for the industry.

Currently, forty-eight out of the fifty states have ride safety laws covering the vast majority of the industry. The final two states (Montana and Wyoming) have no fixed site parks. Federal oversight of this industry is unnecessary and could potentially lead to conflicting regulations that could hamper safety records of fixed-site attractions. Based on a three-year average: three hundred and thirty five million guests safely enjoy 1.6 billion rides in the United States. The likelihood of being seriously injured (requiring overnight hospitalization for treatment) on a permanently located amusement park ride in the U.S. is 1 in 16 million.

• **Position:** IAAPA supports strong state ride safety regulation based on the standards developed by ASTM's Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices. Having primary oversight at the state level ensures that parks are answerable to an entity that understands their unique operations. Federal oversight could add another, possibly, conflicting layer of regulation and reduce our industry's excellent safety record.

IAAPA Guidelines for Effective State Amusement Ride Safety Regulation

- Incorporation of ASTM International Committee F24 Standards by reference, with requirement for regular updates to stay ahead of industry innovations.
- Empower an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to oversee permitting and oversight while providing sufficient appropriations to enforce ride safety regulations.
- Require Periodic Inspections by a qualified inspector. In addition to the routine inspection and maintenance activity that already occurs.
- Require Incident Reporting where serious injury occurs that needs an overnight stay in the hospital.
- Require Post-Incident Investigations in a timely manner by a qualified inspector.
- Include Rider Responsibility language to deter unsafe conduct that could risk injury to the rider, other riders, or employees.

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