

Amusement Rides and Amusement Attractions Safety Act

Amusement rides and attractions are loads of fun but come with some inherent safety hazards if not maintained, assembled and operated properly. The West Virginia Legislature passed the Amusement Rides and Amusement Attractions Safety Act in 1988 to guard against personal injuries to the general public in the assembly, disassembly and use of amusement rides and attractions at carnivals, fairs and amusement parks, and to assure that the owner maintains sufficient levels of liability insurance to protect the public in the event of an accident.

Owners and/or operators of amusement rides and attractions are required to register their equipment with the Division of Labor providing company information, a list of rides/attractions that will be used in West Virginia, a list of play dates in the state and evident of insurance in an amount not less than \$300,000 per person and \$1,000,000 in the aggregate.

Amusement rides and attractions must be inspected prior to first use in the state each year. Since 2005, inspections have been performed by approved [private inspectors](#). Inspectors must have at least five years experience in amusement device maintenance and safety and have completed approved courses in materials inspection and testing and in fasteners, or a four year college degree in engineering or architecture with a minimum of 12 semester hours in the area of mechanics and strength of materials, or successfully completed an approved rides safety inspection course within the previous two years. The private inspectors make application to the Division each year for inclusion on the approved list of inspectors providing evidence of insurance against errors and omissions in an amount of not less than \$100,000 per occurrence.

Event sponsors are encouraged to ask amusement ride owners for proof of current inspection. If there are questions, please call our office for assistance. 304.558.7890 X 115

Amusement ride/attraction owners/operators will have proof of inspection in the form of a certificate of inspection, which they must keep for a three year period and make readily available to the public at any reasonable time at the carnival, fair or event where the amusement ride or attraction is located. In addition to the certificate, each amusement device will have a 4" X 4" Permit to Operate affixed to the device. If the device is an inflatable, the Permit to Operate is a plastic seal affixed to the left rear tie-down. All Permits to Operate expire on December 31 of the year inspected.

