



"Look for the Sticker"

Local Jurisdictions and Community Organizations:

Before you contract with an amusement ride owner/operator insure compliance with Texas regulations

"Look for the Sticker"

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) is the state's administrator for the Amusement Ride Safety Inspection and Insurance Act, Occupations Code Chapter 2151. To legally operate in Texas, an amusement ride owner/operator must file with TDI an insurance policy with certain minimum limits for bodily injury for persons using the ride and an annual amusement ride safety inspection certificate. The inspection is performed by an approved inspector of the insurance company. Rides meeting the requirements will be issued a TDI Amusement Ride Compliance Sticker (similar to an automobile safety inspection sticker), which will indicate the expiration date of the inspection certificate. The sticker should be affixed to a major component of each ride in a location visible to the ride participants.

The amusement ride owner/operator is required to provide a photocopy of the **inspection certificate** and the required **insurance policy** to any **sponsor, lessor, landowner** or other person responsible for amusement rides publicly used.

What's considered as an amusement ride?

Most mobile carnival rides

Most theme park rides

Most water park rides and devices

Amusement rides also include, but are not limited to the following: concession go-karts, rock climbing walls, bungee jumps, mechanical bulls, trackless trains, large inflatable type rides/devices and various simulators.

- Non-mechanized playground equipment
- Physical fitness/training devices or obstacle/ropes course equipment
- Public conveyance devices
- Coin operated rides
- Small rides or devices that do not require the supervision or services of an operator
- Live animal rides
- Motor Sports

What should the public look for at a carnival or amusement park?

- **"Look for the Sticker"**— A compliance sticker should be attached to each ride.
- **"Look for the Sign"**— A sign is required to inform the public how to report (on-site) an amusement ride that appears to be unsafe or to report an amusement ride operator that appears to be violating the law. The sign is to be posted at the principal entrance or at the ticket booths.
- Look for posted height/weight restrictions for riders on certain rides.

Who's in charge?

- A municipal, county or state law enforcement official may enter and inspect without notice at any time to ensure public safety and may immediately prohibit operation of an amusement ride for non-compliance and/or unsafe operation.
- If requested by law enforcement an amusement ride owner/operator must make available the following documents for each ride:
 1. A copy of the insurance policy
 2. A copy of the inspection certificate
 3. A daily self inspection log (mobile rides only)
- An offense for non-compliance is a Class B misdemeanor.

What's available on amusement rides from TDI?

- Insurance policies/certificates
- Annual inspection certificates
- Injury reports – filed quarterly by the amusement ride owner/operator
- Governmental action reports (police, judicial or government action taken in law forum) – filed quarterly by the amusement ride owner/operator
- Schedule of operating locations and dates for mobile operations

Check with TDI to see if an amusement ride owner/operator is in compliance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact the **Texas Department of Insurance** at

**Mail Code 103-9A, 333 Guadalupe
P. O. Box 149104, Austin, Texas 78714-9104
512-322-3435 phone
512-305-7425 fax
www.tdi.state.tx.us**



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COMMISSIONER'S BULLETIN NO. B-0008-08

TO: ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, OR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

RE: ENFORCEMENT OF THE AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY INSPECTION AND INSURANCE ACT

The purpose of this Bulletin is to inform municipal, county, and state law enforcement officials of their important role in the enforcement of the Amusement Ride Safety Inspection and Insurance Act (Act), Occupations Code Chapter 2151, and compliance requirements of amusement ride owner/operators, specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §§5.9001 – 5.9014.

Right to Enter and Inspect

A municipal, county, or state law enforcement official may enter and inspect without notice any amusement ride at any time to ensure public safety. Upon request, the operator of the amusement ride must immediately provide to the law enforcement official a copy of the records of the annual inspection of each ride; proof of an in-force liability insurance policy for each ride; quarterly reports made to the Department within the last two years concerning an injury or death resulting from an amusement ride and any government action taken against a ride; and records of daily inspections of mobile amusement rides for the past year. An unexpired Texas Amusement Ride Compliance sticker issued by the Department of Insurance (Department) should be affixed to each ride in operation. An inspection of each ride must be made on an annual basis, and a new certificate of inspection sent to the Department, accompanied by proof of in-force liability insurance for the ride.

Immediate Prohibition of Operation

A municipal, county, or state law enforcement official may immediately prohibit operation of an amusement ride if:

- The operator is unable to produce a current certificate of inspection for the ride. Prior to operation, as part of the inspection process, an owner/operator must obtain for each ride a completed certificate of inspection bearing a Department certification stamp and serial number, indicating compliance with mandatory amusement ride safety inspection requirements and liability insurance requirements.
- The operator is unable to produce proof of an in-force liability insurance policy. The owner/operator is required to maintain proof of an in-force liability insurance policy for each ride in the amount specified by the Act.