

Mobile Amusement Devices

Checklist for School Fete/Event Organisers

Developed in consultation with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Mobile amusement devices are a major drawcard for many special events such as open days, fetes, festivals and fundraisers. However, these devices can be hazardous unless properly managed.

Persons conducting a business or undertaking (including owners and persons in control of amusement devices) have duties under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, to ensure health and safety, so far as is reasonably practicable. The primary duties with regard to amusement device operation sit with the device operator. Event organisers (School / P&C) are responsible for providing information about the site, engaging a competent operator and ensuring a safe event.

Engaging a Competent Operator

The following checklist has been prepared to assist event organisers to select and monitor amusement device operators. Event organisers are to discuss this checklist with the owner/operator of a mobile amusement device during the planning phase of the event. Ensure this is done prior to engaging the operator.

A competent amusement device owner/operator is to be aware of the following issues and address them appropriately. If you have any particular concerns, discuss them with an Inspector from your local Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Office (see page 3) - [Workplace Health and Safety Queensland \(WHSQ\) - Operations Managers - Contact Details](#).

➔ Step 1: Planning Stages – Finding a Competent Operator

A competent operator must be able to provide:

(a) Engineer's Report:

Obtain, view and take a copy the engineer's inspection report for each device:

- The engineer's report is not to be confused with the 'Non Destructive Testing Report' (NDT) that is a report of testing completed to check the structural integrity of certain critical components.

The engineer's inspection report is a comprehensive inspection and assessment of the device. The engineer inspects the device and peruses the periodic inspections, tests, maintenance, repairs and records conducted during the previous 12 months by all parties to minimise risk and ensure continued safe use.

The engineer's report should include the following:

- The engineer's name, contact details, date and signature, competencies of the engineer including that the engineer is a 'registered professional engineer'.
- The report should have been conducted within the past **12 months** and include a statement noting when the next engineer inspection is due.
- The operator is to ensure an "in-date" report is available on the day of your event. (see Step 4)
- A list of items requiring attention may be included; this list may even state if the device can be used prior to these items being managed.

If there is any difficulty accessing an engineer's report for the device contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland - do not proceed with this provider at this time.

(b) Licensing Information

The amusement device is to be registered for use with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland as 'Registrable Plant', with the exception of some inflatable and coin-operated amusement devices. Additionally the majority of amusement devices require *design* registration.

- A certificate of Registrable Plant Registration is issued or renewed in February each year and a Registration Certificate is issued. The owner/operator is to be able to produce evidence of current registration.
- The design registration number (where required) should be marked on the amusement device and is also noted in the log-book. Check the 'device logbook' – Where the 'class' of device is Class 2 or higher the design registration number should also be noted in the logbook.

The device is to have current and valid public liability insurance. (This is not a Workplace Health and Safety requirement, but it is in the interests of the owner and school/event organiser to ensure this is in place).

➡ Step 2: Advising WHSQ – Once you have selected/identified the device(s)/operator(s)

- Contact Local WHSQ (Regional Operations Manager – see Table 2 page 3) to provide:
 - Proposed date of event
 - Location of event (address details)
 - Planned amusement device operator details
 - Planned amusement devices to be hired
 - Name and contact details of Event Coordinator(s) e.g. School Principal / P&C Contact / chairperson of organising committee.
- Local Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Inspectors may be able to advise the event organiser regarding amusement devices during the planning phase. Advising WHSQ provides inspectors with an opportunity to visit the amusement device in situ.
- You can also contact your Regional Senior Health and Safety Consultant.
 - Your Regional Senior Health and Safety Consultant may be able to assist you with the risk assessment process as well as liaise with local Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Inspectors.
 - Contact details can be found [online](#) (or in Table 1, page 3 of this document);



Checkpoint:

- Local Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Office advised (page 3, table 2)
- Engineer’s Inspection Report has been sighted
- Licencing Details have been addressed
- Departmental, Regional Health and Safety Consultant advised (page 3, table 1) - optional

Sign off from Event Organising Committee:

Name:

Role:.....

Signature:..... **Date:**/...../.....

School Principal Name:.....

Signature:..... **Date:**/...../.....

Table 1: Department of Education and Training - Regional Health and Safety Consultant - Contact Details

Region	Contact
Metropolitan Region Lisa Newbold, Scott Cunnington	Telephone: (07) 3634 0527 (07) 3634 0580 Mobile: 0488 665 416 0422 690 380
Metropolitan Region – Ipswich Liliana Rico Western suburbs of Brisbane out to Ipswich	Telephone: (07) 3436 6253 Mobile: 0447 162 698
South East Region Ken Collins Redlands, Logan, Gold Coast, and West to Aratula	Telephone: (07) 5656 6638 Mobile: 0448 152 183
North Coast Region – Dave Smith Murrumba, Nambour and Sunshine Coast areas	Telephone: (07) 3203 9025 Mobile: 0438 181 222
North Coast Region – Julie Muza Gympie, Maryborough and Bundaberg areas	Telephone: (07) 4121 1684 Mobile: 0407 148 709
Darling Downs South West Region – Milton Chalker Gatton, Lockyer, Laidley, Toowoomba, The Downs, Warwick, Kingaroy and Roma areas	Telephone: (07) 4616 9214 Mobile: 0427 625 537
Central Queensland Region - Anne Lawton Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Emerald and Longreach areas	Telephone: (07) 4977 7003 Mobile: 0429 628 674
Northern Region - Stuart Barrett Townsville, Bowen, Proserpine, Charters Towers, Hughenden, Mt Isa and Normanton areas.	Telephone: (07) 4726 3135 Mobile: 0427 119 179
Far North Queensland Region - Brett Moore Cairns Coastal, Tablelands-Johnstone, Torres Strait and Cape districts	Telephone: (07) 4046 5253 Mobile: 0429 471 078

Table 2: Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) – Operations Managers – Contact Details

Region	Office	Name	e-mail	Phone	Fax
North Qld	Cairns	Lara Carolan Regional Operations Manager	lara.carolan@justice.qld.gov.au	(07) 40481438	(07) 40481493
Central Qld	Mackay	Wayne Lord Regional Operations Manager	wayne.lord@justice.qld.gov.au	(07) 49674461	(07) 49674459
Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast	Bowen Hills	Chris Phelan Regional Operations Manager	chris.phelan@justice.qld.gov.au	(07) 38747512	(07) 38747510
Brisbane South and Gold Coast	Mt Gravatt	Jose Martinez Regional Operations Manager	jose.martinez@justice.qld.gov.au	(07) 32168431	(07) 38360619
	Robina	Ray Billiet Regional Operations Manager	raymond.billiet@justice.qld.gov.au	(07) 55586624	(07) 55586660
South West	Ipswich	Peter Twigg Regional Operations Manager	peter.twigg@justice.qld.gov.au	(07) 32801894	(07) 32021018

➡ Step 3: Before the Event – Discussion with the device Owner(s)/Operator(s)

Before entering an arrangement (hiring or payment) confirm with the device owner/operator how they will minimise risk to workers and others during set up, operation and removal. The following points will guide you:

Site issues – Provide the Ride Operator with information and discuss any issues before the event.

The site should be level and large enough to accommodate the ride safely. The event organisers must provide the person erecting the ride with the following documentation/information:

- Details about local conditions (e.g. recent disturbance to ground trenches or fill etc.).
- A copy of the site services layout plan (showing underground electricity, gas and water locations etc).
- If the site has an adverse history (e.g. flooding, poor drainage, high winds).
- Event site arrangement plan and traffic management plan with locations of amusement devices and other facilities marked (e.g. first aid, ambulance, toilets, drinking water, police and fire services etc.).
- Emergency procedures developed for the event - assist the operator to incorporate their emergency plan requirements into the overall emergency plan for the event.

Site information has been provided to contractor and issues discussed

Gain Agreement from the ride operator on the following:

1. Competent Operator

The person in control of the amusement device on the day of the event is to be competent to ensure safe use. Factors to consider include employee instruction, supervisory practices to ensure instructions are followed, extent of experience with operating the amusement devices and how the owner ensures that the competence of the operator is maintained. Operators need to instruct patrons and ensure patrons follow the safety instructions during the period of ride operation.

The amusement device will be controlled by a competent person to ensure health and safety

2. Personnel Training

Records should be available to the event organiser indicating that the following training has been completed:

- Those involved with the assembly, operation, dismantling and removal of the amusement device on the day of the event have received appropriate training and instruction to ensure safe use.
- All staff who will be on site on the day of the event have been trained in the designated emergency procedures for the amusement device and periodically practice the procedures.

Training records have been sighted

3. The person erecting the ride is responsible for the following

- Assessing the suitability of the ground to support the amusement device.
- The site services layout plan must be consulted prior to any on site digging or driving in of stakes etc.
- Providing safe passage and adequate fencing around rides to for the safety of staff and the public.
- Ensuring safe passage is available for emergency vehicles.
- Ensuring services are available e.g. electricity and water.

Site issues have been considered

4. Electrical Issues

- All testing and tagging of equipment and testing of RCD (safety switch) has been undertaken by a competent person.
- All power cables will be well secured and protected to avoid slip/trip/fall hazards and damage from traffic etc.
- Display lighting and associated cables are to be secured and in good order.
- Festoon lighting is to be secured and located appropriately so that it is not a hazard to riders.
- There is to be sufficient General Power Outlets (GPOs) to prevent the use of double adaptors.
- Records are available showing that visual inspections of the device electrical components have been undertaken by the device operator each time it is assembled on the site where it is intended to be used.

Electrical issues for the ride have been considered with the ride operator

5. Power supplies including internal combustion generators

- A suitable fire extinguisher will be provided adjacent to the engine.
- Access to hazardous areas of the generator will be restricted.
- Exhaust gas will be vented to an open area.
- Acceptable noise levels are to be maintained.
- Fencing will be provided to restrict access to any power supplies (General Power Outlets or specialised transformers).
- All electrical supply equipment will be suitably protected from adverse weather conditions (type 1 or 2 RCDs to be used on all outlets).

Power supply issues have been discussed with the operator and will be appropriate

6. Risk assessments

The amusement device owner should have completed risk assessments to ensure safe operation. The risk assessments for school events (for example) are to consider similar scenarios as those found at fetes or small festivals e.g. interaction between the device and the patrons, the local environment/facility, the music/noise level is not excessive.

- The device owner/operator is to allow the event organiser to view the risk assessment records, if requested.

Risk assessment records have been sighted

7. Assembly, erection and removal

- Public safety must be considered and measures put in place to ensure public safety during assembly, erection and removal of the amusement device. A documented process should be available for the event organiser to view.
- Exclusion perimeters have been established based on the maximum height of any device or any equipment/plant (boom/crane etc.) used during assembly and removal.
- Scaffolding (if used) will be assembled and removed by a person holding a scaffolding certificate.
- Falls from heights during assembly and removal will be assessed and controls implemented.
- Protective padding will be placed over sharp edges.
- Members of the public and school community will not be near the devices during assembly, erection or removal.

Assembly erection and removal issues have been considered and discussed with the operator

8. Rider restraint/containment

Where a risk of falling or being ejected from an amusement device is possible, even as a result of unexpected or unusual behaviour such as panicking or skylarking, it is to be eliminated or otherwise controlled. There are a number of control methods available to the owner/operator to eliminate or minimise the risk. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A totally enclosed carriage or gondola where the access/egress mechanism cannot be accessed by the passenger.
- Providing a restraint device that ensures the passengers remain seated in the intended position for the duration of the ride and where at least one component of the unlocking mechanism cannot be accessed by the passenger(s).
- Where the device passes through an enclosed space, additional measures to allow for remote emergency release must be provided.
- Screening procedures to ensure that only passengers who can be effectively restrained are permitted to ride.
- An effective procedure is in place to ensure the restraint of all passengers is checked prior to commencing the ride.
- The risk of injury to the rider from their limbs etc. contacting other parts of the device or structures while the device is in motion, must be minimised. This is usually achieved by containment of the rider and/or adequate separation distances.

Note: Where concerns about rider restraint are identified the local WHSQ office are to be notified. The provision, inspection, maintenance and use of rider restraints are the responsibility of the designer, manufacturer, owner/operator and/or the competent persons associated with the ride.

Rider restraint has been discussed with the ride operator and will be appropriate

9. Distance from Electrical Conductors

The minimum separation distance that any part of the amusement device should be located away from overhead power lines is determined in accordance with the Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2010 'Working near overhead and underground electric lines'. Where the following guidelines cannot be achieved contact Energex on 13 12 53 or Ergon Energy on 13 74 66 for advice:

- Ensure that all parts of the amusement device are more than 6 metres away from overhead power lines.
- Rides that are higher than their base dimensions (such as Ferris Wheels) are to be located 6 metres plus the height of the ride away from the power lines and poles or towers.

Distance from electrical conductors is sufficient

10. Crowd Control

- The operator is to assemble/dismantle amusement devices and equipment when no school/community members or members of the public are in the immediate vicinity.
- Ensure an adequate perimeter fence has been erected around the device.
- The perimeter fence is placed so the public cannot reach any moving parts of the devices (adequate clearance – e.g. 2 metres – to be allowed).
- Openings in the perimeter fence are supervised and unauthorised entry is prevented.
- Control stations are positioned to prevent interference by the public.
- Control stations are positioned to provide the operator with an unrestricted view of the device in operation and all embarkation and disembarkation stations.
- Signs for the control of passengers (e.g. patron's height, age, or weight restrictions, loading charts etc.) are prominently positioned, clearly legible and of a consistent presentation.

Crowd control is appropriate

11. Emergency Procedures

- The organiser is to assist the operator develop an emergency procedure for the site where the ride/s operation impacts on the location.
- An emergency procedure has been developed for fire, explosion, bomb threats, structural collapse, release of hazardous substances etc.
- An emergency procedure has been developed for assisting passengers who may be young, old or have disabilities.
- Emergency equipment is on hand to enable the amusement device to be moved/rotated etc. as necessary to release passengers in the event of a power failure or ride malfunction.
- The designer/manufacture recommended safety equipment for use in an emergency is readily available.
- The emergency braking system (where required), works effectively.
- Emergency lighting and illuminated exit signs must be installed for rides that run through enclosed (unlit) enclosures, e.g. ghost trains.

Emergency procedures are in place



Checkpoint:

- Consultation with the Device Operator has occurred before the event.
- The Event Organiser and the Amusement Device Owner and/or Operator agree to these important safety elements.
- Complete "Confirmation Sheet" page 8 with the amusement device owner/operator.

Jumping Castles – Inflatable Amusement Devices

Injuries associated with inflatable devices such as jumping castles are usually minor, however they are frequent. Serious injury can result from patrons falling from height onto hard surfaces; entrapment within the device and when patrons contact with each other on the device. Fatalities have occurred when the device has become airborne due to ineffective anchorage in windy conditions.

Because of these hazards the following safety information is provided:

Training and Design: When hiring a device, ensure the operators are experienced with setting up the equipment, operation, and that the device conforms to the Australian standard (AS 3533.4.1).

The device should be checked by the operator for any wear and tear that could cause the device to deflate during operation.

Siting/Anchorage: The operator is to have enough ground available to secure the device in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, and ensure the anchorage system is not a hazard for patrons (e.g. trip hazards, protruding stakes). Sharp objects that could cause the device to deflate during operation are not to be near the inflatable.

Where the device is not secured with ground anchor stakes (e.g. if on a paved areas) the anchorage system is to withstand the same forces as if it was secured with ground anchor stakes. Operators often do not secure inflatables adequately on outdoor paved areas. Consider – a ground stake with a securing rope angle of 45° to the side of the inflatable device should withstand a force applied to it of around 230kg. Therefore it requires a considerable amount of sand bags, water containers or concrete blocks to replicate this:

- A 'sand bag generally weighs around 20kg
- 20 litre drum of water weighs around 20kg
- A concrete block 500mm x 500mm x 500mm weights around 275kg.

The device must not be secured to vehicles.

Alternatively, consider if the inflatable device could be placed indoors where wind loading is not an issue.

Emergency Procedures: Some inflatable devices require emergency plans to extract patrons if the device deflates. This plan should be on site when the ride is operating.

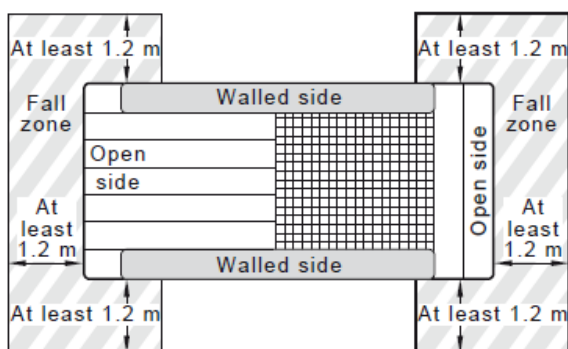
Wind/Weather: The inflatable device is not to be operated if the wind speed exceeds the design specifications (the manufacture should provide 'wind speed limitations in the manual for the device). A means of measuring wind speed should be available on site. Do not use the inflatable when it is raining or if the ride surfaces are wet.

Loading of Patrons: Patrons colliding with each other is the most common cause of injury. Ensure:

- Rules are in place and enforced so patrons of similar size are on the ride at any one time.
- Activities that cause excessive contact are monitored and minimised.
- No one is to use the device if it is not fully inflated.

Falls from Height: Falling and/or jumping from the inflatable device to the ground is another cause of injury. This can occur if the device has open sides and/or during rider access (getting on the device) and egress (exiting the devices). The inflatable is to have appropriate containment of riders that prevent the rider from falling; rules are to be in place and enforced for safe access and egress. Fall zones with safety mats are needed where there are wall openings. Figure 1. Shows recommended dimensions of fall zones that provide protection for the patrons.

Figure 1: fall zones.



Checkpoint:

- Consultation with the Device Operator has occurred before the event.
- The Event Organiser and the Amusement Device Owner and/or Operator agree to these important safety elements.
- Complete "Confirmation Sheet" page 8 with the amusement device owner/operator.

Confirmation Sheet

Owner/Operator	
Company Name:	
Name of Owner/Operator	
Signature:	
Date:	
If you are satisfied that all of the issues outlined in this checklist have been addressed, you may choose to engage that operator and proceed.	
Event Organiser	
Name of Event Organiser:	
Signature of Event Organiser:	
Date:	
Location Details	
Event Address:	
Workplace Name (e.g. school name):	
Name of the Principal/Manager:	
Signature of Principal/Manager:	
Date of Event:	

More information




- Creating Healthier Workplaces: <http://education.qld.gov.au/health/>
- Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (now [Queensland's Work Health, Safety and Workers' Compensation Services](https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/)): <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/>

The amusement device should be designed, operated, inspected and maintained in accordance with the AS3533 series of Australian Standards for Amusement Devices.

The noise exposure levels should be managed to AS/NZS 1269.1 (Occupational Noise Management - measurement and assessment of noise emission and exposure).

➔ Step 4: On the Day of the Event

Use the following as a reminder of agreed safety practices. Refer to Step 3 for detailed descriptions.

Safety Requirement – Detailed in Pre-Event Negotiations with Device Owner/Operator	
<p>NOTE: Do not proceed with the device – contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland if: a) Engineer’s Report - If the Amusement Device Engineer’s Report cannot be produced or is not “in date” and/or b) Licensing Information - If there is no certificate of Registrable Plant</p>	
  	
<p>1. The amusement device is being controlled by a competent person to ensure health and safety (refer to Step 3, parts 1 and 2). The person in control of the amusement device is competent to ensure safe use. Operators are instructing patrons and ensuring patrons follow the safety instruction during the period of ride operation.</p>	
<p>2. Training records have been sighted (refer to Step 3, parts 1 and 2). Those involved with the assembly, operation, dismantling and removal of the amusement device have received sufficient training and instruction to ensure safe use.</p>	
<p>3. The person erecting the device is satisfied with site issues and is taking responsibility for safe assembly of the ride (refer to Step 3, part 3). They are providing safe passage and adequate fencing for the safety of staff and the public.</p>	
<p>4. Electrical issues for the ride are consistent with agreed requirements. Note: power cables, lighting, general power outlets, safety switch etc.</p>	
<p>5. Power supply is appropriate and consistent with agreed requirements. A suitable fire extinguisher is adjacent to the engine, access to hazardous areas of the generator is restricted.</p>	
<p>6. Risk assessment and control strategies are implemented.</p>	
<p>7. Assembly erection and removal processes are being followed as previously discussed. Public safety is ensured during assembly, erection and removal of the amusement device. A documented process is available and being followed. Scaffolding (if used) will be assembled and removed by a person holding a scaffolding certificate.</p>	
<p>8. Rider restraint is appropriate (refer to Step 3 part 8) Where a risk of falling from an amusement device is possible, even as a result of unexpected or unusual behaviour such as panicking or skylarking, this risk has been eliminated or otherwise controlled.</p>	
<p>9. Distance from electrical conductors is sufficient (refer to Step 3 part 9) The amusement devices are not erected within the recommended exclusion zones.</p>	
<p>10. Crowd control is appropriate (refer to Step 3 part 10)</p>	
<p>11. Emergency procedures are in place (refer to Step 3 part 11)</p>	
<p>12 .Other comments:</p> <p>Operator Name: Operator Signature:.....</p> <p>Device(s).....</p> <p>Event Representative Name:Signature:</p> <p>Date:/...../..... Time:am/pm</p>	