

**Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board  
Meeting, December 16, 2021  
Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

Board Members Present

Edward M. Smith, Chair  
Albert Belmont  
Lawrence Cohen  
William Gehlhaus  
Steven Hildner  
Geoff Rogers  
Len Turtora

DCA Staff Present

Carrie Battista, Bureau of State and Local Code Inspections  
Marie Daniels, Code Development Unit  
Paul Lamberti, Chief, Bureau of State and Local Code Inspections  
Ashraf Tahoun, Carnival-Amusement Ride Safety Unit

Guests

Edward McGlynn, NJAA  
Scott Smith  
Lary Zucker, NJAA

**A. Mr. Edward Smith, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Roll call was performed.**

**B. Approval of the Minutes of December 3, 2020**

*Mr. Len Turtora made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lawrence Cohen, to approve the minutes without change. The motion carried unanimously.*

**C. Old Business.**

**1. Draft Rule, N.J.A.C. 5:14A-11, Go Kart Operations**

Mr. Paul Lamberti introduced this topic and noted that, at the last meeting, the Board voted to approve the draft rules. He stated that this proposal is now in the process of approval for publication.

**2. COVID Refunds – Round 2**

Mr. Paul Lamberti stated that the first round of COVID refunds were addressed in 2020. Feedback from that round of refunds expressed disappointment, and the Department has taken all comments into consideration. The disappointment stemmed from the fact that the Department always encourages ride owners to call for early inspections, but the way refunds were handled, those ride owners ended up being ineligible for refunds. The Department has secured additional Federal funds to provide refunds to ride owners who received early inspections. The Board expressed appreciation and stated that this is a fair solution.

## CARSAB MINUTES

December 16, 2021

### **D. New Business**

#### **1. Rule Proposal Definitions of Types of Injuries – Update**

Mr. Paul Lamberti notified the Board that these rules were adopted in October, 2021. There was some discussion on how this adoption impacts incident reports. The Board discussed the importance of education to ride owners and operators about the adoption.

#### **2. Refunds Currently Being Processed**

As noted in Old Business item 2 above, the refunds are currently being processed.

#### **3. Staffing Issues – Engineers and Field**

Mr. Paul Lamberti informed the Board that the Department has ample qualified field inspectors and noted that, if we were to lose any inspectors, it would not be an undue hardship to hire new inspectors. However, engineering staff has been difficult to acquire, and it takes about a year to train engineers to be able to independently handle review of larger projects.

#### **4. Operator Age/Lifeguard Age**

Mr. Paul Lamberti stated that New Jersey Law requires ride operators to be 16 years old. That said, lifeguards can be certified at age 15. How this impacts water rides is a distinction in the position an employee can hold. For example, on a water slide, there must be an operator at the top of the slide; that operator must be at least 16 years old. If the manual requires a staff member at the bottom of the slide, but does not require that staff member to be an operator, it could be a 15 year old lifeguard without necessitating a variation from the ride regulations.

#### **5. Outside Engineer Review (DCA Position)**

Mr. Paul Lamberti notified the Board that, in accordance with New Jersey State Law, the Department cannot allow outside engineering review. The Board discussed potential changes to the Law and mentioned Pennsylvania's use of outside engineering firms. Board members agreed to provide information about Pennsylvania's requirements to the Department.

### **E. Ride Statistics**

Mr. Paul Lamberti presented the ride statistics and noted that, due to COVID, comparing these numbers to the 2020 season is not the most accurate. Most prevalent in the reports are violations for mechanical deficiencies. With the adoption of the definition of major injury, it is anticipated that incident numbers will drop over the next few years. Board members discussed the amount of ride failures but were assured that most failures were related to shut-downs where there were no injuries. It was noted that the impact of the pandemic meant that there was a decent amount of equipment that sat unused, and no owners were negligent in their duties throughout 2021.

### **F. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **G. Adjournment**

*Mr. Geoff Rogers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. William Gehlhaus, to adjourn the meeting; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.*

### **H. Next Scheduled Meeting**

March 18, 2021.