

Check List for Safe Operation of Bouncy Castles & Other Amusements

Commissioning and Supplier

- Check that there is valid Public and Employers' Liability Insurance in place for the Operator.
- The inflatable must be designed to meet BS 14960.
- Check the log book to ensure that the 12-month examination is current.
- Check the log book to ensure that daily inspection before use has been carried out.
- Request Risk Assessments and Method Statements from the supplier/installer in advance of works. This will also include a Safe System of Work.
- Ensure there is an operator from the supplier to supervise each piece of equipment at all times while in use.
- Ensure there are sufficient attendants from the supplier to assist the supervisor to ensure safe operation of the equipment.
- Ensure that there are no overhead hazards in the area where the inflatable will be installed, and that it is not obstructing any thoroughfares.
- Ensure adequate crowd control by erecting barriers, etc.
- Ensure that the setting up and operation of the equipment is supervised by a responsible member of the University.
- Ensure that all operators and supervisors have received appropriate training on safe installation, use and dismantling of equipment.

Bouncy Castles

The Health and Safety Executive publishes guidance for Bouncy Castles. Detailed below are the key points to be aware of:

Setting up

- Ensure the Operators are aware of HSE Guidance note HSG175.
- Check points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above.
- Ensure the inflatable is firmly anchored down with the minimum of 6 anchor points for larger inflatables, which must be 380mm in length and 16mm in diameter. Watch for tripping hazards and check throughout use on a regular basis.
- Ensure it is not erected if the wind speed is greater than the manufacturers' recommended level or safe operating limit. Check

the forecast for wind speeds, and if wind speeds increase take appropriate action by prohibiting use and deflating.

- Check that once inflated the whole appliance looks symmetrical, and that areas that need to be upright are so. If it looks misshapen or deformed then it could indicate that there may be internal problems which make bouncing unpredictable.
- Ensure all electric wires are laid where they cannot be damaged and that there are no trip hazards. Cable covers must be used where necessary.
- Ensure there is no risk of electric shock and that the electrical blowers are subject to inspection and testing. The tube connecting the blower to the appliance should be at least 1.4m in length.
- Ensure crowd barriers at least one meter high are erected around the castle. The barriers should be 1.8m – 2.5m from the walls of the enclosed side and 3.5m – 4m on the open side.
- Non-inflatable gym mats 3cm – 12cm thick should be placed on the ground to cover any hard areas around the exit.
- Emergency procedures must be in place in case the air supply to the castle fails, fire occurs, etc.
- Check that the equipment is in good condition, and the operators and assistants are competent.
- Specify the maximum number of people allowed on at one time, to be determined by the supplier and the safe operating limit.

Operation

- No person to be allowed on the inflatable unless the operator and assistants are present and supervising the activity.
- Shoes, spectacles, and sharp and dangerous objects should be removed. No eating or drinking is permitted.
- No one is allowed to bounce on the front step or apron.
- People must not be allowed to climb or hang on to the outer walls.
- Operators and assistants must have a clear view of the activities on the castle at all times, and take action at the first signs of misbehaviour or horseplay.
- The maximum number permitted at any one time (as advised by the operator) must not be exceeded.
- If the electric blowers fail, or the inflatable develops a leak, then users must be told to dismount, and the device should be deflated.
- If wind speeds increase beyond the safe operating limit, the use of the inflatable is to be prohibited, and the device should be deflated.

- Periodic checks must be made on anchor points, cable covers and electric blowers throughout use, and corrective action taken where necessary.
- When not in use, the inflatable must be deflated.
- No smoking in the vicinity of the inflatable.
- No smoking in vicinity of inflatables.