



Land-borne Inflatables (LBI) Requirements

Inflatables such as bouncy castles need their own documentation to show that they meet the right safety standards. Specifically, the Australian Standard 3533.4.1 – 2005 Land-Borne Inflatable Devices.

Technical note

Bouncy castles and other 'land-borne inflatables' (LBI) do not meet the definition of an amusement device under the Amusement Devices Regulations 1978 so they can't be certified or registered under the same regulations.

This also means that Clause 11 (Local Authority Permits) of the Amusement Devices Regulations 1978 does not apply to bouncy castles.

HOW TO ENSURE YOUR LBI COMPLIES

- Operators need to produce documentation from the supplier or manufacturer that shows how the inflatable complies with the standard, including a manufacturer's declaration or certificate stating that the device with serial number #xxxxx complies with the standard.
- We would need to see a clearly legible label or tag on the device that relates to the above paperwork. The label should state to what standard the device is manufactured to and critical safety information such as maximum number of occupants, height, age, minimum anchoring requirements, and maximum wind conditions.
- We would expect the operator to be able to demonstrate how the device is being used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, and to be able to produce the instructions on request.

Simply stating that there is a label on the device is not sufficient.

If documentation from the supplier or manufacturer is not available, then the operator may have to engage the services of a Chartered Professional Engineer or similar competent person to determine compliance.

As an operator of land-borne inflatables you have the following duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 ("the Act").

Operators of LBIs are to comply, as a minimum, with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act.

These sections require that you do everything practicable to eliminate health and safety risks or minimise them if they can't be eliminated; and to make sure no-one's health and safety is put at risk from operating the LBI.

SPECIFICALLY:

Section 30 applies if you are a PCBU:

1. A duty imposed on a person by or under this Act requires the person:

- to eliminate risks to health and safety, so far as is reasonably practicable; and
- if it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate risks to health and safety, to minimise those risks so far as is reasonably practicable.

Section 36 applies:

1. A PCBU must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the health and safety of other persons is not put at risk from work carried out as part of the conduct of the business or undertaking.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER/OPERATORS

Operators must conduct hazard identification and risk assessment at each location prior to operation.

Site specific hazard identification would include but not be limited to terrain, weather and age and expected numbers of participants.

Information on safe use and manufacturer guidance is often supplied with the device at point of sale and should be referred to prior to operation. If an operations manual is not available from the manufacturer, then Chartered Professional Engineer or similar competent person to determine compliance may be engaged to prepare a suitable document.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF EVENT ORGANISERS

Event Organisers (are stakeholders and therefore) have responsibility for ensuring that all activities are compliant under the relevant sections of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

Only operators who can provide evidence to event organisers that land-borne inflatable amusement devices meet the requirements of Australian Standard 3533.4.1 should be allowed to operate.

If an event is taking place on Council land or property, the event organiser must ensure all Health & Safety requirements for Inflatable Devices are met.

If an event is taking place on private property it is best practice for the event organiser to ensure all Health & Safety requirements for Inflatable Devices are met.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL

Selwyn District Council is considered to have 'overlapping' duties, so we are also responsible for ensure all legal requirements are met when land-borne inflatables are operated on Selwyn public land, or for Council run events under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Failure to comply with the Australian Standard 3533.4.1 – 2005 Land-Borne Inflatable Devices and the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015:

If WorkSafe is satisfied that the device is not safe to operate (likely to cause serious harm) it can issue a Prohibition Notice to the operator, which means the LBI cannot be used until it is proven to be safe. Where someone is found to be operating an LBI that doesn't meet all the requirements, the Council will notify WorkSafe. operating.



WORKSAFE'S EXPECTATIONS FOR CONFORMING TO AS3533.4.1 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Control and supervision issues for inflatable devices

Manufacturer requirements

- Structural integrity
- Stability
- Ground suitability
- Safety from falling
- Access
- Egress
- Services and facilities
- Maximum number of participants (load)
- Participant minimum height
- Participant maximum height
- Participant maximum weight
- Approved blower system (minimum number required)
- Minimum number of fully trained and authorised on-duty operators
- Approved tether system (minimum and maximum number of appropriately rated anchorage points and method)
- Maximum specified wind speed/gusts
- Accurate anemometer on site
- Inspections (assembly, daily, annual, other) – all results logged
- Supervision as per AS 3533.4.1
- Operation as per AS 3533.4.1
- Incident/accident reporting procedures and register kept for this
- All electric leads and plugs safely covered and secured to avoid any form of contact
- Electrical supply to be via residual current protection device(s) or isolating transformer(s). All electrical leads to be certified
- Controlled rate of deflation
- Minimum and maximum inflation air pressure and means of monitoring.

Activity controls including

- Admitting patrons to the inflatable in a controlled and safe manner, keeping the entrance free from obstruction at all times
- Separation of larger or more boisterous users from smaller or more timid ones
- Prevention of patrons from climbing or hanging on the containing walls
- Prevention of inappropriate activities (eg somersaults and rough play)
- Restrictions on the consumption of food, drink, gum
- The enforcement of correct riding position on slides
- How to attract the attention of the patrons
- In the case of slides, controlling spacing of patrons to avoid any collisions
- Assisting patrons from the inflatable in a controlled and safe manner.