

CODE SOLUTION

LICENSING

Amusement Rides and Attractions

Issue:

The Department of L&I issues licenses for carnivals. Many years ago, vehicular amusement rides required a license from L&I. Often the public assumes that L&I maintains regulatory responsibility over amusement rides operating at carnivals and other locations, like fairs and parks.

To what extent does L&I regulate amusement rides and attractions?

Solution:

Philadelphia does not regulate amusement rides and attractions.

The PA Department of Agriculture has inspected and registered amusement rides and attractions under the Amusement Ride Safety Act since 1984.

The Act defines an **amusement ride** as:

“A device that carries, suspends or conveys passengers along, around or over a fixed or restricted route or course or within a defined area, for the purpose of giving its passengers amusement, pleasure, thrills or excitement.”

The Act defines an **amusement attraction** as:

“A building or structure around, over or through which people may move or walk, without the aid of a moving device integral to the building or structure, that provides amusement, pleasure, thrills or excitement.”

Rides and attractions are inspected by state-licensed qualified inspectors. These inspectors are overseen by the Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards' Quality Assurance Unit. Licensed inspectors must pass a written exam and must attend continuing education to maintain licensure.

PA Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards can be reached at 717-787-2291 or by e-mail to RA-amusementrides@pa.gov.

L&I maintains responsibility for enforcing compliance with the Fire and Building Codes for the locations where amusement rides and attractions are located, including but not limited to tent permits and inspections for carnivals and electrical permits for temporary wiring to the rides.



Code Sections:

Philadelphia Code
Sections 9-708 and 9-709

PA Amusement Ride Safety Act

Issued by:

Michael Fink, Chief Code Official

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Disclaimer:

This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.