

SCHOOL REJECTS FETE EQUIPMENT – PIPA AWARENESS INCREASES

We are receiving information of an interesting development at a Sussex school on Saturday.

The school had booked a number of inflatable items and also go carts for their annual summer fete.

The operator involved arrived, set up and was then asked why there were no PIPA tags or green PAT stickers on the blowers. Having explained that the units were new and built to the European Standard, BS EN 14960:2006 and that the stickers never stayed on units the school head refused to allow the units to be used until documentation was produced to confirm these details. Unfortunately to return to base to collect the relevant documentation and then get them to the venue would have meant that the fete would have been almost over in the time this would have taken. The operator was left with no alternative but to remove the items and lose the payment on the job.

At the same event the go cart operator was told that his services would also not be required as he only had £3,000,00 Public Liability Insurance cover and the school required £5,000,000.

This sorry saga left some very disappointed children, out of pocket operators and lessons to be learnt.

When booking inflatables for events you should ensure

- a) the hire company use written Hire Contracts.
- b) you inform the hire company of your requirements, test certificates, Public Liability Insurance (including level of cover), Portable Appliance Test reports, risk assessments and any other specific requirements you have prior to events. Ensure that these requirements are included in the Hire Contract. It is unreasonable to expect any company to be able to produce documentation on the day unless previously arranged. It is also good practice to ensure that the company you are booking can meet your requirements.
- c) all units are built to a commercial grade complying with BS EN 14960:2006

Hire companies that are able to provide all of the above will probably be a little more expensive than others in the same area. To be able to comply with all Health and Safety requirements, meet increased levels of Public Liability Insurance and provide a high level of service costs more than those who try to cut corners. Cheaper is not always better.

The Inflated News team believes that the recent High Court case has certainly raised awareness of the need for safety tests, operating instructions etc at schools, Local Authorities, corporate events managers and in certain areas of the public. It has also increased the awareness of PIPA tests.

Further advice for those wishing to hire inflatable play equipment should go to www.inflatednews.co.uk/info5.pdf and for details of the PIPA testing scheme visit www.pipa.org.uk

Source: Inflated News

Released: 29th June 2008