

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - JULY 2005

285. Sizzler Twists

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a bulletin dated 18 October 2004 following a fatal accident on 19 September 2004 involving a Sizzler Twist ride, manufactured by Wisdom Industries, Ltd.

The accident occurred in Massachusetts and resulted in the death of one passenger and the injury of two other people when the end of the seat structure gave way, allowing the two occupants to be thrown out of the ride. An employee of the ride's controller has pleaded not guilty to a charge of manslaughter. The indictment marks the first time a criminal charge has resulted from an amusement ride death in Massachusetts.

As a result of the accident, Wisdom Industries, Ltd. requested that all controllers of the Sizzler and Deluxe Sizzler rides immediately perform the critical safety inspections detailed in the bulletin. In addition, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) requested State and local officials to locate these rides and require controllers to cease operation of the Sizzlers until they had completed a thorough check of the internal frame bolts, the footwell hinge bolts and internal frame welds.

At the time of the bulletin the CPSC staff were still investigating the Sizzler and Deluxe Sizzler amusement rides and were working with Wisdom Industries, Ltd to inspect and correct as necessary. It has since been suggested, by others, that "an investigation of the accident revealed that the victim's car fell apart because an improperly replaced lap bar nut loosened, another bolt that had a missing head failed, and another undersized bolt sheared off".

The CPSC's news release may be found on

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05015.html>

from where the technical recommendations may also be downloaded. Those who control one of these devices would be advised to obtain this information.

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