



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is designed to provide guidance for childcare providers hiring / using play inflatables. It does not cover waterborne inflatables.
- 1.2 Inflatable play is normally a very safe and good way for children to exercise whilst having fun.
- 1.3 The three elements that make for a safe inflatable play environment are:
 - Properly manufactured and maintained equipment.
 - Correct operation (pressure, siting, anchorage etc.) of the equipment.
 - Adequate supervision
- 1.4 When a company, organisation or individual hires any equipment they become subject to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. This act places a duty of care on everyone involved in the transaction. This means that the operator, the operator's employees, the hirer, the hirer's employees and the owner or manager of the premises should do everything possible to ensure the safe use of the equipment.
- 1.5 In addition Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) require that all work equipment, and that includes inflatable play, must be tested by a competent person regularly (usually once a year).

2.0 NATIONAL INSPECTION SCHEMES

- 2.1 The HSE supports the work of two inspection schemes, namely [ADIPS](#) and [PIPA](#). These are independent voluntary schemes, funded and run by industry members.
- 2.2 While compliance can be achieved using other means, where an operator or other duty holder has their inflatable devices examined by an inspector who is registered with either of these schemes, they will normally have done enough to comply with the relevant part of their duties under Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
- 2.3 Inflatables tested under the PIPA scheme will be tagged, and the operator will be able to produce a certificate containing information relating to the test.
- 2.4 The PIPA scheme ensures that equipment is tested to a recognised standard both before first use and annually thereafter. <http://www.pipa.org.uk/>

3.0 ANNUAL AND DAILY CHECKS BY THE OPERATOR

- 3.1 Each inflatable should be thoroughly inspected annually or at least once in every 14 months by a registered inspection body. You need to see evidence that these checks have been undertaken.

3.2 Daily Checks should be carried out before the first use on any day using advice provided by the manufacturer in the operations manual and should include the following:

- Suitability of the site
- Anchorages are secure and intact
- No damage to the fabric or seams
- The blower is the one specified and all tubes are fixed and in good condition

4.0 **SAFE OPERATION**

4.1 **Anchorage:** Even in non-windy conditions the inflatable will move and creep (Perhaps taking it dangerously close to the blower) the device should be secured to the ground with stakes, where the ground is suitable. An alternative method on a hard standing can be used such as sand bags, attaching the ropes to fittings already in the ground. Inflatable can be tied to a vehicle providing the vehicle is immobilised and under the full control of the operator.

4.2 **Weather conditions:** Inflatables should not be used in excess of the maximum safe wind speed specified by the manufacturer.

4.3 **Siting of the Inflatable:** You need to ensure that the device is sited well away from overhead power lines or other obstacles such as fences. If the ground surface is abrasive, oily or dirty, a ground sheet should be used to prevent damage.

4.4 **Supervision:** The operator needs to determine the minimum number of attendants needed to ensure safe operation of the equipment. You need to consider the age of the users, the number of people using the equipment and the environment in which the inflatable is being used. Operators and attendants need to watch the activity constantly and should use a whistle or other signal at the first sign of any misbehaviour such as somersaults or rough play.

4.5 **Method of operation:** the operator should ensure that users are admitted in a controlled and safe manner by following some simple guidelines:

- Ensure all footwear is removed and any other hard, sharp or dangerous objects (buckles, pens etc.) as well as glasses.
- Do not allow food drink or chewing gum on the device.
- Do not allow anyone to obstruct the entrance or exit, or allow anyone to play on the step or front apron of the inflatable.
- Do not allow users to climb or hang on the walls.
- Do not allow users who do not conform to height restrictions to use the device.
- Keep onlookers away from entrances and exits.
- Ensure the equipment is not overloaded and that larger users are kept separate from smaller users.
- Keep users of the device when it is being inflated or deflated. Always ensure the device is deflated when not in use to prevent unsupervised use.
- Make sure the blower is at least 1.2 metres from the inflatable.
- Follow instructions given to you by the hirer.

5.0 **TRAINING**

5.1 The operator should ensure that all operators receive effective training in the working of the device including:

- The method of operating the device
- Safe entry/exit for users
- Safe methods of assembly/dismantling, where applicable
- How to make a daily check
- Safe anchoring of the inflatable
- Crowd control measures and barriers
- Measures to be taken in the event of power failure
- Procedures for reporting accidents, defects or breakdowns

5.2 Where the nursery becomes the operator the training identified above **must** be undertaken prior to the use of the equipment.

6.0 **FURTHER INFORMATION / LINKS**

www.pipa.org.uk - Inspections

www.hse.gov.uk - Guidance

Questions Checklist when hiring a "Bouncer"

Premises Name:.....

	Yes	No	N/A
Does the operator conform to the ADIPS /PIPA Scheme?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When was the equipment last fully inspected? (Each inflatable should be thoroughly inspected annually or at least once in every 14 months)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the inflatable a PIPA tag / current PIPA test certificate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If set up with the blower unit at 1.2 metres distance will it still fit on the intended site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the equipment clearly marked as to its limitations of use? (max. user height etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the operator a member of a relevant association? (AIMODS, NAIH or BIHA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do they have Public Liability Insurance £5M?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are full instructions on it's safe operation available? (including number and maximum size of users)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>