

Saferparks Comparison of State Ride Safety Regulations

Last 50-state update: April 2017

Last incremental update: September 2019

State Laws/Regulations	Tally	Ak	Al	Ar	Az	Ca	Co	Ct	De	Fl	Ga	Hi	Ia	Id	Il	In	Ks	Ky	La	Ma	Md	Me	Mi	Mn	Mo	Ms
Program Type:																										
Comprehensive gov. oversight	20	X		X		X				X	X	X	X		X			X		X	X	X	X			
Partial gov. oversight	12						X	X								X			X						X	
Private-sector oversight	9								X								X							X		
Electrical inspections only	1													X												
No state agency w/jurisdiction	8		X		X																					X
Ride safety advisory board	13			X											X	X				X	X		X		X	
References ASTM (F24) Standards	35			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Regs Cover:																										
Theme park rides	44	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other fixed-site rides	45	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Portable rides	46	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inflatables	24		X										X	X	X				X	X	X			X*	X*	
Waterslides	30	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X*	X*				X	X		X	X				
Permits / Insurance:																										
Rides must be registered	38	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Insurance required	44	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inspections - Frequency:																										
Annually (at least)	44	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
At each setup (portables)	10			X					X*	X				X					X*		X					
Inspections - Performed by:																										
Government inspector*	22	X		X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X			X	
3rd-party inspector*	27	X			X		X	X	X	X	X								X	X				X	X	
Self-inspected	1																X									
Operation:																										
Ride ops must be 18yo+	9	X										X	X							X						
Patron responsibility rules	26			X			X	X		X	X		X		X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Accidents - Owner must report:																										
Severe injury or death	36	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Injury requiring ER or Dr's visit	19	X				X				X	X	X	X		X			X*			X	X	X			
Ride damage or malfunction	17			X		X*	X*			X	X	X	X					X		X			X			
Accidents - Investigation:																										
Gov. may investigate accidents	29	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Owner must preserve acc. scene	27	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Gov. may shutdown unsafe rides	34	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Accidents - Public records:																										
State provides public records	29	X		X	X*	X	X	X		X			X		X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

* Inspections - Some state inspection requirements use both government inspectors and 3rd party inspectors.

* AZ provides public records of accidents only for trampoline court injuries

* CA requirement to report equip malfunction applies only to portable rides

* CO requires reporting of injuries, but only if the accident was caused by a ride malfunction or impairs the function of the ride/device.

* DE inspection at each setup is for electrical only

* IA, IL waterslides are regulated by a different agency under different rules (Dept. of Public Health)

* KY Injuries must only be reported if they result from a ride/device failure

* LA inflatables must be inspected at each setup, but the owner/operator can self-inspect if approved by the state

* MD bungee jumping is prohibited by state law

* MN only regulates inflatables at permanent indoor facilities open to the public

* MO regulation of inflatables is restricted to slides > 20' high

This work product was gathered by Saferparks as a public service, and is intended to offer a rough comparison of state rules governing amusement ride safety. The information is believed to be accurate when published, but there are regular changes in this information; therefore, Saferparks gives no guarantee of accuracy. All requirements should be verified with the jurisdictional authority. Email corrections to contact@saferparks.org

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State Laws/Regulations	Tally	Mt	Nc	Nd	Ne	Nh	Nj	Nm	Nv	Ny	Oh	Ok	Or	Pa	Ri	Sc	Sd	Tn	Tx	Ut	Va	Vt	Wa	Wi	Wv	Wy
Program Type:																										
Comprehensive gov. oversight	20		X			X	X				X	X		X	X											
Partial gov. oversight	12				X					X*						X		X					X	X	X	
Private-sector oversight	9							X					X						X	X	X	X				
Electrical inspections only	1																									
No state agency w/jurisdiction	8	X		X					X								X									X
Ride safety advisory board	13						X				X			X	X			X		X						
References ASTM (F24) Standards	35		X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Regs Cover:																										
Theme park rides	44		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other fixed-site rides	45		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Portable rides	46	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inflatables	24		X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X					X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Waterslides	30		X*			X	X	X		X	X		X*					X	X		X		X*	X	X	X
Permits / Insurance:																										
Rides must be registered	38		X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Insurance required	44		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inspections - Frequency:																										
Annually (at least)	44		X	X*	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
At each setup (portables)	10		X								X		X										X*			
Inspections - Performed by:																										
Government inspector*	22		X			X	X			X	X		X	X											X	
3rd-party inspector*	27			X	X	X				X			X	X	X	X	X*	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Self-inspected	3							X												X						
Operation:																										
Ride ops must be 18yo+	9		X							X			X												X	X
Patron responsibility rules	26	X				X	X		X*		X	X		X		X	X*	X	X	X*						
Accidents - Owner must report:																										
Severe injury or death	36		X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Injury requiring ER or Dr's visit	19		X				X				X		X						X				X	X	X	X
Ride damage or malfunction	17		X		X	X	X				X		X										X			
Accidents - Investigation:																										
Gov. may investigate accidents	29		X		X	X	X			X	X*	X		X	X									X	X	X
Owner must preserve acc. scene	27		X		X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X										X	
Gov. may shutdown unsafe rides	34		X		X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Accidents - Public records:																										
State provides public records	29		X			X	X				X	X		X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	X

* Inspections - Some state inspection requirements use both government inspectors and 3rd party inspectors.

* NC, WA waterslides are regulated by a different agency under different rules (Dept. of Public Health). PA splits oversight across 2 agencies.

* ND - No inspection frequency was specified in statute/regs; assume annual

* NV, SD, UT - Patron responsibility law applies only to amusement park rides, not carnival (portable) rides.

* NY - State law exempts rides/devices operated in NYC and other cities > 1 million people; accidents are investigated by a safety coordinator designated by the park/carnival

* OH - Re-inspection after accident vs. investigation

* SD - Fixed-site rides are exempt from inspection requirement; Portable rides are exempt from Patron Responsibility requirement

* WA - Inspection at each setup is for electrical only

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