



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

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June 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

During the recent legislative session, changes were made to Florida Statute 616.242. Below you will find an overview of some of the changes that will take effect on July 1, 2023. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Bureau of Fair Rides Inspection at (850) 410-3838.

- A major modification now includes changes to safety systems of an amusement ride which will alter its performance or settings from those specified in the manufacturer's design criteria or operator's manual.
- A ride commissioning and certification report is required to be provided by the ride manufacturer certifying that the ride has been designed and manufactured in conformance with manufacturer design criteria, standards referenced, and rules adopted. This commissioning report is for permanent park rides only that are operating for the first time after July 1, 2023.
- Nondestructive testing and annual affidavits will now require affiants to:
  - Confirm integrity of all components; nonvisual testing will be used for components where integrity cannot be seen or evaluated by visual means.
  - Affirm manufacturer requirements and recommendations for NDT.
  - Document any major modifications to include the name of the manager, owner or operator who authorized the modification and the date the modification took place.
  - Certify each rides conformance with Florida Statute 616.242 and Rule 5J-18.
  - Certify each rides conformance with the service life of the ride set by the manufacturer.
- Proper positioning and measurements related to patron safety restraint systems has been added as an inspection standard. Bureau inspectors may request demonstration of proper loading during inspections.
- Rider restrictions must be noted on signage to include age restrictions, size restrictions, health restrictions, weight limitations and special considerations. If rider restrictions are

not provided in the manual; documentation from the manufacturer, a professional engineer or qualified inspector will be required, confirming no restrictions exist. Signage must state that no rider restrictions exist if this is the case.

- Permanent parks will be required to place a sign with the toll-free number of the department at entrances. Specific requirements for this sign will be provided in rule. The department will issue signs initially.
- During unannounced inspections, inspectors may request review of required documentation to include but not limited to owner's daily inspection reports and employee training records.
- Accidents shall be reported whereby patrons seek medical treatment at a hospital or urgent care center.
- Inspections by the owner/manager must be recorded at the time of inspection.
- Employee training shall be documented immediately following each training session. Training and retraining standards will be set in rule.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification please feel free to contact the Bureau at 850-410-3838.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Faulk*

Michelle Faulk  
Bureau Chief

Attachments:  
SB 902 Enrolled bill language