

Comparison of State Ride Safety Regulations

This page offers an overview of amusement ride safety regulations in the 50 U.S. states. The inventory is intended to facilitate a rough comparison of amusement ride laws and regulations implemented at the state level. Results are approximate. **Last 50-state update: September 16, 2008**

NOTE: A few isolated changes have been made since the last 50-state update in cases where the regulatory official with jurisdiction explicitly provided updated information to Saferparks and asked that it be posted.

State Program	Tally	Ak	Al	Ar	Az	Ca	Со	Ct	De	FI	Ga	Hi	la	ld	II	ln	Ks	Ку	La	Ma	Md	Me	Mi	Mn	Мо	Ms
Program Type: Comprehensive Gov. Oversight	24 /50	-		-		-		-			•	-	-		-			•	-	•	•	•	-			
Partial Gov. Oversight *	9 /50									•						•	•							•	•	
Electrical Inspections Only	1/50													-												
Private-sector Oversight	11 /50				•		•		-																	
No State Ride Safety Law	5 /50		•																							•
CARES Member Agency	26 /50					•	•	•		•	•		•		•			•	•	•	•	-	•		•	
Regs Cover: Theme Park Rides	43 /50	-		-	-	-	-	-	•		•	•	-	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	
Other Fixed-Site Rides	44 /50	-		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	
Portable Rides	45 /50	-		•	•	•	•	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	•	-	-	•	-	
Inflatables (Park/Carnival)	25 /50	-		•				•				•	•		•			•	•	•	•	-			•	
Inflatables (Rental)	16 /50			•									•					-		•	•	-				
Go-Karts	31 /50	-		•	•			•		•	•		•		•			•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	
Bungees	37 /50	-		•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-		•		•	•	•	-		•	•	-			•	
Waterslides	28 /50	•		•	•	•		•		•	-		•		•			•	•	•	•	-	•			
Rides Must Be Registered	38 /50	-		•		•	•	-	-	•	-	•	•		-	•	•	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Insurance Required	41 /50	-		•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
Ride Ops Must Be 18yo+	16 /50	-						-				•	•							-			-	•		
Owner Must Inspect Rides	40 /50	-		•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
Gov. Inspects Rides	31 /50	-		•		•	•	-		•	-	•	•	•	•	•		-	-	-	-	-	-			
Owner Must Report:Severe Injuries	35 /50	-		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	
Medical Treatment	19 /50	-				-	-				-		•		•			-			-	-	-			
Major Equip. Damage	11/50			•							-	•	•					•		-			•			
Owner Must Preserve Acc. Scene	24 /50	-		-		-		-			-		•					-	-	-	-	-	•		-	
Gov. Investigates Accidents	29 /50	-		•		•		-		•	-	•	•		•			-	-	-	-	-	•	•	-	
Gov. May Shutdown Unsafe Rides	35 /50	-		•		•	•	-	-	•	-		•		•	•		•	•	-	-	-	•	-	-	
Rider Responsibility Rules	20 /50			•							-		•						•	•		-	-	•	•	

State Program	Tally	Mt	Nc	Nd	Ne	Nh	Nj	Nm	Nv	Ny	Oh	Ok	Or	Pa	Ri	Sc	Sd	Tn	Тх	Ut	Va	Vt	Wa	Wi	Wv	Wy
Program Type: Comprehensive Gov. Oversight	24 /50		•		•	•	•			•	•	•		-	•									•		
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Inflatables (Park/Carnival)	25 /50		•			•	•			•	•	•	•	•					•		-		-	-	-	
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^{*} Partial Gov. Oversight means that state law grants government officials authority over some critical safety functions, but not all. For example, some state agencies inspect rides, but allow parks and carnivals to write the investigation report on their own accidents. Some agencies are allowed to investigate serious accidents, but are not allowed to inspect the ride machinery. Florida exempts thrill rides at major theme parks from government safety oversight. Government oversight in Texas is limited to filing accident reports written by the ride owners.

This work product was gathered by Saferparks as a public service. It is believed 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.

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