What is an Amusement Ride?

“Amusement ride” means any mechanical or electrical device that carries or conveys passengers along, around, or over a fixed or restricted route or course or within a defined area for the purpose of giving its passengers amusement, pleasure, thrills, or excitement including, but not be limited to:

- Ferris wheels;
- Carousels;
- parachute towers;
- Bungee jumping;
- Reverse bungee jumping;
- Commercial zip line;
- Tunnels of love;
- Roller coasters;
- Boat rides;
- Water slides that are at least 35 feet in height and that use water to propel the patron through the ride;
- Inflatable devices;
- Trampoline courts;
- Go-karts;
- Equipment generally associated with winter activities, such as ski lifts, ski towls, j-bars, t-bars, chair lifts and aerial tramways; and
- Equipment not originally designed to be used as an amusement ride, such as cranes or other lifting devices, when used as part of an amusement ride.

What is NOT an amusement ride?

- Nonmechanized playground equipment;
- Hayrack rides;
- Homemade barrel trains; and
- Waterslides less than 35-feet.

Who is a qualified inspector?

Inspections can now be completed by a person with a Level I certification from NAARSO.* Prior law required a Level II.

* National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials

What are the changes from 2017?

- Qualified inspector reduced from a Level II to a Level I certification from NAARSO.
- Rides manufactured prior to January 1, 1930 are considered “antique amusement rides” and only the manufacturer of the ride would be able to make the certification.
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- Rides manufactured prior to July 1, 2018 can qualify as “service proven” allowing the manufacturer of the ride to complete inspection certification. Without this change only the manufacturer of the ride would be able to make the certification.
- Water slides under 35-feet do not have to be registered as an amusement ride.
- All water slides 15-feet and higher that use water to propel the patron must have an attendant to ensure safety standards are followed.

What about inflatables?

An inspector must have a minimum of 5 years’ experience with inflatables and have received qualified training from the Safe Inflatable Operators Training organization or other nationally recognized organization.

What about water slides?

- Water slides under 35-feet do not have to be registered as an amusement ride.
- All water slides 15-feet and higher that use water to propel the patron must have an attendant to ensure safety standards are followed.

If a city owns an amusement ride what must they do?

- The city must register with the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL).
- The city must submit an application for a permit for the ride with KDOL.
- The ride must be inspected annually by a qualified inspector.
- Perform and record daily inspections of the ride.

2018 Kansas Legislature defines a qualified inspector to hold a Level I certification from NAARSO*

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