

# Hiring inflatable play equipment?

... keep users safe – check the PIPA tag



## A PIPA tag means the equipment is:

- ✓ Designed to a recognised standard
- ✓ Tested by a competent Inspector
- ✓ Approved for commercial use

## The PIPA scheme delivers:

- ✓ Improved safety for users
- ✓ Quality assurance
- ✓ Certified initial and annual testing

## PIPA has the support of:

- ✓ Health and Safety Executive
- ✓ Industry associations
- ✓ Local authorities, event organisers and national businesses



# Use the PIPA scheme

... the UK's only inspection scheme for inflatable play equipment

What you should know...

## Is testing for inflatable play equipment a legal requirement?

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) require that all work equipment, including inflatable play, must be tested by a competent person at suitable intervals (usually once a year). Inspection should be carried out by a competent person prior to first use and at least annually thereafter.

Operators using other testing schemes or methods may be required to demonstrate how such procedures equal or better the accepted best practice. Testers with no formal qualifications, however well experienced, would probably not be able to satisfy a court of their competence.

## What standard should inflatable play equipment conform to?

BS EN 14960 is the standard to which inflatable play equipment is tested through the PIPA scheme. Following the standard is regarded as “best practice” and would usually be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent regulations require all inflatable play equipment “that is designed to be used by members of the public for entertainment purposes either as a slide or for bouncing upon” to be tested at suitable intervals by a competent person.

## Questions to ask the Operator:

### Can you confirm:

1. That the inflatable has been inspected via means of an in-date test certificate?
2. That routine maintenance checks are carried out on the inflatable?
3. That the inflatable is clearly marked with limitations of use?
4. That you have public liability insurance?
5. That a risk assessment will be provided for the event?
6. That you have a suitable anchorage system in place if the event is to take place on hardstanding?
7. That you will follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the inflatable?
8. That you have been trained to operate the inflatable in a safe manner?
9. What precautions will be taken in adverse weather conditions?
10. Whether you have had any accidents in the past and if so how were they recorded?



## Hazards to be aware of:

- ✗ Anchors not secure or in place
- ✗ Holes in the fabric or seams
- ✗ Exposed electrical parts and worn cables
- ✗ Failure or loss of power to the blower
- ✗ Sharp exterior seams within the play area
- ✗ Loss of pressure within the inflatable