

Department of Industrial Relations
Cal/OSHA

AMUSEMENT RIDE AND TRAMWAY UNIT

1750 Howe Ave., Suite 480
Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: 916.263.3511
Fax: 916.263.3576

tar@dir.ca.gov



December 29, 2025

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Operation of a Temporary Amusement Ride (TAR 26-2)

LABOR CODE 7906 STATES:

No person shall operate a temporary amusement ride without a permit issued by the Division or a public entity. On or before March 1st of each year, an operator shall apply for a permit to the Division or a public entity on a form furnished by the Division ten days prior to the date of operation.

Application packets can be obtained from our website, or by contacting our office. **Note: If you are operating rides prior to March 1, 2026, your application must be submitted at least ten days prior to the date of operation.**

Once the Division receives your application, you must contact the Division to schedule inspections. The ability to operate on last year's annual permit is only applicable if the Division is unable to schedule an inspection of your rides and is based solely on the Division's availability. It is your responsibility to contact the Division to schedule your inspections.

*8 CCR 3915 (b) No person shall operate an amusement ride unless a current permit to operate has been issued by the Division or a public entity as prescribed in Division 5 of the California Labor Code, Part 8. However, an amusement ride inspected and covered by a valid permit to operate in the preceding year may continue to operate until further inspected, providing the owner/operator of the ride has made written application to the Division for an inspection at least ten days prior to its operation indicating where such ride will be available for inspection **and the application remains unacted upon.***

Note: Canceling an inspection does not allow for a ride to operate on an expired permit.

New amusement rides must be inspected and receive a permit to operate before they are put into operation. Please have trained staff available to demonstrate proficiency in all maintenance, operational duties and procedures during the Division's inspection.

If the Division identifies non-critical violations, a temporary permit may be issued along with a specified compliance date. Ride owner/operators are responsible for scheduling inspections to clear requirements and obtain an annual permit to operate. Payments for all inspection fees are due at the time of the inspection.

All annual replacement items, required testing, or other permits (non-destructive test, air tank permit, etc.) are due at the time of the inspection. The inspector will not issue an operating permit until the violation is corrected, and the inspector can verify completion through inspection.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Prather".

Scott Prather
Senior Safety Engineer
Cal/OSHA, ART Unit

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TO: Temporary Amusement Ride Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Required Records and Reporting of Incidents / Accidents (TAR 26-3)

Injury Illness Prevention Program

As required under California Labor Code Section 6401.7, each employer shall establish, implement, and maintain an effective Injury Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). These records are required to be maintained with the ride and available to a Division inspector at the time of inspection. Cal/OSHA has many educational materials and resources available to assist you with establishing and maintaining an effective IIPP. These resources are available at the following website address:
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/puborder.asp#IIPP>

Additional information pertaining to the safety and health of your employees can be obtained by contacting our Consultation Services Branch at: InfoCons@dir.ca.gov, 1-800-963-9424 or at the following website address: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html>

Incident / Accident Reporting

California Labor Code section 7914(a) states: "Each operator of an amusement ride shall report or cause to be reported to the Division, **immediately by telephone (916)-263-3511**, each known incident where maintenance, operation, or use of the amusement ride results in any of the following:

- 1) A fatality.
- 2) A loss of consciousness or other injury to a person which requires medical service other than ordinary first aid treatment.
- 3) Major mechanical failure.
- 4) A patron falling from a moving ride or from a ride that has temporarily stopped in an elevated position.

If a fatality, reportable injury, or major mechanical failure as defined in subdivision (a), is caused by the failure, malfunction, or operation of an amusement ride, the equipment or conditions that caused the accident shall be preserved for the purpose of investigation by the Division."

Written Report

In addition to the report by telephone required under subdivision (a), an operator of an amusement ride shall submit a detailed written accident report to the Division within 24 hours of an incident on a form designated by the Division. Accompanying this letter is the Accident Report Form.

A Division inspector may inspect an amusement ride upon receipt of the report of an incident.

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TO: Temporary Amusement Ride Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Insurance (TAR-26-4)

This letter is to provide information and clarification of the insurance requirements needed to operate temporary amusement rides in the State of California. The Division recommends that you forward a copy of this notice to your insurance agent or broker.

The following insurance requirements are outlined in California Labor Code Section 7912:

“No person shall operate an amusement ride unless there is in existence and on file with the Division a policy of insurance issued by a company licensed by the Department of Insurance to do business in the State of California, or by a non-admitted insurer employed by a surplus lines broker licensed by the Department of Insurance, in an amount of not less than **one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence**, insuring the owner or operator against liability for injury suffered by persons riding the amusement ride.” **Note: Sub-limits less than \$1,000,000.00 will not be accepted.**

The Labor Code requires each owner to submit a **complete insurance policy** to the Division. A certificate of insurance or a binder does not meet this requirement.

Note: The company name or amusement ride operation and the rides listed in your insurance policy as being covered must correspond with the company name and list of rides in operation listed on your application.

A complete new policy must be submitted to the Division promptly upon the expiration of the existing policy. Permits may be revoked if a valid policy of insurance is not on file with the Division.

Owner/Operators and insurance agencies may email the policy to: tar@dir.ca.gov
The Division will no longer accept a faxed or hard copy of any insurance policy.

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TO: Temporary Amusement Ride Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Documentation and Records (TAR 26-5)

- California Labor Code Section 7916 (b) states that the owner of an amusement ride shall maintain all records necessary to demonstrate the following: Training for employees in the safe operation and maintenance of amusement rides as required by Sections 4,6,7 and 8 of ASTM F770-06, Standard Practice for Ownership and Operation of Amusement Rides and Devices, adopted by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).
- Maintain all records necessary to demonstrate that the requirements of subdivision 7916(b) have been met, including ride manuals and bulletins, non-destructive testing records, emergency and evacuation plans, employee training records, maintenance, repair, inspection, and injury and illness records as specified in ASTM F770-06.
- Maintain an Injury and Illness Prevention Program for all employees as required by Title 8 California Code of Regulations section 3203.

You must maintain all of these records with the ride, and make them available to a Division inspector upon request. Missing or incomplete documentation may delay permitting.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact my office at the address or telephone number listed above.

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TO: Temporary Amusement Ride Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Electronic Payment of Inspection Fees (TAR 26-6)

All temporary amusement ride inspection fees must be paid prior to the issuance of a permit to operate. To assist operators with making efficient payments, reduce errors and eliminate reliance on postage and mail services, ride inspectors are prepared to accept electronic payments at the time of a field inspection.

After calculating inspection fees, Division staff will generate an electronic invoice that covers the required fee(s) and present the invoice to the ride owner. You may utilize your mobile device or personal computer to submit electronic payment through one of our web-based payment services. Once a fee is paid, you will need to present the payment confirmation to the Division inspector in order for them to proceed with issuing permits.

Credit Card Payments:

Currently, the Division accepts American Express, Discover, Master Card, or Visa credit/debit cards. Credit card payments are processed through ACI Payments Inc. and will incur a small convenience fee based on the total amount paid.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

The Division can also process payments through electronic funds transfer or EFT. EFT allows payment submittals directly to the Division without incurring a convenience fee. In order to submit a payment by EFT you will need to enter your bank routing number and account information into the payment website.

Though electronic payments are the preferred method of receiving payments for inspection fees, paper checks will still be accepted for owners who are not able to make an electronic payment.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

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