

## ASTM Publishes New Standards for Inflatable Amusement Devices

The use of inflatable amusement devices, also known as bouncers or crawl throughs, is becoming more prominent in gymnastics environments. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has released new standards that may impact your use of these devices. F2374-06, *Standard Practice for Design, Manufacture, Operation, and Maintenance of Inflatable Amusement Devices*, addresses air-filled structures designed for bouncing, climbing, sliding, or interactive play.

According to the new standard, if you own or operate any inflatable devices, you should:

- Review the manufacturer's specifications, maintenance, and repair instructions.
- Maintain service and adjustment procedures for all components on the device.
- Conduct daily, weekly, monthly, or other periodic minimum service according to component checklists.
- Provide a protective ground cover for the device where appropriate in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
- Provide appropriate barriers surrounding the device to manage crowds, in accordance with local, state, or federal laws.
- Use a whistle or other signal equipment and take appropriate action at the first sign of misbehavior or violation of posted rules.
- Verify and document that operators receive training in accordance with Practice F770, *Standard Practice for Ownership and Operation of Amusement Rides and Devices*.

This ASTM standard does not claim to address all of the safety concerns associated with the use of these devices. It is your responsibility to establish appropriate safety practices.

Before you buy an inflatable, be sure it's approved for commercial use and that your insurance company can insure it (they may have usage restrictions). Also check with your state to determine if you need a license or special permit to operate an inflatable.

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If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at [safety1st@markelcorp.com](mailto:safety1st@markelcorp.com).