



Amusement Ride FAQs

1. What is considered an amusement ride?

“Amusement Ride” means a device or animal that carries, transports, or supports passengers in unusual, entertaining, or thrilling modes of motion and any vehicle providing entertainment or transportation in conjunction with an amusement ride, including rider-powered and power-driven thrill rides, mild rides and ride-throughs, walk-throughs, air pillows, giant slides, and animal rides. Vehicles include parking lot trams, old fire engines, stagecoaches, and trains.

“Amusement Ride” does not include any of the following: Aircraft under the jurisdiction of the federal aviation administration; railroad trains under the jurisdiction of the federal railroad administration boats used on navigable waters; animal rides where the animal is under the control of the passenger; hang gliders and parachutes; climbing walls that do not involve a mechanical take-up or release system; or ropes, courses, or trampolines used for either recreation or fitness.

2. Which code apply to Amusement Rides?

SPS 334, Amusement Rides.

3. Where can I find SPS 334?

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/326_360/334

4. Do I need to register my amusement rides to operate in Wisconsin?

Yes. All amusement rides must be registered annually. The registration is valid from January 1st to December 31st regardless of when the amusement ride was registered.

5. Do I need to register my amusement rides to operate in Wisconsin annually?

Yes.

6. Do I still need to register if I am only in the State for one day?

Yes.

7. I have three ponies I use to give rides to paying customers at local carnivals and fairs. Do I need to register them as amusement rides?

Yes. Live animal rides are classified in SPS 334 as Class 1 amusement rides. Note that a paying/not paying customer is not relevant to the registration requirement. “Open to the public” is the standard for registration requirements.

8. How do I register amusement rides to operate in Wisconsin?

Register amusement rides using the Electronic Safety and Licensing System (eSLA):

<https://esla.wi.gov/PortalCommunityLogin>

9. Where may I locate additional information on the amusement ride inspection process?

[Wisconsin Administrative Code § SPS 334.08.](#)

10. Is reporting accidents to the Department required?

Yes. Injuries to frequenters caused by amusement rides that require more than first aid treatment will be reported by the owner to the Department on form SBD-211 within 2 business days of the injury. A copy of the owner's report to the insurance carrier may be submitted in place of form SBD-211 if the report includes the same information as the form.

11. How do I report at fatality?

Fatalities caused by amusement rides must be reported to the Department or the State Division of Emergency Management within 24 hours of occurrence.

During normal business hours, call 608-266-7548.

During nonbusiness hours, call the State Division of Emergency Management at 800-943-0003.

12. What training do operators or attendants need?

An amusement ride owner shall provide training for ride operators and attendants. The owner shall maintain record of the training and shall make the record available to the Department upon request. See [Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 334.31](#) for more information.

13. What is an Operating Fact Sheet?

Each amusement ride owner shall prepare an Operating Fact Sheet for each amusement ride regarding operating policies and procedures. The fact sheet shall be made available to each ride or device operator and attendant. See [Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 334.18](#).

14. Do the daily preoperational inspections need to be recorded?

Yes. Prior to public operation, daily preoperational inspections need to be performed and documented. See [Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 334.15](#).

15. Do inspections during assembly need to be recorded?

Yes. Visual inspections during assembly need to be performed and documented. See [Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 334.15](#) for more information.

16. What records am I required to keep?

The following records are required to be kept with the amusement ride:

- Inspections at time of assembly, as specified in [§ SPS 334.15\(2\)](#).
- Daily inspections and operational tests, as specified in [§ SPS 334.15\(3\)](#).
- Nondestructive tests as specified in [§ SPS 334.16](#).
- The hours of operation since the last nondestructive test.

Records are to be signed by an authorized person.

17. How long should I keep records?

Records for at least the 30 previous days of operation, as specified in §§ [\(2\)\(a\)](#) and [\(b\)](#), and the most recent nondestructive tests as specified in [§ SPS 334.16](#) shall be kept with the amusement ride. All records shall be kept for at least 7 years.

18. I am contracting or leasing the use of amusement rides, what are my responsibilities?

[Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 334.43](#), Responsibility of Sponsors. (1) Any person, group or business contracting or leasing for the installation and use of amusement rides shall carry a condition in a contract or agreement that the amusement ride owner meets the conditions of this chapter prior to the opening for use by frequenters. (2) Before any amusement ride is operated, the owner of the amusement ride shall provide a copy of the insurance contract required under [§ SPS 334.035](#) to the person, group, or business contracting or leasing the installation and use of the amusement ride.

19. How may I obtain additional information regarding safety or code concerns regarding amusement rides?

You may contact the inspector for your geographic area as shown on the linked map:

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Programs/Maps/PublicSafety.pdf>