THE LAW

✓ No standard is ever law. Standards are written by the industry for the industry to provide guidance and requirements including testing

✓ The only standard for inflatable play equipment is BS EN 14960. Following the standard would usually be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

✓ What is a mandatory requirement is that inflatable play equipment must be inspected by a competent person at regular intervals (typically annually, but could be more frequent depending on the site and use of the device). This is covered by the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)

THE PIPA SCHEME

✓ PIPA was the first testing scheme for inflatable play equipment and was established in 2004

✓ PIPA is one of only two testing schemes for inflatable play equipment supported by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). The other scheme is run by Amusement Device Inspection Procedures Scheme (ADIPS)

✓ PIPA and AIDPS are clearly identified in HSE's guidance HSG 175

✓ PIPA is by far the most popular testing scheme for inflatable play equipment in the UK

✓ Since 2015, when an industry-led group was appointed to lead the scheme, the quantity of PIPA tests has increased by more than 300%

✓ PIPA (which used to be part of the marquee association, MUTA) became a company limited by guarantee and started in its own right on 1 January 2019

✓ A company limited by guarantee is non-profit making

✓ Any free reserves generated by the PIPA must be reinvested in the PIPA scheme

✓ No dividends can be paid by a company limited by guarantee

✓ No volunteers receive any remuneration for their work on the PIPA Leadership Group

✓ No Directors receive any remuneration for their work or responsibilities

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

✓ Local authorities are increasingly demanding PIPA testing for inflatables used on their land. This is because PIPA is an HSE supported scheme

✓ It is entirely the decision of a local authority as to what testing scheme and any other conditions they require

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