



Inflatable play is normally a very safe and pleasurable way for children to exercise whilst having fun.

The PIPA scheme ensures that equipment is tested to a recognised standard both before first use and annually thereafter.

ALWAYS

- Have regard to the equipment's intended use
- Bear in mind that users who are outside the intended weight or height range can injure themselves and other users
- Make sure the blower is at least 1.2 metres from the inflatable
- Remember that a serious injury can occur if a user strikes the blower unit
- Make sure the equipment has a current test certificate
- Look for the PIPA tag and check its validity on this site
- Use surround mats if provided as these negate identified risks
- Ensure that children are supervised at all times by a responsible adult. The vast majority of accidents occur through a lack of or poor supervision
- Anchor the inflatable to the ground and ensure that you use every anchor point. Even in non-windy conditions the inflatable can move and creep (perhaps taking it dangerously too close to the blower)
- Hire your inflatable from a reputable operator. Some will try to cut costs on safety by not using the PIPA scheme - always check
- Follow the instructions given to you by the hirer - these are there for the safety of your children
- Hire on the basis of the safest - not the cheapest
- Deflate the inflatable after its use to prevent unsupervised use

NEVER

- Allow users to climb on to the walls - most accidents happen this way!
- Deflate the inflatable whilst it is in use as the users can strike the ground heavily if you do
- Use the inflatable if you have any doubt as to its safety
- Throw objects or other people on to the inflatable
- Allow users onto the inflatable in high winds
 - PIPA is an inspection scheme set up by the inflatable play industry to ensure that children's inflatable play equipment conforms to recognised standards. It is coordinated by The Performance Textiles Association (trading as MUTA), the UK's only Trade Association dedicated to marquees, tents and structures, whose members include manufacturers and operators of inflatable play equipment. The scheme is supported by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who were consulted at every stage of its development.

About PIPA

Why do we need a scheme?

While inflatable play equipment is normally a very safe and pleasurable way for children to exercise whilst having fun, poorly designed or badly worn equipment can increase the risk of injury to its users.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, manufacturers, hirers, operators and users have a responsibility to ensure minimum risk. Clearly that risk is much more easily managed if the equipment conforms to accepted standards and has been regularly tested. PIPA provides a means for everyone in the supply chain to know that the equipment itself is safe, both on initial use and thereafter.

BS EN 14960:2013 is the European standard to which inflatable play equipment is tested through the PIPA scheme. British Standards are not strictly defined by the UK law but following them is regarded as “best practice” and would usually be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.

How does the scheme work?

Each piece of conforming equipment supplied by a reputable manufacturer or importer is “tagged” with a unique number which is attached to the inflatable throughout its life.

The tag number is logged on a central database where the results of its initial test and subsequent annual tests are recorded. In addition a certificate is issued with each test.

All users have access to the PIPA database via the Internet (www.pipa.org.uk) and can therefore check on the inspection status of any tagged equipment.

For more information:

<https://www.pipa.org.uk/pages/faq>