



Elevating and Amusement Devices Safety Division	Ref. No.: 532 / 12	Rev. No.:
DIRECTOR'S SAFETY ORDER	Date: January 23, 2012	Date:

IN THE MATTER OF:

**THE *TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND SAFETY ACT 2000*,
S.O. 2000, c. 16**

- and -

**ONTARIO REGULATION 221/01 made under the
*Technical Standards and Safety Act 2000***

Subject: All Owners of Grover Watkins Swingers – Replacement of Seat Belts
Sent to: All Amusement Devices Licensees & Consultants

The Director, Amusement Devices Regulation (O.Reg. 221/01) pursuant to his authority under section 14 of the *Technical Standards & Safety Act* hereby orders the following:

1 Order to Licensees, Owners, Operators

- 1.1 All Licensees, Owners and Operators of Grover Watkins “Swinger” rides shall not operate the ride in the province of Ontario **after March 1, 2012** if they have not installed a type 1 (pelvis only) ‘automotive style’ seat belt on each passenger seat, in a manner approved by a professional engineer. The belt shall be in compliance with Transport Canada’s Technical Standards Document Number 209 with respect to webbing, abrasion resistance and latching.
- 1.2 The replacement seat belt shall be installed in addition to the crotch strap and safety chain already used on the ride. Both the crotch strap and seat belt must be in place for the ride to operate.
- 1.3 Upon completion of the installation of the seat belts, owners of these devices are required to submit an amendment to the technical dossier. The amendment should include:
 - installation instructions for the seat belt,
 - details of mounting and location
 - specifications of the seat belt installed
 - verification that the seat belt design meets that of automotive type 1 restraints
 - any operation and maintenance manual updates related to inspection and maintenance of the belts
- 1.4 Owners shall post rider responsibility signs or update their current signage to include description of the proper rider position at or near the ride as per section 14 (7) of the Ontario Regulations 221/01. The owner shall also ensure there are an appropriate number of operators and attendants stationed at the device to operate the device safely as per section 15 (1) of the Ontario Regulations 221/01.
- 1.5 The alteration shall be subject to an inspection by an inspector from TSSA upon completion of the work prior to operation of the device in Ontario.

2 Background & General Info

2.1 A recent incident involving the ejection of a rider from a Grover Watkins Swinger has prompted the TSSA to follow the recommendations of the United States Product Safety Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, as well as multiple states in the USA who all require 'automotive style' seat belts on this ride.

2.2 Swinger rides were manufactured from 1970 to 1977 in the state of Kentucky by Grover C. Watkins, Inc. The manufacturer is no longer in business. Per the USPSC bulletin approximately 107 units of this ride were sold to operators in the US, Canada and Puerto Rico.

2.3 Listed below are related Bulletins from other Sources regarding the Grover Watkins Swinger seat belts. Note: The owner is advised that this list may not include all issued bulletins regarding the seat belts and the owner is responsible to ensure that legacy documents are obtained. The owner is also advised that additional safety service bulletins do exist regarding structural and weld failures but are not included in this synopsis.

- **Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, April 16, 2001**"Seat Belts Required to Operate Grover Watkins "Swinger" ride in the State of Florida: "The Bureau has investigated the requirement for seat belts on this ride. A number of other states, including: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana, Delaware, Missouri, and Texas, require seatbelt.. The information which we have found indicates that the ride was originally made with a seat belt on each seat, so the State of Florida will require them in the future. Sixty days after the date of this Memorandum, beginning June 16, 2001, you may not operate a Grover Watkins "Swinger" ride in the state of Florida without installing an "automotive type" seat belt on each seat. The seat belt is in addition to the crotch strap and safety chain already used on the ride and both must be fastened for the ride to operate."
- **US Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a Safety Bulletin (no date) titled "Grover C. Watkins 'Swinger' Chair/Seat Eyebolts Safety Bulletin"**. Illinois inspectors who investigated an incident involving a 12 year old boy fell from a seat on July 21, 2000. "State of Illinois Amusement Ride Safety Inspectors examined the ride and determined that one of the nuts for the incident seat's four eyebolts had unscrewed. The seat chains were attached to these eyebolts. One of these nuts completely separated from its eyebolt, allowing the eyebolt and chain to separate from the chair. Illinois inspectors found that only the two back and the left front chains held the seat and this resulted in the victim falling from the chair. Illinois Inspectors recommend that (1) it should be assured that the eye bolts and nuts are inspected daily and (2) the eyebolt nuts are locked in some manner so that they do not inadvertently loosen".
- **Grover C. Watkins Swinger Service Bulletin issued April 15, 1974 regarding "Inspection of Seats, Supporting Chains, Hanger Rods and Safety Equipment"**. The bulletin details the inspection requirements to be carried out immediately, and then monthly. Seat supporting chains must be inspected for cracks, breaks, dents, cuts or worn areas, welds, S-hooks, eyebolts and nuts. Seats should be inspected for cracks and chips, especially around seat belt brackets and eye-bolts. The hanger rods must be inspected for cracks, opened hooks or excessive wear. Seat belts and restraining chains should be inspected for cracks, cuts or excessive wear and that they are in safe working order with no broken springs.

Roland Hadaller, P.Eng., Director, Amusement Devices Regulation
appointed under the *Technical Standards & Safety Act, 2000*