

Melvin Sandell

Senior Consultant



PG Dip Occ H&S

Expertise

The regulation of general health and safety (H&S) in Great Britain.

Safe use and management of work equipment generally and of fairground and theme park equipment.

The use and applicability of H&S legislation in the wider leisure and entertainment industries with particular expertise in the fairground, theme park, leisure park and similar businesses.

Assessment and audit of safety and management systems.

The application and interpretation of H&S legislation and guidance in general and industry specific scenarios e.g. fairgrounds, theme and leisure parks, theatre etc.

Experience

An Inspector with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for 17 years until October 2017. Worked in depth within the food, agriculture and woodwork industries as well as regulating across general industry. 8 years' experience as a regulatory inspector in the fairground and theme park industry. 9 years' experience as HSE's operational policy lead for safety on fairgrounds, theme parks, theatre, film, TV, broadcast, miniature railways etc. Operational lead for HSE's intervention strategy, inspection, investigation and enforcement protocols on theme parks and fairgrounds. Provided advice, guidance and regulatory direction for local authority inspectors when working in leisure and entertainment areas e.g. theatres, adventure training pursuits etc. Advised HSE and local authority inspectors on situation specific safety standards, the applicability of legislation and guidance and gave clear views on the appropriate use of enforcement. Provided expert opinion to investigation teams on the applicability of generic H&S legislation and guidance in specific circumstances. Significant involvement in guiding HSE investigations into high profile leisure and entertainment industry incidents/accidents and determining HSE requirements to prevent recurrence.

Professional Qualifications and Memberships



2002 Post Graduate Diploma (Occupational Health and Safety) Heriot Watt University

2017 Grad IOSH

2017 Member Association of British Theatre Technicians (ABTT) Standing Committee for Technical Standards for Places of Entertainment

2017 Associate Member Amusement Devices Safety Council (ADSC)

Selection of Experience



Health and Safety

In depth knowledge of the general application of H&S legislation and guidance across the wider leisure and entertainment industry with strengths in fairgrounds, theme parks and similar facilities.

Extensive direct experience of the general regulation of H&S across a range of industries with knowledge in depth in food and drink manufacture, agriculture and woodworking.

Experienced in the application of H&S legislation and guidance in the theatre, TV and film industries.

Experienced in the applicability and use of the full range of HSE's regulatory powers from verbal advice to defended cases on SMEs and large international companies.

In depth and extensive knowledge in the applicability and use of the HSE Enforcement Management Model (EMM), enforcement protocols and investigatory processes.

Extensive experience in the use of H&S legislation including all sections of the HSWA with emphasis on Sections 2, 3, 4 and 6 to the leisure and adventure training industries and volunteers.

Provided intelligence, regulatory support, enforcement and investigatory advice and expert support to HSE NFIT and local authority inspectors working in leisure industry.

Provided general and enforcement advice to operational HSE and local authority colleagues on applicability of (HSE only) FFI and expected

standards of compliance in the entertainment and leisure industries.

Provided operational guidance, enforcement advice and expert opinion to HSE and local authority colleagues during high profile investigations e.g. zip slide fatalities, roller coaster and other theme park ride accidents.

Intelligence and evidence based design, creation, execution and management of HSE's operational, intervention and business strategies for fairgrounds, theme parks, theatre, film and TV.

Developed and managed audit programmes, and general and specialist inspection intervention projects for high risk fairground and theme park equipment e.g. multi car roller coasters.

Contributing consultee during regulatory review of LOLER, PUWER and RIDDOR regulations. Contributing consultee during Post Implementation Reviews of RIDDOR.

Chaired HSE's Fairground Joint Advisory Committee (FJAC), Chair and co-Chair of the Joint Advisory Committee for Entertainments (JACE). Represented HSE and provided regulatory H&S advice to the Amusement Devices Safety Council (ADSC), the Theatre Safety Committee (TSC) and other representative bodies and LA liaison groups. Determined and defended HSE's position on numerous other industry groups and trade associations.



Extensive working knowledge of the Amusement Devices Inspection Procedures Scheme (ADIPS) through regular contact with the directors and the general manager. HSE representative on ADIPS Business Committee and other ADIPS working groups.

Created, reviewed and rewritten HSE guidance e.g. HSG 175 and HSE's Entertainment Training and Information Sheets (ETIS), often with industry input. Led and guided industry teams in creating their own HSE supported guidance e.g. miniature railways, zoos.

Led Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) science and technology projects into multi car roller coaster use, electronic control systems, water rides and safe use of various travelling fairground rides and inflatable play equipment.

Designed, created and delivered classroom and on-site training for HSE's National Fairground Intervention Team (NFIT). Designed, created and delivered training for HSE staff and to duty holders such as travelling showmen, theatre technicians and theatre owners on specific and diverse H&S topics.

Extensive home and international public speaking explaining and clarifying the UK regulatory stance on general and industry specific H&S topics.

Defined, explained and defended HSE's regulatory position and stance numerous times on live and recorded national and local TV and radio. Numerous articles and quotes in national and trade print media.

Employment History



Finch Consulting Limited

Principal Consultant

Oct 2017 - Present

Health and Safety Executive

Operational Policy Sector Lead for fairgrounds, theme parks, theatre, TV, film, zoos, miniature railways etc.

Apr 2009 – Oct 2017

HM Inspector of H&S

Oct 2001 – Apr 2009

British Army

Soldier

Sep 1976 – Feb 2000