



PIPA
Consultation
2024

About Us

Who we are

“PIPA” is the Professional Inflatable Play Association. We are an industry body set up to improve standards in play inflatable safety in the UK. As a ‘not for profit’ organisation, our work connects inflatable play inspectors, operators, organisations and enforcement to ensure standards continue to improve across the industry in the UK and beyond.

What we do

PIPA’s inspection scheme provides a framework to certify inflatable play inspectors as competent to undertake inspections of inflatable play devices. It provides an online inspection portal to record and publish inspection reports, providing assurance about how inspections are conducted. PIPA verifies that its inspectors remain competent and up to date as it continues to expand on the current safety standards to bring more inflatable play devices under the scope of the scheme. PIPA provides training and guidance to members of the industry to promote confidence to members of the public when they use inflatable play devices.

Where we work

Our work is primarily focused in the UK. As a trusted organisation, we have provided assistance to EU member-state countries in providing guidance and clarification on inflatable play safety. PIPA inspectors can be based in any location in the world.

Who we work with

PIPA seeks to work with all members of the industry to improve standards in inflatable play. We have a strong relationship with the Health & Safety Executive in the UK, who were consulted at every stage of PIPA’s inception, and who we continue to work with today. As we continue to grow the scope of the scheme, PIPA is here to work with manufacturers, controllers, operators, local authorities and the public to ensure its work meets the demands of all its stakeholders.

How we are governed

The day-to-day activity of PIPA is conducted through the PIPA office. The executive board of PIPA is the PIPA Leadership Group (PLG) who are an elected group of members, and co-opted non-members, who are there to hold the PIPA office to account, and ensure the scheme is delivering its objectives.

Accountability and Funding

PIPA is funded through fees levied within PIPA inspections generated through its inspection portal. It also generates funds from training programmes and membership. It is accountable for how these funds are used in order to improve the industry. Part of the accountability is by the PLG not being a paid function for the work they do as the governing body. As we are entrusted to ensure funds are used appropriately, our members are provided with details of account information during the annual general meeting.

Project Alpha

PIPA has had substantial growth in the past 2-3 years, and it has led to some of its functions being outgrown to how the organisation operates and manages the scheme. Project Alpha is PIPA's transformational agenda in ensuring the scheme remains viable for at least the next 10 years.

The project is in two phases. The first phase introduces an employed PIPA office to carry out the day-to-day operation and management of the scheme, whilst moving the PLG away from an operational function to a more strategic role. The second phase helps to secure assurance with our stakeholders, by becoming a UKAS accredited body in its function to certify PIPA inspectors.

Vision 2035

Setting out our vision helps us to focus our work on moving forward to where we want to be for our stakeholders. And by doing so, we know that we are using our resources in a way which helps improve the industry and provides assurance to those who use the PIPA scheme.

In 2035, PIPA will be:

- The UK's inspection scheme for all inflatable play equipment.
- The industry's professional body, representative of manufacturers, controllers, enforcers, and end-users.
- A trusted organisation, looked up to by both those who work inside the industry, and those who use the inflatable industry's services.
- Operating as a professional and efficient organisation.

To ensure that we achieve our vision, we are committed to working with other organisations and individuals who will support our work in raising standards in inflatable play.

PIPA's Consultation

The aim of the consultation is to obtain feedback, comments and views from all stakeholders about how the PIPA scheme works for the industry and the public. As we continue to work towards UKAS accreditation (an external official accreditation service body), we need to ensure that the scheme meets the demands of those who use it and that it is fit for purpose.

With this in mind, we invite you to complete our consultation. The questions within the consultation are about:

- The requirements of people in order to become a PIPA inspector
- What inspectors need to do in order to remain as an inspector within PIPA
- What would be expected of the initial exam for a PIPA inspector
- The requirements required in order to be a PIPA examiner
- What the PIPA scheme should concentrate on
- What work PIPA should work towards in the future

PIPA members are inflatable inspectors. They come from different training and examination backgrounds, as when the scheme first commenced there were different training and examination requirements, until when it brought these in-house. As part of this journey, all PIPA inspectors will need to complete the final requirements in order to remain as a member, determined by the results of our consultation.

To help you complete the consultation, we have produced a few key facts about inflatable inspectors and the inflatable industry:

- Inflatable devices (such as bouncy castles) are considered amusement devices by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and have a similar governance structure to mechanical and amusement park rides. As such, all inflatable devices are expected to be inspected by a competent person at least once per year. There is no industry definition of what constitutes a person to be competent.
- The British Standard, BS EN 14960 : Part 1, is the only standard available relating to the manufacture, operation and inspection of inflatable devices. PIPA produces guidance and training which goes beyond the standard. This helps ensure the standard is understood, or there is a consistent approach in inspection findings which may be otherwise left open to interpretation.
- Information about PIPA and what PIPA wishes to achieve can be found earlier on in this document. PIPA's expectations are to certify inspectors as being competent to perform a PIPA inspection before they begin work, conduct surveillance during their membership, and re-check their competence when they renew membership. The accreditation by UKAS helps to show PIPA has the correct procedures in place to do this.
- Not all inflatable devices are covered by the British Standard BS EN 14960 : Part 1. PIPA has already begun to create inspection frameworks for devices which do not fall within the standard and continues to push this further to bring as many inflatables as possible under the scheme to help drive safety.
- Inflatable inspections are about ensuring those who use the devices are not put at excessive risk. Some of the key risks could be due to forced and uncontrolled motion, heights of falls, or the device being prone to blowing away in strong winds; to name just a few.
- The consultation is focused on your expectations of what the training and examination of an inspector should look like, and what PIPA should look like as an industry scheme.

Complete the PIPA consultation at the following link:

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/se4j02tm>