



Vision and Strategic Plan 2025

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.

Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029

To achieve our vision, PIPA sets out a 5-year strategic plan of the work we will undertake. These are stated in our strategic aims, which state what we need to do and how we will do it.

Our Strategic Aims

- 1) To ensure PIPA can demonstrate PIPA inspectors are competent in their work against a solid inspection framework.

It is important that PIPA can show that inspectors who work under the PIPA inspection scheme are fully competent in performing PIPA inspections, and this is against a clear inspection framework to drive consistency.

To achieve this aim, we will:

1. Attain accreditation from UKAS, as a conformity assessor of PIPA inspectors.
2. Transition all PIPA inspectors to achieve certification under the new scheme rules to remain as PIPA inspectors.
3. Produce a set of clear scheme rules and inspection framework, to ensure there is no disparity in what a PIPA inspection is, what a PIPA inspector does, and what happens if people go outside of the PIPA inspection framework and scheme rules.

- 2) To develop the PIPA office as an effective and autonomous function, capable of delivering quality outcomes overseen by its governing body.

PIPA continues to grow year on year, and to ensure its longevity, it must have an in-house office function who is capable of operating the scheme regardless of who is involved in the governance of the scheme.

To achieve this aim, we will:

1. Create an in-house PIPA office team, overseen by a senior manager.
2. Adapt the PIPA leadership group to become a governing and strategic board, to oversee the operation of the organisation, and to hold the PIPA office function to account.

3. Create a senior management position, who will run the day-to-day operation of PIPA, supported by the office function. And will be responsible for ensuring the vision, and strategic plan, are carried out in full.
4. Create a structure to hold PIPA leadership group members to account for their behaviour, actions, and timely delivery of objectives.

3) Expand the scope of the scheme, to include more inflatable play devices, and upskill PIPA inspectors to carry out the inspection in a quality manner.

The scope of PIPA has previously been limited to those devices which fall under the standard BS EN 14960 : Part 1. This has not only caused confusion within the industry and the public, but it has also meant there has been an inconsistent approach to the inspection of other inflatable devices. Some of which have increasing prevalence, and risk.

This has left the industry with a gap in its safety testing abilities due to a lack of guidance and framework.

To achieve this aim, we will:

1. Continue to work on developing inspection methods on inflatable devices, using pre-existing standards as a basis. And train inspectors to be able to use these inspection methods to be able to carry out these inspections in a competent manner.
2. Carry out work to bring the following devices into the scope of the scheme:
 - a. Electro-mechanical inflatable devices
 - b. Ride On Inflatable Games
 - c. Water borne inflatables
 - d. Sealed inflatables
 - e. Inflatable play parks / centres
 - f. Inflatable devices not covered by the PIPA 'Non Ride-On Games' inspection process

4) Improve PIPA's reach within the industry, to ensure that all stakeholders are not only involved in the scheme, but they benefit from the scheme's work.

PIPA was created as an inspection scheme for the industry, subsequently undertaking the training and examination of inspectors to certify their competence. However, a number of stakeholders rely on PIPA as the industry's voice. And PIPA could do more to help all stakeholders in the industry, from Manufacturers and Controllers, to the end user (being members of the public).

To achieve this aim, we will:

1. Create an online resource for the industry, providing factual information and making it clear what the health and safety requirements are related to acting as a controller of an inflatable device, and an operator of an inflatable device.
2. Explore the requirements of industry stakeholders and seek information about how they want to engage with PIPA and understand their expectations.
3. Work with enforcement agencies, to better equip them with the correct knowledge of the industry, and to support their work to make the industry a safer place for all.
4. Work with other organisations, industry schemes, and bodies who wish to improve the industry and seek a consistent safety standard.

5) Create a trusted organisation, recognised by all stakeholders.

In order for PIPA to continue its work, it must be an organisation which is trusted by all stakeholders inside and outside of the inflatable industry. Stakeholders must be able to not only trust PIPA inspectors to carry out their work to a high standard, but also rely upon PIPA as an organisation to act in a manner which can be relied upon.

To achieve this aim, we will:

1. Build the PIPA scheme with Integrity: by carrying out its work with the strong moral principles of improving the safety standards within the industry. And by upholding the work and behaviours of those who fall within the scheme's remit.
2. Make PIPA a reliable and respectable scheme: by carrying out any stated actions in a professional manner.

3. Improve the transparency of the scheme: by publishing more information about its work, its leadership group, and when things go wrong.
4. Make PIPA accountable: by engaging with stakeholders and accreditation services and seeking feedback on its work.
5. Ensure PIPA's work is carried out with rigour: by developing systems to ensure its work is reviewed by stakeholders and the industry, seeking professional insight, comments, and feedback to create a source of high-quality and trusted information.

Our Strategic Approach

Make communication clear and a priority

We want to ensure that when we try to achieve our strategic aims, all stakeholders understand what we are doing in a clear and concise manner. And it reaches stakeholders in a timely fashion.

Deliver outcomes through efficiency

Whilst ensuring we deliver our aims; we want to ensure that above everything we do it is done efficiently. By doing so, it will help the scheme to operate in a lean manner and keep costs down for all of our stakeholders.

Collaborate

It is important that in everything we do, we seek collaboration with stakeholders, and other organisations, where it is necessary. This will help to improve all areas of the industry.

Promote learning and development

To move forward, and to make change, learning and development must be part of what we do. Promoting learning and development with all stakeholders will help improve the knowledge of not only those who are members of the scheme, but also those who are not.

Promote Professionalism

Being a professional is to create an expectation of a person to uphold a set of standards. Whilst PIPA does not enforce health and safety standards in the industry, it holds a powerful voice to influence those working within the industry to always act in a safe and professional manner.

Annual Plan 2025

Our annual plan is written to help focus our efforts over the next 12 months, derived from our 5 strategic aims. By breaking down our strategic aims into annual objectives, makes achieving our goals more attainable, and tells our stakeholders what to see from PIPA in the not-too-distant future.

In 2025, we will:

1) Ensure PIPA can demonstrate PIPA inspectors are competent in their work against a solid inspection framework.

- All inspectors will be required to undergo certification with PCERT under the new scheme rules to remain as PIPA inspectors.
- A clear inspection framework will be implemented to improve consistency between inspectors.

2) Continue to develop the PIPA office as an effective and autonomous function, capable of delivering quality outcomes overseen by its governing body.

- Create a managing director position, who will run the day-to-day operation of PIPA, supported by the office function. And will be responsible for ensuring the vision, and strategic plan, are carried out in full.
- Upskill members of the team so they can carry out their roles effectively and help to drive the scheme forward

3) Expand the scope of the scheme, to include more inflatable play devices, and upskill PIPA inspectors to carry out the inspection in a quality manner.

- Carry out a pilot to seek the introduction of inflatable play parks under the scheme
- Introduce waterborne inflatables into the scope of the scheme

4) Bring the PIPA scheme to the attention of our stakeholders, and increase our collaboration to improve trust across the industry

- Work with other industry schemes to seek common ground for valuable partnership of collaborative working
- Improve our marketing strategy to drive key take home messages to our stakeholders and end users, to increase the understanding the scheme

5) Take steps to seek the implementation of new frameworks which will provide the greatest impact to the safety of inflatables in the UK

- Identify how pre-use inspections will be carried out for inflatable amusement devices and update the PIPA inspection portal to enable an efficient approach as to how these types of inspections are conducted
- Identify ways of improving the operational set up of inflatables to help drive improvements for end users