

Introduction

Health and Safety legislation and its implementation is a constantly evolving subject. Although the legislation content does not change, the standards expected does. As circumstances change, or major incidents occur, interpretation of requirements will be implemented.

Following recent high profile incidents and subsequent enforcement action by both Health and Safety Executive and The Environmental Health Officers, society has demonstrated they are expecting an improve of some standards of safety at public at attractions. This third set of NFAN Guidance is written to help the reader to implement the current thinking.

The first two versions of the guidance dealt mostly with the basics of legislation and in particular, the implementation of the industry Code of Practice “Preventing or controlling ill health to humans from contact at visitor attractions.” Version 3 of the NFAN Guidance now reflects a more holistic view of managing most aspects of an attraction and the management systems that are expected that will reduce the likelihood of an accident because of poor management or substandard equipment together with its installation.

Version 3 has assumed the reader, if they have animals and/or permit animal contact, that you have a working knowledge of the Code of Practice and are following its content regarding managing contact and facility layout. We also presume you have access to the Health and Safety Executive [HSE] website [<https://www.hse.gov.uk/>] where good guidance is available on a large number of subjects. The NFAN guidance Notes do not repeat the contents of the HSE guidance, they extend the guidance to management techniques for implementing the advice given by the HSE.

With this in mind, Version 3 not only includes legal obligations, the NFAN Guidance goes beyond what is expected, to assist the reader in reducing incident and failure likelihood.

We do have to remember, legislation does state that in the event of a failure or incident, the employer is expected to justify why they failed to implement Best Practice. If that failure is serious, it may be considered for enforcement and considered neglect. This has in recent months been enforced through the Courts and resulted in fines and in some cases, businesses and Directors being heavily further sanctioned.