# Inflatable risk assessment & safe practice

**EC-RA-01 | Version 1.0 | Issued 14 November 2026**

**General assessment for venues and hirers.** Read with EC-MS-01 and the individual equipment instructions. Applies to continuous-air, land-based play inflatables within their stated use. Specialist games, sealed-air/water inflatables and mechanical rides need separate assessments.

The table identifies foreseeable hazards and required controls; it does not certify that an event has been inspected or that controls are already in place. The company lead and organiser must complete the site record on page 3, add local hazards and confirm the remaining risk is acceptable before opening. Do not treat every risk as automatically "low".

| Hazard & people at risk | Required controls | Responsible lead |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Wind, uplift or overturning**<br><br>Users, staff and bystanders; serious or fatal impact/fall. | Check the forecast for planning; measure and record onsite wind and gusts with an anemometer. Apply the lower of 24 mph (38 km/h) and the unit's stated limit; stop early enough to evacuate before that limit. Use all specified anchors, verified ground/fixings and the installation plan. No outdoor use without a suitable anemometer. Stop for anchor movement. | Company lead; operator |
| **2. Collapse or pressure loss**<br><br>Users; entrapment, falls or crushing. | Use the specified blower and secure tube connections/vents. Check fabric, shape, guards and non-return flap. Measure and record pressure within the manual's range using a suitable instrument. Test empty-unit deflation/escape before use. Keep air intakes clear and evacuate immediately after power loss or instability. No operation without pressure monitoring. | Company lead; operator |
| **3. Collision, falls or misuse**<br><br>Participants, especially smaller children. | Provide constant trained adult supervision, adequate attendants and suitable matting. Enforce capacity/height limits, separate users by size and prevent rough play, somersaults, wall climbing and jumping from exits. Manage slide/obstacle direction and spacing. Remove unsafe loose/sharp items and footwear. Keep play visible and exits clear. | Operator; supervisors |
| **4. Electricity and cables**<br><br>Users, staff and public; shock, burns or trips. | Use suitable inspected equipment and supply protection. Test RCD protection as applicable; do not bypass it. Keep plugs/connections protected from water; route cables outside public routes or protect crossings. Fully unwind reels. Exclude users from blowers and electrical controls. Stop and isolate safely if a fault is suspected. | Company lead; operator |
| **5. Poor ground or restricted space**<br><br>Users and public; falls, impact or unstable installation. | Check firmness, slope, ceiling/overhead hazards, nearby structures and the full footprint against the unit manual. Confirm underground services before stakes. Use only verified suitable anchorage. Keep fire exits and access clear. Reject the location if adequate space, surface or anchorage cannot be provided. | Company lead; venue |

# Operation, people & response

EC-RA-01 | Required controls continued

| Hazard & people at risk | Required controls | Responsible lead |
|---|---|---|
| **6. Rain, lightning or heat**<br><br>Users and staff; slipping, burns or weather exposure. | Suspend for rain/wet play surfaces, lightning, excessive surface heat or reduced visibility. Keep people clear during closure. Dry and inspect before restarting, with suitable weather and pressure/wind checks. Arrange shelter and breaks; do not rely on a shower cover as a weather safeguard. | Operator; organiser |
| **7. Vehicle movements and handling**<br><br>Staff, hirers and public; crushing or musculoskeletal injury. | Separate pedestrians from unloading/collection. Agree safe access and use a banksman when needed. Assess the load, route, equipment and individual ability. Use suitable trolleys and sufficient trained people; stop if movement cannot be completed safely. Use appropriate footwear/gloves for the task. | Company lead; crew |
| **8. Anchors, ropes, mats and queues**<br><br>Users and spectators; trips, falls or access to unsafe areas. | Keep people away from ropes, pegs, blower and rear/sides. Protect exposed trip points without reducing anchorage. Keep mats secure and entrances clear. Position queues outside fall/run-out areas and maintain emergency access. Recheck after people or equipment disturb the layout. | Company lead; supervisors |
| **9. Generator, fuel or fire**<br><br>Everyone nearby; burns, fire or carbon monoxide exposure. | Use a separately assessed installation with suitable electrical protection, load and weather protection. Run the generator outdoors, away from public areas and building openings. Clear users before refuelling, switch off and cool first. Store fuel safely, manage spills, prohibit ignition sources and agree emergency arrangements. | Authorised generator operator |
| **10. Hygiene and cleaning products**<br><br>Users and cleaners; infection, irritation or slips. | Inspect before handover; keep food/drink off the play surface. Close contaminated equipment, use suitable cleaning products and protective measures from their instructions/safety data, and allow drying before reuse. Keep chemicals inaccessible to children. Record and resolve significant contamination. | Company lead; operator |
| **11. Unsupervised access or unmet support needs**<br><br>Children and other users; injury or delayed evacuation. | Name the operator and all supervisors; provide breaks with competent cover. Stop when supervision is absent. Prevent use during setup, deflation or unattended periods. Discuss individual assistance needs without requesting unnecessary medical details; agree safe access, supervision and evacuation, following the manual. | Organiser; operator |
| **12. Emergency or delayed response**<br><br>Everyone affected; injury worsened by delay. | Agree first-aid cover, emergency contacts, exact location, access and assembly point with the venue. Brief supervisors; keep a working phone available. Stop entry, evacuate and call 999 when needed. Notify the company and record incidents/near misses. Do not reopen after a fault until authorised checks are complete. | Organiser; operator |

**Decision rule:** if an essential control is absent, a limit is unknown, or conditions are unsafe, do not open or continue. Record the corrective action and recheck before restarting.

# Site assessment & handover

EC-RA-01 | Complete for the actual hire; retain with the booking record

| | |
|---|---|
| **Booking / event date** | |
| **Venue, address and emergency access** | |
| **Inflatable name / serial / inspection reference** | |
| **Company lead / operator / supervisors** | |
| **Surface / indoor or outdoor / anchorage plan** | |
| **Wind maximum / earlier stop trigger / pressure range** | |
| **Maximum users / height limit / monitoring intervals** | |
| **First aid / emergency contact / assembly point** | |

## Confirm before opening

Check and record: manual/inspection valid; site and anchorage suitable; electrical checks complete; mats and escape clear; empty-unit deflation check satisfactory; pressure in range; wind safe outdoors; instruments available; supervisors briefed; emergency plan understood. Record any "not applicable" reason.

| Additional hazard / failed control | Action, owner and deadline | Recheck / remaining risk |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |

**Opening decision:** Safe to open / Do not open (circle). Company lead: _____
**Operator accepts handover:** _____ Date / time: _____

## Monitoring log - continue on a separate sheet when needed

| Time | Wind / gusts | Pressure | Anchors, mats / action | Initials |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

**Review:** before every event, after changes/incidents/near misses, and by 14 November 2027. Update controls where needed. A completed form does not replace active supervision and checks.

Guidance checked 14 November 2026. The equipment manual and current inspection record must also be used. These documents are not HSE/PIPA certification.

HSE: play inflatable safety | HSE: risk assessment | HSE: electrical equipment | HSE: manual handling | HSE: event emergencies | PIPA: operator responsibilities and training | PIPA: anchorage calculations, TB08 | HSENI: portable generator precautions