

FLOAT SAFETY

Float Safety & Design Guidance

- All floats must be ready for a safety inspection prior to the parade departure time. Any floats that fail inspection or do not arrive on time will not be permitted in the procession.
- All motorised vehicles must be road legal, insured and have a current MOT test or similar if applicable to that type of vehicle.
- Vehicles must not have their lights and indicators obstructed by décor.
- Any generators must be DIESEL, secured away from reach of children, and safely fastened to the float, earthed, and RCD protected.
- Any generators privately hired are required to produce a valid electrical safety certificate. Failure to do so could mean exclusion from the parade. These documents must be made available at the safety inspection.
- All electrical equipment is required to have valid electrical safety certification.
- No naked flames will be allowed on the vehicle.
- If participants are riding on the floats, safety railings must be fitted to trucks that meet the satisfaction of the Event Safety Advisor.
- All décor and items to be securely fixed.
- No objects should protrude which cause the potential to injure persons in or around the vehicle.
- Materials and fabrics should be fire-proofed and/or have the relevant fire certification.
- CO2 or Powder fire extinguishers need to be located on each float.

Guide To Float Parade Safety

So that you and all of the parade participants and viewers will have a safe and enjoyable day, we need to go through a few Safety Rules for the event.

Vehicles – Any truck or vehicle in the parade need to:

- be in good working order and roadworthy;
- have a vehicle excise license (taxed);
- have tyres in good condition;
- have working turning indicators and lights;
- be fully insured and evidence of this and able to provide evidence.

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The Driver – This person must:

- hold a current driver's licence for the vehicle being driven;
- be appropriately insured;
- be prepared to drive the vehicle very slowly;
- not do any quick starts or stops;
- have an assistant(s) to help him/her watch for public stepping out onto their path;
- not be under the influence of alcohol;
- remain with the vehicle at all times (including when the vehicle is stationary and in position in the parade form-up);
- clearly display the two signs provided in the front windscreen – one with group and driver details, one with the number/order of the float in the parade
- Follow the instructions of all event staff on the day

Float riders – anyone who rides on the back of the float / truck must:

- be aged 12 or older. Anyone **under 16 must be accompanied by an adult** responsible for his or her safety and wellbeing on the float;
- be in a safe position:
 - The safest position is sitting. This gives the person more stability should the truck have to halt suddenly
 - Anyone who stands on the float must be secure. They should have a hand rail or secured in an appropriate harness.
 - Participants must stand in the middle of the float, not on the edge where they could fall off.
- have clothing appropriate for the weather: keep warm and be prepared if it is raining;
- have enough water or refreshment with them to get through the entire parade;
- not give out gifts or advertising from or near the float. This is extremely important, as crowds bending to retrieve something could end up in the path of a moving vehicle.
- anyone playing music on floats must comply with the noise levels deemed appropriate by production staff and/ or event management team & safety advisors;

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- once the parade is moving NO ONE must leave a vehicle until the end of the parade;
- not consume any alcohol at any point before, or during the parade.

Float Decor – you need to make sure that your float is appropriately decorated, but these Decor are in a safe and secure condition:

- Decor must be firmly fixed to the float so that they won't slip, move or fall during the procession.
- Nothing must protrude from the side of the float.
- Decor will be exposed to the weather and should be able to stay in shape should they get wet.
- Decor should be fire proofed (using flambar or other fire-proofing liquid).
- Appropriate fire extinguishers should be on the float to tackle any fires that may occur.
- Decor must be at least a 1m from the ground.
- Dimensions of the structure must not exceed the lowest height or the narrowest width restriction on the route (please contact production company to confirm).

Electrical Equipment on the Float

To keep everyone safe, all electrical appliances need to be in safe working condition.

- Electrical appliances must be tested, and proof of testing is required to be available for inspection.

Electrical Supply on the Float

Petrol generators will now not be allowed unless an integral installation on the vehicle.

- Diesel is a much safer fuel, less flammable and the fumes less toxic. Safer still would be to get your electrical supply from a battery, such as a leisure battery used in boat and caravans.

Whatever you use to supply electricity to your appliances, it must be:

- Secured so that it will not shift or move in transit
- Earthed – so that you will not receive a serious or fatal electrical shock, especially if the weather is wet or you are standing or touching metal (i.e. the truck). Some small generators have what is called a “floating earth”. Know how your system is earthed.

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- Leads or wires that connect your appliance to the power source should be RCD protected (**R**esidual **C**urrent **D**evice). This is an extra source of protection for “tripping” the electricians if the wires are damaged or overloaded.

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There will be a safety inspection of your float before it is allowed to participate in the procession. Event Safety Advisors will be looking for all the points made here in this Guide. If the float does not meet the required safety standards or cannot be altered on site to meet the required safety standards, then it will not be able to join the parade.