

Efforts to perform survey research of safety measures for amusement facilities

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1. Background to efforts related to safety measures for amusement facilities

Amusement facilities are positioned as mutatis mutandis-structures under the Building Standard Law. On the other hand, as shown by an accident which occurred last year, efforts to ensure their safety including operating management continue to be important.

To contribute to such efforts, the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management, held a symposium, maintenance and inspection site tour, and other activities for safety managers etc. in February of last year at an advanced amusement park in Osaka.

And in FY2011, survey research related to safety measures for amusement facilities was performed as a Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Building Construction Standards Provision Promotion Project.

2. Survey of standards and criteria in the U.S. and elsewhere

As part of this survey, we participated in the international conference of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) held in the U.S. to survey overseas standards concerning constraining devices, and

separation distances necessary to ride in vehicles and conducted a fact-finding survey of U.S. amusement parks.

Regarding ASTM and EN standards, which are mainly reference standards in other countries, standards for constraining devices with acceleration as their indices are enacted. And at amusement parks, we saw cases where innovative measures were taken so that riders can personally try out constraining devices before boarding vehicles and innovations allowing operators to visually and easily make sure that riders have correctly put on the constraining devices. And concerning separation distance, we saw facilities where measures such as shaping constraining devices to prevent riders from extending their hands or feet outside the vehicles were taken.

3. Future efforts to improve safety

We are studying the provision of technical support to further improve safety by organizing such information and in conjunction with the above project, taking steps to provide this information to amusement park operation companies.