



CLIMBING WALL ASSOCIATION, INC. PRESS RELEASE

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Massachusetts Department of Public Safety -- Public Hearings

Boulder, Colorado January 03, 2007. The Massachusetts Department of Public Safety released its most recent revisions to amusement regulations for the Commonwealth for public comment. The revised amusement regulations address recreational climbing facilities throughout the Commonwealth. A public hearing to discuss these regulations is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at The DPS headquarters, One Ashburton Place in Boston, Massachusetts. The draft regulations can be viewed here: [www.climbingwallindustry.org/docs/Updated 520 CMR 5.00 Redline Challenge Courses Climbing Walls.pdf](http://www.climbingwallindustry.org/docs/Updated_520_CMR_5.00_Redline_Challenge_Courses_Climbing_Walls.pdf).

The CWA has continued its negotiations with the DPS throughout the regulatory process in Massachusetts. The CWA drafted and submitted recommendations for revisions to the amusement regulations in writing to the Department of Public Safety, including a separate section of regulations for climbing facilities and a separate classification for licensed climbing wall facility inspectors. Our aim was to introduce reasonable measures in the licensure and inspection process for climbing facilities if they were to be regulated under an amusement licensing statute.

The CWA opposes the regulatory approach taken by the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety (DPS) which attempts to regulate manufactured climbing structures and challenge courses, in all settings, as amusements in the Commonwealth. The CWA opposes this regulatory approach on a number of grounds including an understanding of a principle of statutory construction, namely that a statute is to be construed according to the plain meaning of its words. The Massachusetts legislature certainly did not intend for recreational sports to be regulated under a licensing law for amusement parks. Absent a legal challenge these regulations will take effect in 2007.

The CWA encourages all persons concerned with the regulation of recreational climbing to attend the public hearing on January 19th. A strong turnout by the climbing community at the last meeting was important in the CWA's ability to negotiate reasonable terms with the DPS. This hearing is a step towards promulgating regulations and this meeting is intended to provide a public forum for comment.

About the Climbing Wall Association

The CWA is a 501(c)(06), non-profit, industry trade association for manufacturers of climbing wall equipment, builders of climbing walls, operators of climbing facilities, and others involved in the climbing industry. Our mission is to support the development of the climbing wall industry, to promote the sport of climbing, and to advocate for the interests of our members.

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