

Thursday, May 08, 2003

Dear Batting Cage Owners and Operators,

This notice is sent to reinforce the importance of using BATTING HELMETS WITH PROTECTIVE FACE GUARDS at your facility. ABC considers the safety of our batting cage customers and batting cage service personnel as our number one priority. For the past eleven years, ABC has required as an "Operational Safety Standard" the necessity for protective face guards on all batting helmets. Although the occurrence of batters being struck by a pitched ball is very rare, it does occur! Face guards will eliminate most of the serious facial injuries. It is critical that all helmets have a protective face guard attached to them! All helmets sold by ABC have the protective face guards attached. We also sell the face guards with installation hardware separately.

Currently, no "industry standards" exists requiring face guards. In fact, there are no "industry standards" for the operation of batting cages. In the absence of any industry action, ABC have taken steps to provide several "Safety Standards" for use by the owners of our equipment systems. These standards were established in 1992 and are included with this letter (please read them!). These standards are also included in the "ABC OPERATION AND TECHNICAL MANUAL with PARTS GUIDE" (Operation Manuals). In 1996, and again in 2001, ABC sent all owners of our equipment these Operation Manuals at no cost. We assumed that the owners read and followed these standards. However, some owners have not complied with these standards. **The purpose of this letter is to put cage owners on notice that ABC considers all of these standards critical to safe operation of these batting cages and must be followed.**

Some of you may still have old warning signs that do not include the warning "**Batters Must Use Helmets With Protective Face Guards, NO Exceptions**". If your sign does not contain the "With Face Guard" warning, please call ABC for a **FREE** decal. The decal can be placed directly over the current warning. **Call toll free 1-800-578-2243.**

If you have sold this equipment or your facility, please notify us immediately (1-800-578-2243) with the new owners name. We need to send them this letter.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this very important notification!