

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref.

MDEA(NI)2006/64

Issued: 20th October 2006



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	✓
ACTION	
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: Waste compactor	▶ ①
Problem: Risk of death	▶ ②
Action by: All those involved with the management, operational use and maintenance of Waste Compactors.	▶ ③
Action: Carry out an immediate review of operating procedures; safety of the devices; and written working practices related to all waste compactors.	▶ ④
Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers For onward distribution see Section 5	▶ ⑤
Contacts NIAIC contacts for technical aspects	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC In accordance with PEL(06)17 acknowledgment of assurance should be given:-	▶ ⑦

This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Waste compactor

2. PROBLEM:

An incident has occurred resulting in the death of a hospital porter whilst operating a waste compactor. At this stage, this alert is being issued as an interim measure to reduce the risk of a similar incident occurring.

Investigations are currently on-going into the cause of this tragic incident. The outcome of the investigations will determine if any additional alert or guidance will be necessary. Due to the potential risk of death, a very tight timescale has been applied to complete the actions of this alert.

If a risk of death or injury is identified, the waste compactor should be taken out of use until all necessary modifications, changes in practice or operating procedures have been completed. Where necessary, the advice of manufacturers should be sought.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved with the management, operational use and maintenance of Waste Compactors.

4. ACTION:

- Carry out an immediate review of operating procedures and written instructions for all waste compactors.
- Carry out an immediate check of safety devices on all waste compactors to ensure they are working effectively and that they have not been by-passed, overridden or disabled in any way.
- Carry out an immediate review of working practices for the use of waste compactors, ensuring any operating instructions follow the advice of the manufacturer / supplier of the compactor.
- Where deficiencies are identified, put in place such arrangements as necessary to remove the risk of death or injury.

5. ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO:

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include distribution to:

- Liaison Officers
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Clinical Governance Leads
- Device Managers
- Estates Managers
- Facilities Managers
- Domestic Services Managers & Staff
- Porter Managers & Staff
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2006/64 and be addressed to:

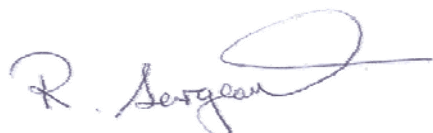
Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre
(NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US

Tel: 028 9052 3868
Fax: 028 9052 3900
Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

In accordance with PEL(06)17 the following acknowledgment of assurance should be given:-

Deadline (Email received)	: 24 October 2006
Deadline (action underway)	:
Deadline (action complete)	: 3 November 2006



Robert Sergeant
NIAIC Operational Manager

HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in MDEA(NI)2006/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety