

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2007/103

Issued: 4th December 2007



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section
<p>Medical Device/Equipment: Anaesthetic Gas Scavenging System (AGSS) receiver, manufactured by Draeger Medical.</p>	▶ ①
<p>Problem: There have been reports of anaesthetic scavenging hoses being misconnected to the blanked-off port of the Draeger AGSS receiver (see appendix). This prevents gases from leaving the anaesthetic breathing system, creating excessive airway pressures, which if undetected could result in serious lung injury.</p>	▶ ②
<p>Action by: Anaesthetists, operating department practitioners, anaesthetic nurses and servicing engineers</p>	▶ ③
<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all anaesthetic staff using this device are aware of this potential misconnection. • AGSS connections must be included in the pre-use checks of the anaesthetic breathing system to ensure the scavenging hose is connected to the open port of the AGSS receiver. 	▶ ④
<p>Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers</p>	▶ ⑤
<p>Contacts Details of manufacturer contacts and NIAIC contacts for technical aspects.</p>	▶ ⑥
<p>Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None required.</p>	▶ ⑦

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

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

The Draeger AGSS receiver is supplied with Draeger anaesthetic machines. It is designed to take waste gases from the anaesthetic breathing system and has two 30 mm female ports for the attachment of scavenging hoses. However, as only one inlet is usually required the second port is sealed off with a Draeger metal blanking plug. The Draeger AGSS inlets are the standard size for gas scavenging fittings in the UK, in compliance with the British, European and International Standard BS EN ISO 5356-1:2004, Part 1, Cones and sockets.

2. PROBLEM:

When the Draeger metal blanking plug is in place, it is not possible to insert Draeger AGSS connectors. However non-Draeger thin walled plastic male connectors of the same 30 mm size can be fitted into the blanked-off inlet port. Such a misconnection of the scavenging hose prevents any gases from leaving the breathing system, leading to excessive airway pressures. Draeger recommend that only their connectors are used with their AGSS receivers.

3. ACTION BY:

Anaesthetists, operating department practitioners, anaesthetic nurses and servicing engineers.

4. ACTION:

- Ensure that all anaesthetic staff using this device are aware of this potential misconnection.
- AGSS connections must be included in the pre-use checks of the anaesthetic breathing system to ensure the scavenging hose is connected to the open port of the AGSS receiver.

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:

- Anaesthesia, directors of
- Anaesthetic nursing staff
- Anaesthetists
- Biomedical engineering staff
- Day surgery units
- EBME departments
- Health and safety manager
- In-house maintenance staff
- Operating department practitioners
- Outpatient theatre managers
- Risk managers
- Theatre managers
- Theatres
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Hospitals & Clinics through RQIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Mr Doug Sims
Draeger Medical UK Ltd.
The Willows
Mark Road
Hemel Hempstead HP2 7BW

Tel: 01442 213 542

Fax: 01442 259 770

E-mail: Doug.Sims@draeger.com

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2007/103 and be addressed to:

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

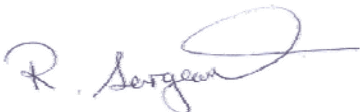
Tel: 028 9052 3868

Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

None Required.



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

Appendix to MDEA(NI)2007/103

Draeger AGSS receiver with blanked-off inlet port.

Blanked-off inlet port



A gas scavenging hose misconnected to the blanked-off inlet port of the Draeger AGSS receiver.

A scavenging hose can be inserted into a blanked-off port.

