

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2007/97

Issued: 22nd November 2007

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

	Section								
<p>Medical Device/Equipment: Battery Charger for Powered wheelchair: Mentzer 24V 6A Konstant Charger Model G25-324-6 supplied by Exide, Sunrise Medical and Lomax Mobility.</p>	▶ ①								
<p>Problem: The case temperature of the above charger, in normal use, is higher than the temperature requirements of BS EN 12182:1999, which specifies a maximum temperature of 41°C.</p>	▶ ②								
<p>Action by: All those involved in the provision, prescription, repair, maintenance and use of wheelchairs. In particular wheelchair service managers, loan store managers, rehabilitation engineers, occupational therapists and wheelchair maintenance staff and contractors.</p>	▶ ③								
<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trace all Mentzer 24V 6A Konstant chargers supplied with powered wheelchairs or as replacement chargers. (See details on Page 2). Obtain labels from the relevant supplier. These are available free of charge. Ensure that the label is fixed to the charger to warn existing users/carers of the high temperature. Consider if any chargers should be replaced for users or carers with low skin sensitivity that would be at risk from temperatures of 55-58°C. 	▶ ④								
<p>Distributed by NIAIC to:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each HSS Board</td> <td>Education and Library Boards (for onward distribution to educational establishments that have facilities for wheelchair users)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each HSS Trust</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each Agency</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NIAIC Liaison Officers</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Chief Executive of each HSS Board	Education and Library Boards (for onward distribution to educational establishments that have facilities for wheelchair users)	Chief Executive of each HSS Trust		Chief Executive of each Agency		NIAIC Liaison Officers		▶ ⑤
Chief Executive of each HSS Board	Education and Library Boards (for onward distribution to educational establishments that have facilities for wheelchair users)								
Chief Executive of each HSS Trust									
Chief Executive of each Agency									
NIAIC Liaison Officers									
<p>Contacts Details of manufacturer/supplier 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:

Battery Charger for Powered wheelchair:

Mentzer 24V 6A Konstant Charger Model G25-324-6 supplied by Exide, Sunrise Medical and Lomax Mobility.

2. PROBLEM:

This alert refers to chargers supplied:

- By Sunrise Medical Ltd with F16, F40, F45, F50 and F55 models of powered wheelchair, or as replacements, from January 2004;
- By Lomax Mobility Ltd with all models of powered wheelchair, or as replacements, from June 2005;
- Directly from Exide Batteries Ltd since January 2004.

MHRA has received a report concerning the excessive case temperature of a 24V 6A Konstant charger; manufactured by Mentzer and supplied in the UK by Exide Batteries Ltd since 2004. They have also been supplied through Sunrise Medical Ltd and Lomax Mobility Ltd for use with their powered wheelchairs. See image below.



Investigation has established that during normal charging the case temperature rises to 55°C-58°C. This is in excess of the maximum temperature requirements of BS EN 12182: 1999, which covers all assistive technology devices.

Many chargers have been issued as spares or have been issued to second or subsequent users in the NHS hence the manufacturers cannot trace all present users.

There have been no incidents reported to date involving injuries from using these chargers. However, there is potential for injury if the appropriate action is not taken.

Where the charger is not within the reach of the wheelchair occupant and carers or they do not have low skin sensitivity the warning label will usually be sufficient. However, for some users/carers the 55-58°C temperatures may be too high for safe usage, in this case the charger should be replaced.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the provision, prescription, repair, maintenance and use of wheelchairs. In particular wheelchair service managers, loan store managers, rehabilitation engineers, occupational therapists and wheelchair maintenance staff and contractors.

4. ACTION:

- Trace all Mentzer 24V 6A Konstant chargers supplied with powered wheelchairs or as replacement chargers. (See details on Page 2).
- Obtain labels from the relevant supplier. These are available free of charge. (See contacts on page 3).
- Ensure that the label is fixed to the charger to warn existing users/carers of the high temperature.
- Consider if any chargers should be replaced for users or carers with low skin sensitivity that would be at risk from temperatures of 55-58°C.

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:

- Clinical governance leads
- Equipment stores
- Health and safety managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Medical physics departments
- Occupational health departments
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Rehabilitation engineers
- Risk managers
- Wheelchair service managers
- Community hospitals
- District nurses
- Equipment stores
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Tom Forbes
Lomax Mobility Ltd
The Chalmers Building
Charles Bowman Avenue
Claverhouse Industrial Park
Dundee
DD4 9UB

Tel: 01382 503 000
Fax: 01382 503 550

Jeremy Fletcher
Sunrise Mobility Ltd
High Street
Wollaston
West Midlands
DY8 4PS

Tel: 01384 446 672
Fax: 01384 446 674

Nigel Darke
Exide Batteries Ltd
14 Gunnels Wood Park
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 2BH

Tel: 01438 359 090
Fax : 01438 727 684

E-mail: tforbes@lomaxmobility.co.uk

jeremy.fletcher@sunmed.co.uk

nigel.darke@eu.exide.com

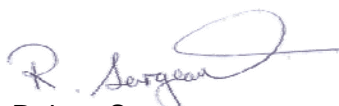
Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2007/97 and be addressed to:

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