

# Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2008/010

Issued: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008



**HEALTH ESTATES**

creating healing environments

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
<b>ACTION</b>	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section								
<p><b>Medical Device/Equipment:</b> Ambulift hoist. All models manufactured by Arjo or Mechan aids.</p>	▶ ①								
<p><b>Problem:</b> Risk of the occupant slipping from the seat during use.</p>	▶ ②								
<p><b>Action by:</b> All those involved in the use of patient hoists, in particular nurses, care staff and moving and handling co-ordinators.</p>	▶ ③								
<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace all mobile and static Ambulift hoists.</li> <li>Contact Arjo (Ireland) to arrange supply of a safety seat belt and revised instructions for use.</li> <li>Arrange for the new seat belt to be fitted to all Ambulifts in use or in storage.</li> <li>Ensure all users are aware of the need to use the safety belt in accordance with the latest instructions for use.</li> </ul>	▶ ④								
<p><b>Distributed by NIAIC to:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chief Executive of each HSS Board</td> <td style="width: 50%;">General Medical Practitioners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each HSS Trust</td> <td>Hospices</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	General Medical Practitioners	Chief Executive of each HSS Trust	Hospices	Chief Executive of each Agency		NIAIC Liaison Officers		▶ ⑤
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<p><b>Contacts</b> Details of manufacturer and NIAIC contacts for technical and clinical aspects.</p>	▶ ⑥								
<p><b>Action deadlines for the Safety Alert Broadcast System for HPSS Trusts (SABS)</b></p>									
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This Alert is on our web site: <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk>

## 1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

All models of Ambulift mobile and fixed (static) hoists previously marketed as Mechanoids Ambulift, Arjo Mechanoids Ambulift or Arjo Ambulift.  
Arjo Huntleigh is the present manufacturer.

## 2. PROBLEM:

The MHRA investigated a fatality involving an occupant being transferred into a bath using an Ambulift hoist.

The tubular armrests fitted to the hoist which curve around the front of the occupant are hinged at the rear of the seat and do not have a positive lock to keep them in place during the hoist operation. The armrests pushed up allowing the occupant to slip down and out of the seat and sustain fatal injuries. The hoist operator was unable to stop the occupant sliding out. This incident could easily reoccur unless a safety device is fitted to all hoists.

The manufacturer has agreed to provide a new safety seat belt and updated instructions for use for all Ambulift hoists. The belt is anchored to the hoist behind the seat. The belt needs to be adjusted to suit the occupant before each hoist operation, in accordance with the new instructions for use. The new belt should be fitted to all Ambulift hoists to remove the possibility of the reoccurrence of a similar incident.

## 3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the use of patient hoists, in particular nurses, care staff and moving and handling co-ordinators.

## 4. ACTION:

- Trace all mobile and static Ambulift hoists.
- Contact Arjo Huntleigh to arrange supply of a safety seat belt and revised instructions for use.
- Arrange for the new seat belt to be fitted to all Ambulifts in use or in storage.
- Ensure all users are aware of the need to use the safety belt in accordance with the latest instructions for use.

## 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:

- All wards
- Equipment stores
- Estates and facilities managers
- Health and safety managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Nursing executive directors
- Nursing staff
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Purchasing managers
- Risk managers
- Safety officers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Hospitals & Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA
- Director of children's services for onward distribution
- Schools with facilities for the disabled
- Community equipment stores
- Community hospitals
- District nurses

## 6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer/supplier should be addressed to:

Customer Support  
Arjo Ireland  
19 Heron Road  
Sydenham Bussiness Park  
BT3 9LE  
Tel: 028 90502000  
Fax: 028 90502001

Customer Support  
Arjo Huntleigh  
St Catherine Street  
Gloucester  
GL1 2SL  
Tel: 08702 430 430  
Fax: 01452 428 344

Email [glen.rainey@arjo.co.uk](mailto:glen.rainey@arjo.co.uk)

E-mail: [uksales@arjo.co.uk](mailto:uksales@arjo.co.uk)

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/010 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](mailto:NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

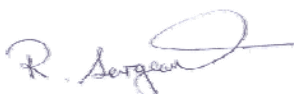
## 7. FEEDBACK:

### Action deadlines for the Safety Alert Broadcast System for HPSS Trusts (SABS)

Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Action Under Way:  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Action Complete:  
6<sup>th</sup> June 2008



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)2007/01. 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](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic)

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