

# Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2008/015

Issued: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

For:

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

	Section								
<p><b>Medical Device/Equipment:</b> Typhoon and Typhoon II battery powered wheelchairs manufactured by Invacare.</p>	▶ ①								
<p><b>Problem:</b> The wheelchair is too heavy for any standard four point webbing tie-down system commercially available for use in a vehicle.</p>	▶ ②								
<p><b>Action by:</b> All those involved in the provision, prescription, use and transport of wheelchairs. In particular: wheelchair service managers, rehabilitation engineers, occupational therapists and patient transport service managers.</p>	▶ ③								
<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace all Invacare Typhoon and Typhoon II battery powered wheelchairs.</li> <li>Inform the users that a Typhoon wheelchair should not be transported in a vehicle using a standard four point webbing tie down.</li> </ul>	▶ ④								
<p><b>Distributed by NIAIC to:</b></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>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	Education and Library Boards (for onward distribution to educational establishments that have facilities for wheelchair users)	Chief Executive of each HSS Trust	Hospices	Chief Executive of each Agency		NIAIC Liaison Officers		▶ ⑤
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Chief Executive of each Agency									
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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>									
<p><b>Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:</b> 21<sup>st</sup> March 2008</p>	▶ ⑦								
<p><b>Action Under Way:</b> 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008</p>									
<p><b>Action Complete:</b> 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008</p>									

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

## 1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

All Typhoon and Typhoon II battery powered wheelchairs manufactured by Invacare when used as a seat in a motor vehicle.

## 2. PROBLEM:

The pre-sales literature and instructions for use (IFU), for all models of the Typhoon battery powered wheelchair, include information on the use of the wheelchair as a seat in a vehicle. The illustrations and information provided by Invacare suggest that the wheelchair can be safely used as a seat in a vehicle using standard four point webbing straps secured to the tie down brackets on the wheelchair frame.

Invacare has acknowledged that, because all models of Typhoon weigh in excess of 140kg, there is no standard four point webbing tie-down system commercially available that is suitable to transport the occupied wheelchair safely. If a vehicle is involved in an impact there is a risk of the webbing failing, potentially leading to injury of the wheelchair occupant or others.

Invacare is currently working with a tie-down manufacturer to develop a system for the Typhoon range. Invacare has informed the MHRA that they hope to have this finalised in May 2008.

Invacare do offer a wheelchair docking system that they state would allow the wheelchair to be used safely as a seat in a vehicle. However, the wheelchair would require Invacare's docking plate to be fitted and the vehicle would be required to have the docking system's mating parts fitted in addition to the provision of an appropriate occupant restraint. Users wishing to have their wheelchairs and vehicles converted should contact Invacare for further details.

## 3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the provision, prescription, use and transport of wheelchairs. In particular: wheelchair service managers, rehabilitation engineers, occupational therapists and patient transport service managers.

## 4. ACTION:

- Trace all Invacare Typhoon and Typhoon II battery powered wheelchairs.
- Inform the users that a Typhoon wheelchair should not be transported in a vehicle using a standard four point webbing tie down.

## 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:

- Ambulance services directors
- Equipment stores
- Health and safety managers
- Occupational therapists
- Patient transport managers
- Physiotherapists
- Purchasing managers
- Rehabilitation engineers
- Risk managers
- Wheelchair services managers
- Directors of Public Health
- Community Care Staff
- Day Care Centres
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Hospitals & Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA
- Educational establishments with facilities for wheelchair users
- Residential special schools
- School transport managers

## 6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Customer Services  
Invacare UK Operations Ltd  
South Road  
Bridgend Industrial Estate  
Bridgend  
CF31 3PY

Tel: 01656 647 327

Fax: 01656 649 016

E-mail: [uk@invacare.com](mailto:uk@invacare.com)

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/015 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)

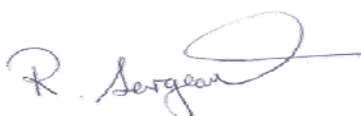
## 7. FEEDBACK:

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

**Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:**  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2008

**Action Under Way:**  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2008

**Action Complete:**  
19<sup>th</sup> May 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*