

# Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2008/016

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

For:

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



**HEALTH ESTATES**

creating healing environments

	Section								
<b>Medical Device/Equipment:</b> Patient transfer slides/boards, models LOCO-400A Duo and LOCO-401A Duo manufactured by Select Healthcare (UK) Ltd.	▶ ①								
<b>Problem:</b> Transfer slides/boards are cracking and breaking.	▶ ②								
<b>Action by:</b> All those involved in the provision, prescription and use of transfer slides/boards. In particular loan store managers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and manual handling advisors.	▶ ③								
<b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace all LOCO-400A and LOCO-401A transfer slides/boards manufactured in September 2005 (see appendix).</li> <li>Remove them from use.</li> <li>Contact the manufacturer to arrange a free of charge exchange. See page 3.</li> </ul>	▶ ④								
<b>Distributed by NIAIC to:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chief Executive of each HSS Board</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Hospices</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	Hospices	Chief Executive of each HSS Trust		Chief Executive of each Agency		NIAIC Liaison Officers		▶ ⑤
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<b>Contacts</b> Details of manufacturer and NIAIC contacts for technical and clinical aspects.	▶ ⑥								
<b>Action deadlines for the Safety Alert Broadcast System for HPSS Trusts (SABS)</b>	▶ ⑦								
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This Alert is on our web site: <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk>

## 1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Select Healthcare LOCO-400A and LOCO-401A Duo transfer slides/boards manufactured in September 2005. The month and year of manufacture are printed on the transfer slide/board using a grid system (see appendix).

These transfer slides (often referred to as transfer boards) are used to transfer a person in a sitting position from one surface to another. They may have been purchased directly from Select Healthcare Ltd or from a distributor.

## 2. PROBLEM:

The MHRA has been informed of a number of incidents where a transfer slide/board has cracked in use. On investigation it has been found that the transfer slides/boards were manufactured with the central plastic plug missing due to a failure in the moulding process. Applying a weight to the transfer slide/board, such as occurs during a transfer, can cause it to crack and then break at this weak point. This may prevent a transfer from being completed and could cause the user to fall.

The manufacturer has informed the MHRA that this problem only affects the September 2005 production. Other transfer slides/boards are not affected. The manufacturer has agreed to provide replacements free of charge (see contact on page 3).

## 3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the provision, prescription and use of transfer slides/boards. In particular loan store managers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and manual handling advisors.

## 4. ACTION:

- Trace all LOCO-400A and LOCO-401A transfer slides/boards manufactured in September 2005 (see appendix).
- Remove them from use.
- Contact the manufacturer to arrange a free of charge exchange. See page 3.

## 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:

- Back care/manual handling advisors
- Equipment stores
- Health and safety managers
- Loan store managers
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Risk managers
- Supplies managers
- Care at home staff
- Care management team managers
- Community care staff
- Day centres
- Equipment supplies managers
- Directors of Public Health
- Social Care Staff
- Community Care Staff
- Day Care Centres
- Community hospitals
- Community nurses
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Hospitals & Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA

## 6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Marcus Gilbert  
Select Healthcare (UK) Ltd  
Unit 2  
Albert Road  
Rushden  
Northants NN10 0BU

Tel: 01933 411 729

Fax: 01933 410 213

E-mail: [info@selecthealthcare.co.uk](mailto:info@selecthealthcare.co.uk)

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/016 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)

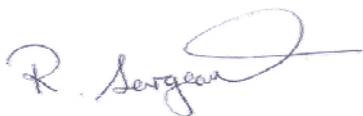
## 7. FEEDBACK:

### 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:**  
17<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*

## APPENDIX to MDE(NI)2008-016

The manufacturer uses a grid printed on the transfer slide/board to show the date of manufacture. The year is recorded across the top of the grid and each triangular section down represents a month in the year; a punch is marked in the triangle corresponding to the year and month of manufacture. The diagram below shows how the grid would look for transfer slides/boards manufactured in September 2005.

04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
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