

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2008/054

Issued: 8th July 2008



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: Harrier Heavy Duty (HD) battery powered wheelchair manufactured by Invacare	▶ ①
Problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These wheelchairs have been supplied without battery transportation straps. This means there is the potential for the battery to detach from the frame in the event of a vehicle impact. Additionally, changes have also been made to the instructions for use with regard to the wheelchairs use as a seat in a vehicle. 	▶ ②
Action by: All those involved in the provision, prescription, maintenance and use of these wheelchairs. In particular: wheelchair service managers, rehabilitation engineers, maintenance staff and contractors, occupational therapists and patient transport service managers.	▶ ③
Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trace all Harrier HD battery powered wheelchairs in use and in storage. Inform the user that the wheelchair must not be used as a seat in transport until the battery transportation strap has been fitted. Contact Invacare to obtain a battery transportation strap and arrange for the battery transportation strap to be fitted. Ensure users are aware of the new instructions for use regarding the use of the wheelchair as a seat during transportation. 	▶ ④
Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers Hospices	▶ ⑤
Contacts Details of manufacturer and NIAIC contacts for technical and clinical aspects.	▶ ⑥
Action deadlines for the Safety Alert Broadcast System for HPSS Trusts (SABS)	
Acknowledge Receipt of Alert: 10 th July 2008	▶ ⑦
Action Under Way: 8 th Aug 2008	
Action Complete: 8 th Oct 2008	

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

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

All Harrier Heavy Duty (HD) battery powered wheelchairs manufactured by Invacare and supplied before 10 March 2008.

2. PROBLEM:

Invacare state that a battery transportation strap must be fitted before using the Harrier HD wheelchair as a seat in transport. In the event of a vehicle impact this strap reduces the risk of the battery detaching from the wheelchair and colliding with the user or others in the vehicle. However Harrier HD powered wheelchairs manufactured before 10 March 2008 did not have a battery transportation strap fitted.

Invacare has now made the battery transportation strap available free of charge. The part can be obtained by contacting the Invacare Technical Services Department (see contacts), quoting the wheelchair serial number and the battery transportation strap part number (1485975).

In addition, Invacare has also issued some revisions to the instructions for use (IFU) which now recommend that when used as a seat in a vehicle users use their lap belt, in addition to the vehicle mounted occupant restraint, and that a headrest is fitted. Users should be supplied with copies of the revised IFU and reminded of the need to follow the revised content

3. ACTION BY:

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

4. ACTION:

- Trace all Harrier HD battery powered wheelchairs in use and in storage.
- Inform the user that the wheelchair must not be used as a seat in transport until the battery transportation strap has been fitted.
- Contact Invacare to obtain a battery transportation strap and arrange for the battery transportation strap to be fitted.
- Ensure users are aware of the new instructions for use regarding the use of the wheelchair as a seat during transportation.

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 store managers
- Health and safety managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Occupational therapists
- Patient transport managers
- Physiotherapists
- Rehabilitation engineers
- Risk managers
- Wheelchair service managers
- Educational establishments with facilities for wheelchair users
- Residential special schools
- School transport managers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Customer services
Invacare UK operations
South Road
Bridgend Industrial Estate
Bridgend
CF31 3PY

Tel: 01656 647 327

Fax: 01656 649 016

E-mail: uk@invacare.com

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/054 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

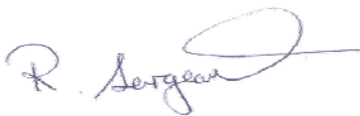
7. FEEDBACK:

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

Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:
10th July 2008

Action Under Way:
8th Aug 2008

Action Complete:
8th Oct 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

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