

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2008/074

Issued: 7th October 2008



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section			
<p>Medical Device/Equipment: Access and Accent attendant propelled wheelchairs manufactured by Remploy Healthcare.</p>	▶ ①			
<p>Problem: Rear tie-down location brackets not fitted.</p>	▶ ②			
<p>Action by: All those involved in the use, provision and maintenance of these wheelchairs. In particular: wheelchair users, carers, wheelchair service managers, transport providers and maintenance staff.</p>	▶ ③			
<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trace all Access and Accent attendant propelled wheelchairs. - Obtain a copy of the latest transportation guidance and maintenance instructions from Remploy. - Inspect the wheelchair to see if the rear tie-down brackets are fitted. If not, contact Remploy on 0870 609 0600 to obtain brackets and arrange for these to be fitted. - Ensure that users, carers and maintenance staff are aware of the new instructions. 	▶ ④			
<p>Distributed by NIAIC to:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> Education and Library Boards (for onward distribution to educational establishments that have facilities for wheelchair users) Hospices </td> </tr> </table>	Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers	Education and Library Boards (for onward distribution to educational establishments that have facilities for wheelchair users) Hospices	▶ ⑤	
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<p>Contacts Details of manufacturer and NIAIC contacts for technical and clinical aspects.</p>	▶ ⑥			
<p>Action deadlines for the Safety Alert Broadcast System for HPSS Trusts (SABS)</p>				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"> Acknowledge Receipt of Alert: 10th Oct 2008 </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"> Action Under Way: 7th Nov 2008 </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"> Action Complete: 9th Jan 2009 </td> </tr> </table>	Acknowledge Receipt of Alert: 10 th Oct 2008	Action Under Way: 7 th Nov 2008	Action Complete: 9 th Jan 2009	▶ ⑦
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This Alert is on our web site: <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

All Remploy Access and Accent models configured as attendant propelled wheelchairs

2. PROBLEM:

A wheelchair can still tip over despite being secured using the correct 4-point webbing tie-down system, if this is located too low on the wheelchair frame. Correctly fitted rear tie-down brackets will prevent this. The MHRA has received a report of a person who, whilst using her wheelchair as a seat in a motor vehicle, was injured when the wheelchair tipped sideways as the vehicle negotiated a bend in the road.

Remploy acknowledges that the brackets may be missing because either they have not been fitted on new wheelchairs or the brackets may not have been replaced following maintenance or reconfiguration of the frame and wheels.

The problem is exacerbated by the lack of clear references to this bracket in the instructions for use and maintenance/service information. Remploy has updated its 'Transportation Guide' showing the bracket, its fitting and use, which has been issued with all new wheelchairs since 16 June 2008. It is also available from Remploy's website:
<http://www.remployhealthcare.com/pdf/Transport.pdf>

Remploy has issued a Field Safety Notice but has been unable to trace all wheelchairs in use, especially where they have been passed on to second or subsequent users.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the use, provision and maintenance of these wheelchairs. In particular: wheelchair users, carers, wheelchair service managers, transport providers and maintenance staff.

4. ACTION:

- Trace all Access and Accent attendant propelled wheelchairs.
- Obtain a copy of the latest transportation guidance and maintenance instructions from Remploy.
- Inspect the wheelchair to see if the rear tie-down brackets are fitted. If not, contact Remploy on 0870 609 0600 to obtain brackets and arrange for these to be fitted.
- Ensure that users, carers and maintenance staff are aware of the new instructions.

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
- Occupational therapists
- Patient transport managers
- Physiotherapists
- Rehabilitation engineers
- Risk managers
- Wheelchair maintenance staff and contractors
- Wheelchair service managers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Hospitals & Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Customer Services
Remploy Healthcare
Sheffield Road
Chesterfield S41 8NJ

Tel: 0870 609 0600

E-mail: sales@remployhealthcare.com

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/074 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

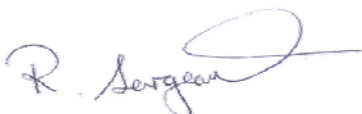
7. FEEDBACK:

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

Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:
10th Oct 2008

Action Under Way:
7th Nov 2008

Action Complete:
9th Jan 2009



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