

# Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2008/080

Issued: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008



**HEALTH ESTATES**

creating healing environments

For:

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

	Section								
<p><b>Medical Device/Equipment:</b> Storm<sup>3</sup>, Storm TT, Typhoon and Typhoon II battery powered wheelchairs manufactured by Invacare.</p>	▶ ①								
<p><b>Problem:</b> The original tie-down brackets fitted to these wheelchairs are not suitable for the new heavy duty four point webbing tie-down systems manufactured by Unwin Safety Systems Limited.</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 Storm<sup>3</sup>, Storm TT, Typhoon and Typhoon II battery powered wheelchairs.</li> <li>Inform the users of these wheelchairs that they should not be transported in a vehicle using the new Unwin tie-down system until their existing tie-down brackets have been updated.</li> <li>Contact Invacare on telephone number 01656 647 327 to obtain the appropriate brackets and make arrangements for their fitting to the wheelchair.</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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<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> 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008</p>	▶ ⑦								
<p><b>Action Under Way:</b> 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008</p>									
<p><b>Action Complete:</b> 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009</p>									

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

## 1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

All Storm<sup>3</sup>, Storm TT, Typhoon and Typhoon II powered wheelchairs purchased before 21 July 2008.

## 2. PROBLEM:

The NIAIC previously issued MDEA(NI)2008-015 in March 2008 to alert users of Typhoon and Typhoon II powered wheelchairs weighing over 140kg that there was no commercially available four point webbing tie-down system suitable to allow these wheelchairs to be used as a seat in a motor vehicle.

MDEA(NI)2008-038 was subsequently issued in May 2008, on the same subject, for some Storm and all Storm TT powered wheelchairs that weighed over 140kg.

In June 2008 Invacare issued a product update (ref PU249) that announced the availability of a new tie-down system from Unwin Safety Systems to enable these wheelchair models to be used as a seat in a motor vehicle. However, the product update failed to advise that the existing tie-down brackets must be replaced by new brackets prior to use of the new tie-down.

The original brackets have edges that can damage the webbing of the new tie-down; the new brackets are designed to reduce this risk. In the event of a vehicle impact damaged webbing could fail, leading to injury of the wheelchair occupant or others.

The new tie-down brackets are available free of charge from Invacare, complete with fitting instructions, for any of the affected wheelchairs. The reference numbers are:

SP1523487 – for Storm<sup>3</sup> (including True Track (TT))  
SP1523488 – for Typhoon I  
SP1523486 – for Typhoon II

Note: Invacare is not providing brackets for Storm or Storm<sup>2</sup> models.

## 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 Storm<sup>3</sup>, Storm TT, Typhoon and Typhoon II battery powered wheelchairs.
- Inform the users of these wheelchairs that they should not be transported in a vehicle using the new Unwin tie-down system until their existing tie-down brackets have been updated.
- Contact Invacare on telephone number 01656 647 327 to obtain the appropriate brackets and make arrangements for their fitting to the wheelchair.

## 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
- Rehabilitation engineers
- Risk managers
- Wheelchair service managers
- 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 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)2008/080 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)

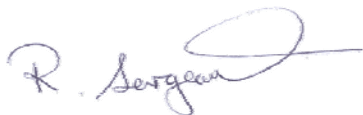
## 7. FEEDBACK:

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

Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:  
30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008

Action Under Way:  
28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008

Action Complete:  
30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic)

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