

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2004/41

Issued: 10 August 2004

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION REQUEST	



**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ADVERSE
INCIDENT
CENTRE**

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: Ceiling Mounted minor procedures/examination lights	▶ ①
Problem: Risk of detachment	▶ ②
Action by: Estate Managers, Facilities Managers, Risk Managers	▶ ③
Action: All ceiling mounted minor procedure/examination lights which employ the horizontal arm and vertical spigot method of fixing should be identified and checked to ensure that they are correctly and securely fitted.	▶ 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 General Medical Practitioners (for information and action if necessary)	▶ ⑤
Contacts Enquiries regarding particular lights should be directed to the appropriate manufacturer or supplier.	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None	▶ ⑦

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

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Ceiling Mounted minor procedures/examination lights

2. PROBLEM:

NIAIC has been informed of an incident in Scotland in which a ceiling mounted minor procedure light fell from its mounting, causing injury to a member of staff.

Following investigation, it appears that the circlip, which is intended to hold the arm in place on the ceiling mounted spigot, had been fitted incorrectly.

A number of procedure/examination light manufacturers employ the same fixing method, i.e. a horizontal arm mounted on a vertical spigot and retained by a circlip. All ceiling mounted minor procedure/examination lights with this fixing are implicated.

3. ACTION BY:

Estate Managers, Facilities Managers and Risk Managers

4. ACTION:

A suggested procedure for checking a typical fitting is outlined below. However, suitably trained staff should ensure this method is appropriate for each type of light:

- a) Remove any cover that may be present at the end of the horizontal arm.
- b) Where appropriate, check the washers are fitted between the spring arm and the circlip.
- c) Check that the circlip is correctly located in the groove. If the circlip rotates freely in the groove in both directions, then it is correctly seated. If the circlip does not rotate freely, it is still under spring tension and is not correctly seated.
- d) Visually check the groove for signs of damage. If the circlip has not been fitted using circlip pliers and has been forced into place by a screwdriver, the groove is likely to be gouged or malformed. This can result in the circlip jumping out of the groove while the light is being used. If any damage is observed, advice should be sought from the manufacturer before returning to use.
- e) Reassemble

Work should be carried out by suitably trained persons using appropriate tools.

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:

- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics through HSS Board R&I Units

6. CONTACTS:

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2004/41 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:

None



Brian Godfrey, NIAIC 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)2004/01. 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

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