



# DEFECT & INVESTIGATION CENTRE



**FOR ACTION BY:**

Chief Executive of each HSS Trust  
General Manager/Chief Executive of each HSS Board  
General Manager/Chief Executive of each Agency

**Stoney Road Dundonald  
Belfast  
Northern Ireland BT16 0US**

**HN(NI) 97/21**

**Date: 17 December 1997**

**Telephone 01232 523714  
Facsimile 01232 523900  
GTN Code 440**

Product	:	BREATHING SYSTEM FEMALE 22mm TO FEMALE 22mm CONICAL CONNECTOR
Manufacturer/ Supplier	:	INTERSURGICAL LTD
Problem	:	RISK OF OCCLUSION OF THE BREATHING SYSTEM DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF A MOULDING DEFECT INSIDE THE CONNECTOR.
Action	:	ENSURE THAT ALL CONNECTORS OF THIS TYPE ARE CHECKED BEFORE USE AND THAT ALL STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHECK ARE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM.

# HAZARD

**1. ATTENTION CHIEF EXECUTIVES/GENERAL MANAGERS**

This notice should be brought to the immediate attention of all who need to know, or be aware of it including those listed below, in accordance with local procedures, and immediate action should be taken as detailed overleaf:

- ◆ Directors of Anaesthetics
- ◆ Consultant Anaesthetists
- ◆ Intensive Care Practitioners and Managers
- ◆ Medical Directors
- ◆ Executive Nurses
- ◆ Theatre Managers
- ◆ Physiotherapy Managers
- ◆ Accident and Emergency Department Managers
- ◆ Day Surgery Units
- ◆ Risk Managers
- ◆ Safety Liaison Officers
- ◆ Supplies Departments

Boards/Trusts should ensure that if appropriate, this information is passed to **ALL** persons having the responsibility for premises registered under “THE REGISTERED HOMES (NI) ORDER 1992”.



## 2. IMMEDIATE ACTION

Ensure that:

- All conical connectors of this type are checked prior to use;
- all staff responsible for the checking of devices prior to use are aware of this possible problem.

## 3. BACKGROUND

A report of occlusion in one of these connectors has been received, due to a moulding defect that occluded the gas pathway.

Users should always undertake a final functional safety check of the breathing system before connection to a patient. These points are covered in the checklist for Anaesthetic machines, published by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland.

The manufacturer believes this is a single incident.

Users identifying a defective connector, should inform NIDIC at the address below.

## 4. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries *in writing*: regarding this notice should be addressed as follows:

NORTHERN IRELAND DEFECT & INVESTIGATION CENTRE (NIDIC)  
Health Estates  
Estate Policy  
Stoney Road  
Dundonald  
Belfast BT16 0US      *marked for the attention of Mr Brian Godfrey*

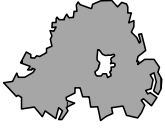
Yours faithfully

BRIAN GODFREY  
Defect Centre Manager

### HOW TO REPORT DEFECTS

Professional Estate Letter PEL(93)36 issued by Estate Services Directorate, on 27th July 1994 advises Health and Social Services Boards, HSS Trusts and agencies how to notify HPSS about accidents with and defects in medicinal products, buildings and plant and other medical and non medical equipment and supplies.

NORTHERN



IRELAND

HN(NI)97/21

# HAZARD

**Title:**

**BREATHING SYSTEM FEMALE 22mm TO FEMALE 22mm  
CONICAL CONNECTOR**

**ACTION BY:**

(A) BOARD/TRUST

Address/Address Stamp

This document was forwarded to the relevant Department/Personnel for action on \_\_\_\_\_(date)

**(B) RECIPIENT** [Please return to the issuing Authority at (A) above, after completed action]

Receipt of the document is acknowledged and appropriate action completed on \_\_\_\_\_(date)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(C) COMMENTS ON ACTION TAKEN**