



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 1US

Telephone 01232 523714
Facsimile 01232 523900
GTN Code 440

HN(NI) 2000/02

Date: 8 February 2000

Product	:	Ceiling-Mounted Suspension for X-Ray Tubes
Manufacturer/ Supplier	:	Picker International Ltd GEC Apollo CTM Mark One Serial Numbers: ZV201 – ZV900; FV201 – FV220; DN201 – DN500; DM201 – DM400; FL201 – FL242
Problem	:	An incident has been reported where the telescopic tube support suddenly dropped. This has the potential for serious injury to a patient or operator.
Action	:	Make immediate contact with your service agent so that the chains and the toothed cams in the counter-balance mechanism can be checked.

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 aside:

- Directors of Radiology
- Radiologists
- Radiology Business Managers
- Radiographers
- Radiation Protection Supervisors
- Radiation Protection Advisors
- Medical Physicists
- Estates/Facilities Managers
- Works staff concerned with maintenance of equipment
- Supplies Officers
- Risk Managers
- Safety Liaison Officers

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".



An Executive Agency of the Department of Health
and Social Services and Public Safety

2. IMMEDIATE ACTION

Make immediate contact with your service agent so that the chains and the toothed cams in the counter-balance mechanism can be checked. This should be done in accordance with the Picker service note number 053722 (March 1992). Particular attention should be made to:

- i. the amount of wear on the toothed cams;
 - ii. when connecting roller chains were last replaced.
- If new parts are required on the service agent cannot demonstrate that the chain and cam replacement programme has been followed, the unit must remain out of service until new parts are fitted.
 - If the toothed cam is not worn and the chains are not due for replacement, the unit can be returned to service.

3. BACKGROUND

The Department has received a report of a CEC Apollo CTM Mark One ceiling-mounted suspension which suffered a serious failure during a patient examination. The telescopic tube support dropped towards the floor with no prior warning. This failure was caused by a broken chain and wear on a toothed cam in the counterbalance mechanism for the vertical movement. There is no additional safety system to arrest the tube should the counter-balance mechanism fail.

Picker International is already aware of this problem and service instructions exist (Number 053722, issued March 1992). These instructions explain that the chains must be replaced every 125,000 tube exposures (this assumes 4 movements per exposure). If the wear on the toothed cam exceeds a value determined by a special gauge, this toothed cam must be replaced. A record for every unit, that gives details of inspections and replacements, should be kept on site. A blank copy of this sheet is included in the Picker service instructions. Your service agent should produce this record.

The Department previously issued notices to alert users of this failure, Hazard No 16/82/60 and SAB(90)35. This Hazard Notice **replaces** the information given in these notices which have been withdrawn.

4. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

Mr Tony Jay
Picker International Ltd
Ground Floor, Saffron Ground
Ditchmore Lane
Stevenage
SG1 3LD

Tel: 01438 311777

Spare parts for the Apollo are available from IGE Medical Systems Ltd

IGE Service call centre for scheduling visits to inspect equipment:

Tel: 0345 333 999

Technical enquiries to IGE Medical Systems Ltd:

Mr John Lower
IGE Medical Systems Ltd
352 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
Berkshire
SL1 4ER

Tel: 01753 874486

Enquiries for those units under alternative service arrangements should be addressed to the appropriate service agent.

Enquiries regarding this notice should be addressed as follows:

NORTHERN IRELAND DEFECT & INVESTIGATION CENTRE (NIDIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US *marked for the attention of Mr Brian Godfrey*

Tel: 028 90 523714

Fax: 028 90 523900

Email: brian.godfrey@dhssni.gov.uk

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)99/2000/02

HAZARD

Title:

Ceiling-Mounted Suspension for X-Ray Tubes

ACTION BY:

(A) BOARD/TRUST

<p>Address/Address Stamp</p>

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