

HN (NI) 2003/03

DATE: 6 March 2003



HEALTH ESTATES
ESTATE POLICY

**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ADVERSE
INCIDENT
CENTRE**

TITLE:

**WATER HEATER "HOBART HOT TAP 2,3 & 4":
RISK OF SCALDING DUE TO TOPPLING OVER**

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Hobart Manufacturing Company

PROBLEM

Toppling Over

DISTRIBUTED BY NIAIC TO:

Chief Executive of each HSS Board, Trust
and Agency.

NIAIC Liaison Officers.

For onward distribution as appropriate to:

This notice should be brought to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it,
including those listed below, in accordance with local procedures. This will include:

Risk Managers

Health & Safety Officers/Advisors

Estates Managers

Catering Managers

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

IMMEDIATE ACTION

- Identify and locate all Hobart Hot tap water heaters.
- Carry out a full risk assessment on the water heater. The assessment should include
the need, location, safe use and training as necessary. It is recommended that a
notice be placed on the water heater precluding its use until a satisfactory risk
assessment has been completed and resulting actions taken.
- Security fix units as per the manufacturers instructions. Prior to fixing, ensure the
water heater is in a serviceable condition.
- Add checking of "bolting down and securing means" in the maintenance program
for the heater.

BACKGROUND

NHS Estates have received a report of a "Hobart Hot Tap 3" water boiler toppling over
and scalding a patient. The Health and Safety Executive took possession of the boiler to
carry out toppling tests. They have concluded that relatively small forces are required to
cause the unit to topple over.

The manufacturer's installation manual states "The unit may be used as a free standing
unit but it is recommended, for reasons of safety, the unit is fixed to the counter using the
feet fixing points".

**HAZARD
NOTICE**

ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number HN(NI) 2003/03 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US
Marked for the attention of Mr Brian Godfrey

Tel: 02890 523714
Fax: 02890 523900
Email: brian.godfrey@dhsspsni.gov.uk



Brian Godfrey
NIAIC Manager



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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 Safety Notice SN (NI) 2003/01. 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
Áisíneacht Feidhmeannach don Roinn Sláinte, Serbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí*