

HN (NI) 2003/04

DATE: 7 March 2003



HEALTH ESTATES
ESTATE POLICY

**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ADVERSE
INCIDENT
CENTRE**

**TITLE:
CENTRAL PIVOT WINDOWS:
RISK OF DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY**

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Archital

PROBLEM

Patients climbing out of windows by forcing open widow restrictor

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

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 all Archital centre pivot windows.
- Fit window restrictors to both sides of the window complying with BS6375 – 2:
1987.

(Note the restrictor should be capable of withstanding 1000 N applied force).

BACKGROUND

We have been informed that NHS Estates have been notified of a patient forcing a
window past the single restrictor fitted to the identified window type resulting in the
window opening, allowing the patient access to the roof of the building from which he
fell suffering fatal injuries.

The patient managed to force the window past the single restrictor fitted causing some
distortion in the frame.

The window manufacturer Archital in no longer trading.

**HAZARD
NOTICE**

ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number HN (NI) 2003/04 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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NOTICE**

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*