

SN (NI) 2001/36

DATE: September 2001

For Attention and Action by:
Chief Executive of each HSS Trust
General Manager/Chief Executive of each HSS Board
Chief Executive of each Agency



HEALTH ESTATES
ESTATE POLICY

**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ADVERSE
INCIDENT
CENTRE**

TITLE:

**Battery Chargers with Faulty 13A Plugs, Branded as
Sonnenschein, Lomax or Sunrise**

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Manufactured by CMP Batteries Ltd
Supplied directly by CMP and also by Lomax Mobility Ltd and Sunrise Medical Ltd for use with their products.

PROBLEM

A batch of 13A plugs fitted to CMP batter chargers, supplied between 1 January 2001 and the end of June 2001, have been found to have the potential to split apart exposing the bare terminals.

DISTRIBUTION

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:

- Liaison Officers
- Wheelchair Service Managers
- Occupational Therapists (involved in wheelchair provision)
- Physiotherapists (involved in wheelchair provision)
- Rehabilitation Engineers (wheelchairs)
- Wheelchair Repair Services
- Wheelchair Reconditioning Services
- Equipment Management Repair Services
- Estate Management
- Registration Inspection Units
- Residential Care Homes
- Red Cross
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Loan Store Managers
- Occupational Therapists
- Day Care Services for Elderly or Disabled People
- Social Services Wheelchair Repairers and Reconditioners
- Chief Education Officers
- Education Establishments that have facilities for wheelchair users
- Equipment Management/Repair Services
- Nursing Directors
- Community Nursing Staff
- Day Hospitals

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.

SAFETY

NOTICE



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ACTION

Trace all Sonnenschein, Lomax or Sunrise chargers supplied between 1 January 2001 and end of June 2001.

Check to see if they correspond with the attached photographs, and if they are fitted with the affected 13A plug, model number EL215A, as described in CMP's 'Product Warning Sheet' (see Appendix 1 and 2).

Contact CMP to obtain replacement plugs or to arrange to return the chargers to the factory for replacement plugs to be fitted.

BACKGROUND

CMP have identified a batch of 13A plugs fitted to CMP battery chargers that have the potential to split apart when being removed from the mains socket exposing the user to the bare terminals. The problem has arisen due to a manufacturing failure in the welding process on a batch of these plugs.

These potentially faulty plugs, which carry the part number EL215A, could have been fitted to any charger manufactured by CMP and supplied between 1 January 2001 and the end of June 2001. The chargers have a blue and white metal case and are identified in the attached photograph. The majority have been supplied to charge powered wheelchairs manufactured by Lomax Mobility Ltd and Sunrise Medical Ltd. A number have also been supplied to other wheelchair manufacturers and leisure equipment manufacturers.

In addition to the units supplied with the Sonnenschein brand name, CMP have also produced "own branded" versions of the chargers for Lomax Mobility Ltd and Sunrise Medical Ltd. All have the same blue and white metal casing and should be traced.

CMP have issued a 'Product Warning' Sheet to their points of delivery, detailing the product and contact information for replacement (see Appendix 1). For private sales the traceability to end-users is through agents' or suppliers' records. Where chargers have been supplied into the HPSS, the HPSS service records are the only direct source of traceability to the end user.

CMP have agreed to fit replacement plugs free of charge to any chargers, including "own branded" versions, that are returned to their factory. Alternatively they will provide replacement plugs free of charge for fitting locally. Where a qualified electrician fits the plugs locally, CMP will reimburse reasonable costs for this work; but these costs will need to be agreed before work commences (see CMP contact on page 3). CMP will also require the removed plugs to be returned to them as proof that the replacement has been carried out before they will reimburse the costs.

ENQUIRIES

Enquiries for Sonnenschein branded chargers and Sunrise Medical Ltd “own branded” chargers should be addressed to:

Richard Conlon
CMP Batteries
Salford Road
Over Hulton
Bolton BL5 1DD
Helpline Tel: 01204 661456

Enquiries for Lomax Mobility Ltd “own branded” chargers should be addressed to:

Mr T Forbes
Lomax Mobility Ltd
The Chalmers Building
Charles Bowman Avenue
Dundee
DD4 9UB

Tel: 01382 503000
Fax: 02382 503550

Enquires to NIAIC should quote the reference number SN(NI) 2001/36 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy
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

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) 2001/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided.

*Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Aisíneacht Feidhmeannach don Roinn Sláinte. Serbhíst Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí*



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