

SN (NI) 2002/21
DATE: 10 June 2002

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:
**MOBILE X-RAY UNIT: RISK OF ELECTRIC
SHOCK FROM GEC D38 AND CD38S MOBILES**

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER
GEC Medical

PROBLEM
Users receiving an electric shock while operating the motor-driven vertical column.

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
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Device Managers
- Estates Managers
- Directors of Radiology
- Radiologists
- Radiology Managers
- Radiographers Radiation Protection Advisors
- Medical Physics Staff
- Supplies Officers

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.

ACTION
Users should contact their service provider to request that a modification is fitted to the vertical column drive circuit.

BACKGROUND
NIAIC has been informed that the Medical Devices Agency (MDA) has received several recent reports of users receiving an electric shock while operating the D38 and the CD38S, which share the same vertical drive technology.

Following an MDA investigation, it was discovered that the vertical drive push buttons (up/down) are incorrectly rated 250V AC. The circuit is 250V DC and the switches control highly inductive relay coils. The back EMF produced by these relay coils can be up to 600 volts; this can cause arcing across the switch contacts. This arcing produces ionised air, which allows conduction to the user's finger while they are pressing the drive button.

Although the risk from the electric shock in itself is low, injuries may be sustained as a result of the startle reaction. GE Medical Systems (who service many, though not all, of these mobiles) have therefore developed a modification, which has been approved by the current Design Authority, Philips Medical Systems.

SAFETY

NOTICE

The modification kit is available from GE Medical Systems and costs £415 (part number SA 001168) except for units that have maintenance contracts that include parts. Any labour charges should not exceed 4 hours (plus travel).



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ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

GE Service Centre
GE Medical Systems
Coolidge House
Buckingham Road
Slough
SL1 4ER

Tel: 0345 333 999
Fax: 01753 874 949

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number SN(NI) 2002/21 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

SAFETY

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) 2002/01. 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. Serbhísi Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí*