

SN (NI) 2002/30
DATE: 13 September 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:
**AMBULANCE STRETCHER TROLLEYS :
FERNO FALCON MK2, MK 3 AND HAWK
MODELS: RISK OF LEG POST FRACTURE**

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER
Ferno (UK) Limited

PROBLEM
Leg post castings fitted to Falcon Mk 2, Mk3 and Hawk models have fractured in use, presenting an instability risk to all those using the trolley.

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
- Ambulance Service Fleet Managers
- Independent Ambulance Services

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**
- Ferno (UK) Limited have contacted all known users directly by letter; any user who has not received such a letter should contact Ferno (UK) Limited at the address given overleaf.
 - Users should reply to Ferno (UK) Limited on the supplied form, faxing it to them on 01274 855511.
 - Ferno (UK) Limited will then make arrangements for upgraded replacement leg post castings to be supplied and, if necessary, fitted.

In the meantime, the above models with the original design of leg post castings should continue to be used but extra vigilance and care in use is recommended.

BACKGROUND
NIAIC has been informed that the Medical Devices Agency (MDA) has received a number of reports of fractured leg post castings on Falcon Mk2, Mk 3 and Hawk model stretcher trolleys. The Falcon Mk1 model is unaffected.

There are approximately 800 stretcher trolleys implicated in the UK, **which is the ONLY country affected.**

**SAFETY
NOTICE**

The majority of trolleys are used by Ambulance Service in GB. As some trolleys have been sold to Hospitals, it has been decided that the distribution of this Safety Notice must also encompass them.

Ferno (UK) Limited has agreed to supply all users of the affected models with upgraded leg post castings free of charge. They can be fitted by users' own Ferno ServiceCare accredited technicians and will come with full instructions and a returnable worksheet for Ferno (UK) Limited to ensure traceability. Should it not be possible for users to complete this work in-house, Ferno's FieldCare Technicians will be available to fit the upgraded castings on behalf of users.

The programme to supply these castings will take three to four months as they are being produced in batches. In the meantime, the trolleys can continue to be used but extra vigilance and care in handling is recommended. Hitting obstructions with excessive force, such as kerbs and vehicles' trolley locking systems, should be avoided.

Servicing schedules should remain unaffected by this upgrade programme.

ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

FieldCare Division
Ferno (UK) Limited
Ferno House,
Stubs Beck Lane
Cleckheaton
West Yorkshire
BD19 4TZ

Tel: 01274 854511
Fax: 01274 855511

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number SN(NI) 2002/30 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

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
Aisíneacht Feidhmeannach don Roinn Sláinte. Serbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí*



HEALTH ESTATES

ESTATE POLICY

**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ADVERSE
INCIDENT
CENTRE**

SAFETY

NOTICE