

SN (NI) 2002/39

DATE: 20 December 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:**

**PATIENT HOIST, LIFTMASTER MODELS 110,160  
& 190: RISK OF INJURY DUE TO DETACHMENT OF  
HOIST BOOM, STANDING AID OR SEAT**

**MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER**

Homecraft Ability One Ltd, previously Smith and Nephew Homecraft Ltd.

**PROBLEM**

Risk of accessories detaching from the main body of the hoist. All accessories used with these hoists are affected i.e. hoist boom, standing aid and seat.

**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
- Estates Managers
- Nurse Directors
- Medical, Nursing and Care Staff in Hospital, Community and Primary Care Settings
- Residential and Nursing Homes
- Social Care Staff
- Community Care Staff
- Hospices
- Private Clinics
- Practice Nurses
- District Nurses
- Occupational Therapists
- Health Visitors
- Children's Disability Services
- Special Schools
- Education and Library Boards for onward distribution to education establishments that have patient hoists

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**

- All users of Homecraft Ability One Ltd Liftmaster 110, 160 or 190 hoist should follow the inspection instructions issued by the company in November 2002.
- If there are no 3mm diameter securing pins found securing the horizontal mounting pins in position (refer to appendix A), **withdraw the Liftmaster from use immediately** and contact Emma Buxton at Homecraft Ability One Ltd (tel. 01623 726832) to have the hoist modified.

**SAFETY**

**NOTICE**

## BACKGROUND

NIAIC has been informed that the Medical Devices Agency (MDA) has received reports on adverse incidents where the accessory i.e. hoist boom, standing aid or seat has detached from the main body of the Liftmaster 110, 160 and 190 hoists.

Homecraft Ability One Ltd has contacted its customers asking them to check their hoist(s) and identify those that need modifying. This notice has been issued to assist the company in ensuring all relevant customers are contacted. There are a considerable number of hoists affected and some customers may have obtained their hoist(s) from a source other than the company. Homecraft Ability One Ltd will arrange for engineers to carry out the modification.

These incidents have occurred when one of the horizontal mounting pins has worked loose and moved out of its bracket, releasing the accessory attached to it. Refer to figures 1 and 2 in appendix A. Incidents involving the hoist boom have resulted in the boom and the patient falling, with the additional risk of the boom landing on the patient.

The horizontal mounting pin can work loose either because of a wear problem or a manufacturing fault.

The corrective action that Homecraft Ability One Ltd has planned, is to secure the two horizontal mounting pins by fitting two 3mm diameter securing pins.

### Note:

- Some units already have the 3mm securing pins (shown in figure 2 appendix A). These units do not require any rework and can continue to be used.
- Smith & Nephew Homecraft Ltd recently became Homecraft Ability One Ltd.

## ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

Emma Buxton  
Homecraft Ability One Ltd  
PO box 5665  
Kirkby in Ashfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG17 7QX

Tel: 01623 726832

Fax: 01623 755585

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number SN(NI) 2002/39 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](mailto: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](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic)

*Health 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*



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# APPENDIX A

*Patient hoists: Liftmaster models 110, 160 & 190*

It is the attachment mechanism on the gearbox for a lifting accessory i.e. hoist boom, standing aid or seat, which is affected.

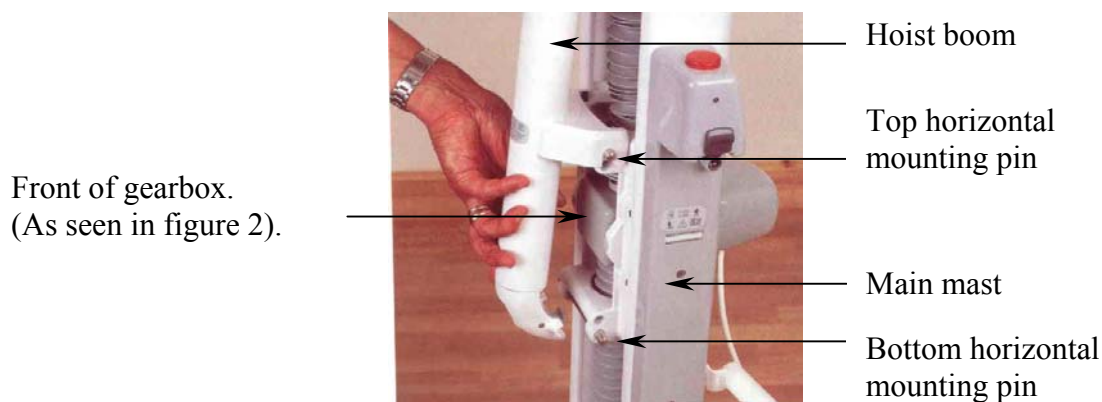


Figure 1: Attachment mechanism on the gearbox.

## INSPECTION:

- The attachment mechanism on the gearbox should have two 3mm diameter securing pins as shown in figure 2.
- If the 3mm diameter securing pins are not visible **REMOVE FROM USE IMMEDIATELY.**

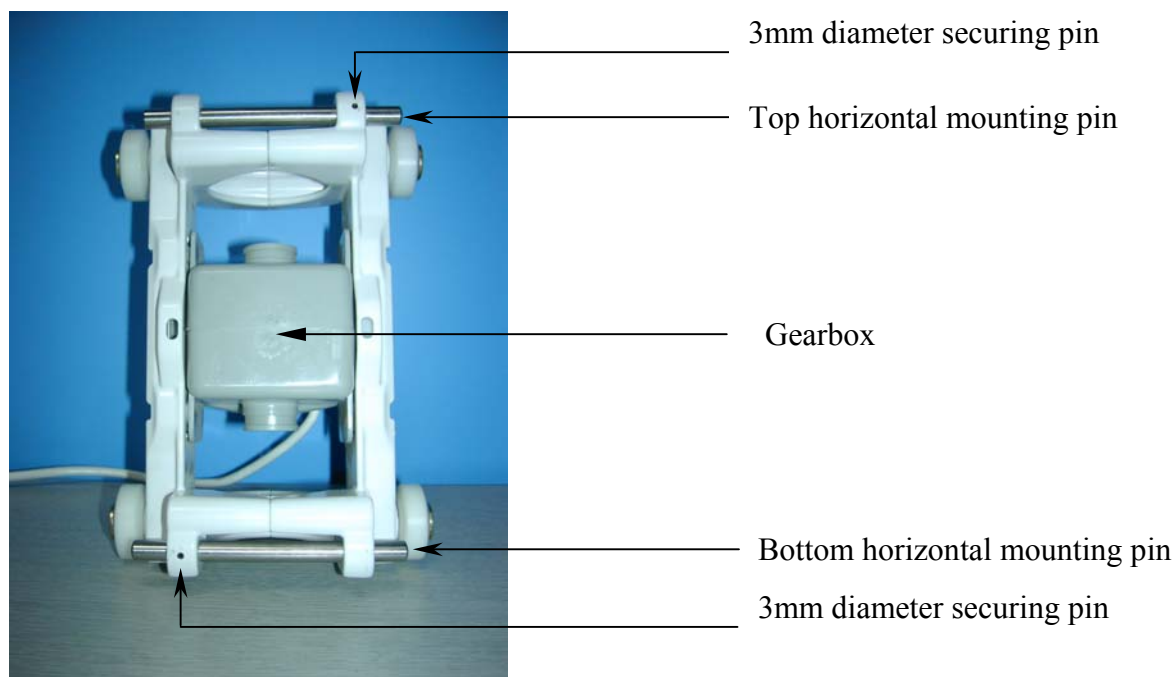


Figure 2: Gearbox with attachment mechanism, viewed from the front.