

Medical Device Alert

Action

Ref: MDA/2009/082 Issued: 14 December 2009 at 14:00

Device

Birdie mobile hoists manufactured by Invacare.



Problem

The legs of the base can detach and cause the hoist to tip in use, leading to injury to the occupant or others.

Action by

All those involved in the provision and maintenance of these hoists. In particular: equipment store managers, nursing home managers, nurses, moving and handling co-ordinators, occupational therapists, care staff and maintenance staff and contractors.

Action

- Trace affected hoists.
- Check the tightness of the four screws in the leg pivot assemblies in accordance with Invacare's inspection instructions.
- Where the screws are loose, remove the hoist from use and contact Invacare for replacement base units.
- Arrange for the new base units to be fitted.

CAS deadlines

Action underway: 29 December 2009
Action complete: 15 February 2010

Contact

Manufacturer
Technical Services Department
Invacare UK Operations Ltd
Tel: 01656 647 327
Fax: 01656 753 299
E-mail: UK@invacare.com

Device

All Birdie mobile hoists manufactured between 01 April 2008 and 01 April 2009 with a serial number in the range 010802716382001 to 010903762281001. Hoists manufactured before or after these dates are not affected.

The serial number (S/N) is located on the hoist identification label on the base unit that links the two legs.

Problem

There have been several incidents where the legs of the hoist have detached in use. Invacare has identified the source of the fault as an inconsistency of thread locking for the screws in the leg pivot assembly on some hoists.

Invacare issued a [Field Safety Notice \(FSN\)](#) in August 2009 but have not been able to trace all hoists, particularly where they have been passed on to second or subsequent users.

If required, replacement base units can be obtained free of charge from Invacare for fitting by local staff. If competent local staff are not available to carry out the initial checks or to replace the base units, contact Invacare who will arrange to have the work completed.

Distribution

This MDA has been distributed to:

- NHS trusts in England (Chief Executives)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) (Headquarters)
- HSC trusts in Northern Ireland (Chief Executives)
- NHS boards in Scotland (Chief Executives)
- NHS boards and trusts in Wales (Chief Executives)
- OFSTED
- Primary care trusts in England (Chief Executives)
- Social services in England (Directors)
- Social services in Scotland (Chief Executives)

Onward distribution

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This may include distribution by:

Trusts to:

CAS and SABS (NI) liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- All wards
- Equipment store managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Nursing executive directors
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Risk managers

Care Quality Commission (CQC) (England only) to:

The MHRA considers this information to be important to:

- Care homes providing nursing care (adults)
- Care homes providing personal care (adults)
- Domiciliary care providers
- Further education colleges registered as care homes
- Hospices
- Hospitals in the independent sector
- Nursing agencies

OFSTED to:

The MHRA considers this to be important to:

- Educational establishments with facilities for the disabled
- Residential special schools

Primary care trusts to:

CAS liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Community hospitals
- Equipment store managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Occupational therapists
- Palliative care team
- Physiotherapists
- Risk managers

Social services to:

Liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Care at home staff
- Care management team managers
- Community care staff
- Equipment store managers
- In-house domiciliary care providers (personal care services in the home)
- In-house residential care homes
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Occupational therapists

Contacts

Manufacturer

Technical Services Department
Invacare UK Operations Ltd
South Road
Bridgend Industrial Estate
Bridgend
CF31 3PY

Tel: 01656 647 327

Fax: 01656 753 299

E-mail: UK@invacare.com

England

If you are in England, please send enquiries about this notice to the MHRA, quoting reference number **MDA/2009/082 or 2009/008/017/261/004**

Ed Ball or James McVeigh
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Centre for Assistive Technology
241 Bristol Avenue
Bispham
Blackpool FY2 0BR
Tel: 01253 596 000
Fax: 01253 596 177

E-mail: bav@mhra.gsi.gov.uk

How to report adverse incidents

Please report via our website <http://www.mhra.gov.uk>

Further information about **CAS** can be found at <https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

Northern Ireland

Alerts in Northern Ireland will continue to be distributed via the NI SABS system.

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Northern Ireland should be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)

Health Estates

Estate Policy Directorate

Stoney Road

Dundonald

Belfast

BT16 1US

Tel: 02890 523 704

Fax: 02890 523 900

E-mail: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hea/niaic.htm>

How to report adverse incidents in Northern Ireland

Please report directly to NIAIC, further information can be found on our website <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

Further information about **SABS** can be found at <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>

Scotland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Scotland should be addressed to:

Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre

Health Facilities Scotland

NHS National Services Scotland

Gyle Square

1 South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh

EH12 9EB

Tel: 0131 275 7575

Fax: 0131 314 0722

E-mail: nss.irc@nhs.net

<http://www.hfs.scot.nhs.uk/online-services/incident-reporting-and-investigation-centre-irc/>

Wales

Enquiries in Wales should be addressed to:

Dr Jane Ludlow

Senior Medical Officer

Medical Device Alerts

Welsh Assembly Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Tel: 029 2082 3505 / 3922

E-mail: Haz-Aic@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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