

# Estates and Facilities Alert

## Action

Ref: EFA/2010/012 Issued: 13 December 2010  
Gateway Reference: 15248

## Device

Toffeln Qwirki's 800 Crocs Style Clogs sold as personal protective equipment (PPE)



## Problem

Toffeln Qwirki's 800 Crocs Style Clogs sold as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may not provide protection against penetration by sharp objects through the sole.

## Action

Review:

- arrangements for clearing sharp debris from theatre floors;
- policy for PPE footwear for use within theatre areas;
- procurement criteria for theatre clogs.

## Action by

Staff responsible for evaluation and procurement of PPE footwear in theatre areas.

Health & safety leads for operating departments.

## Contact

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## Problem

1. Toffeln Qwirki's 800 Crocs Style Clogs are sold as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)<sup>1,2</sup> suitable for theatre use. The manufacturer advises that the clogs are intended to protect against light mechanical aggressions which cause only superficial impact. In this respect they are CE marked to indicate conformance to PPE legislation.
2. Incidents have been reported in which the soles of Toffeln Qwirki's 800 theatre clogs were penetrated by sharp objects such as shards of broken glass (see Figure 1). These clogs are moulded in one piece from a light and soft material which is easily penetrated by sharp objects. Penetration through the sole may cause injury with risks of contamination and infection.



**Figure 1**

3. The manufacturer suggested that other means could be used to protect staff from the risks of sharp object penetration, e.g. by ensuring there is a procedure in place to remove broken glass immediately. The manufacturer added that their product range includes a safety shoe incorporating a steel mid-sole and suggested this would provide adequate protection in such circumstances. In addition, the manufacturer advised that a version of Qwirki's was being developed with a rubber sole piece which would reduce the risk of penetration.
4. Existing procurement criteria for theatre clogs may not stipulate protection against penetration through the sole by sharp objects such as broken glass and surgical instruments.

## Action

5. Procedures should be reviewed to ensure that there are adequate arrangements for the removal of sharp objects from theatre floors.
6. PPE footwear policy should be reviewed for theatre areas. This should include policy on any Toffeln Qwirki's 800 clogs already being used.
7. Procurement criteria for theatre clogs should be reviewed with consideration given to protection against penetration by sharp objects, for example by having a wood or steel mid-sole, or having a suitably hard sole.

## References

- 1 [Directive 89/686/EEC](#) on personal protective equipment, European Commission, 21 December 1989
- 2 [Statutory Instrument 1992 No. 2966](#), *The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992*, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 01 January 1993.

## Suggested Onward Distribution

- Anaesthetics
- Day Surgery
- Dental Hospitals
- Estates/Facilities
- Health & Safety
- ODAs/ODPs
- Occupational Health
- Operating Departments
- Risk Management
- Safety Representatives
- Supplies/Procurement

## Contacts

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## Additional information for England

The above sections of this Alert were compiled by Health Facilities Scotland and distributed nationally without modification.

Action required by this alert should be **underway by: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011**

Action required by this alert should be **completed by: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Enquires should quote reference number EFA/2010/012 and be addressed to:

### Defects & Failures

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#### HOW TO REPORT DEFECTS & FAILURES

Defects and failures relating to non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to the Department as soon as possible. Advice on what needs to be report can be found in DH (2008) 01. Defect and failure reporting is an on-line only reporting facility, available on the NHS Information Centre website at [www.ic.nhs.uk](http://www.ic.nhs.uk)

This Alert can be found on the following websites  
<http://www.dh.gov.uk> and <https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk>

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