



Urgent Field Safety Notice

Spectra series powered wheelchairs – Foldback Parameters

Date: 14th May 2013

Invacare Ref: FSN 36326

Ref: 2012/009/004/401/015

Urgent Safety Information:

In the interests of the safety of Invacare powered wheelchairs we would like to bring your attention to this information.

WEBSITE & MAILED PRODUCT COMMUNICATION NOTICE

Invacare supplies powered wheelchairs some of which utilize joysticks and power modules supplied by PG Drives Technology. These are designed and configured for each particular wheelchair model and are from time to time updated to enhance usability and safety. It is therefore important that joysticks and power modules are programmed with the most up to date Invacare defined software parameters.

Neither PG Drives Technology nor Invacare has any control over the software configuration of joysticks or power modules when third parties replace, or amend the software parameters of, joysticks or power modules.

Despite a Field Safety Notice issued by Invacare on January 4th, 2011 (Invacare Ref. FSN036) on this subject, Invacare continues to see power wheelchairs where inappropriate program settings are in use.

This is particularly relevant to Spectra series wheelchairs which are equipped with a **Pilot+ digital wheelchair control system** from PG Drives Technology. This control system should be set with the following Invacare defined foldback parameters:

Current Foldback Time (Seconds) - 15 seconds.

Current Foldback Level (%) - 25%

The use of inappropriately programmed foldback parameters in joysticks or power modules can potentially lead to heat damage to wheelchair components in the event of a stall condition.



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SUPPLYING DEALERS/NHS WHEELCHAIR SERVICES

Supplying dealers and NHS wheelchair services should contact all customers who use a Spectra series wheelchair with a Pilot+ control system and arrange, as soon as possible and certainly no later than the next scheduled service, to verify, and correct if necessary, these foldback parameters using the *PG Drive Technology PC Programmer*. If you are unfamiliar with this tool or this software is not available for you, please contact your local Invacare office for assistance.

Please ensure that the information in this notice, as well as the earlier field safety notice FSN036, is made, and remains, available to all relevant personnel within your organization and/or customer base.

USERS

If you use a Spectra series wheelchair which is controlled by a **Pilot+ digital wheelchair control system** from PG Drives Technology you should contact your supplying dealer or NHS wheelchair service as soon as possible to have them verify, and correct if necessary, the control parameters of your wheelchair. Alternatively you may contact Invacare directly for assistance – details can be found below or on Invacare's website.

Please be advised that if you have purchased products from within the affected serial number ranges you will be notified separately by Invacare.

Please ensure that the information in this notice is made available to all relevant personnel within your organisation and / or customer base, and / or any organisation where the potentially affected devices have been transferred. Please also ensure that awareness is maintained for an appropriate period.

If you have any questions relating to this bulletin, or should you require any additional information, please contact;

Technical Services Department

Tel. 01656 776333

Fax. 01656 776330

Invacare confirm that the relevant Competent Authorities have been informed of this Field Safety Corrective Action.



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