

# Medical Device Alert

Ref: MDA/2012/038 Issued: 28 June 2012 at 15:30

## Device

Mobile patient hoist carabiners.

All Birdie and Flamingo mobile patient hoist carabiners.

Manufactured by Invacare.



Problem	Action
<p>Scheduled inspections have failed to identify excessive wear of these aluminium carabiners, which can unexpectedly break and detach from the spreader bar. This can result in a patient falling from the hoist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify affected hoists – see the manufacturer's <a href="#">Field Safety Notice (FSN)</a> for details. Please note actions are different for different serial numbers and models.</li> <li>Contact the manufacturer to ensure you have received modification/replacement kits for your hoist as corrective action must be undertaken on all hoists.</li> <li>Contact the manufacturer if you need help to carry out the modifications.</li> <li>Ensure these hoists are maintained according to the manufacturer's maintenance schedules and that the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) examinations are undertaken.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p>All those involved in the maintenance and use of these hoists.</p> <p>In particular: equipment store managers, nursing home managers, moving and handling co-ordinators, nurses, occupational therapists, care staff, and maintenance staff and contractors.</p>	
CAS deadlines	Contact
<p>Action underway: 09 July 2012</p> <p>Action complete: 31 August 2012</p>	<p><b>Manufacturer</b>            Invacare (UK) Ltd            Technical Services Department            Tel: 01656 776 333            Fax: 01656 776 330</p>

## Device

Note that Birdie hoists with serial number up to and including (SN) 091106013500 have different corrective actions from those with serial number (SN) 091106013501 and above.

An example of the affected carabiner attached to a Flamingo hoist spreader bar:



## Distribution

This MDA has been sent to:

- NHS trusts in England (Chief Executives)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) (Headquarters) for information
- HSC trusts in Northern Ireland (Chief Executives)
- NHS boards in Scotland (Equipment Co-ordinators)
- NHS boards and trusts in Wales (Chief Executives)
- OFSTED (Directors of Children's Services) for information
- Health and Safety Executive
- Local authorities in Scotland (Equipment Co-ordinators)
- Primary care trusts in England (Chief Executives)
- Social services in England (Directors)

### Onward distribution

Please bring this notice to the attention of relevant employees in your establishment. Below is a suggested list of recipients.

#### Trusts

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

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

#### Primary care trusts

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

- Community hospitals
- District nurses
- Equipment store managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors

- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Occupational therapists
- Palliative care teams
- Physiotherapists
- Risk managers

### **Social services**

Liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Back care/manual handling advisors
- Care at home staff
- Care management team managers
- Community care staff
- Equipment store managers
- Equipment supplies managers
- In-house domiciliary care providers (personal care services in the home)
- In-house residential care homes
- Occupational therapists

### **Independent distribution**

#### **Establishments registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) (England only)**

This alert should be read by:

- 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
- Private medical practitioners

#### **Establishments registered with OFSTED**

This alert should be read by:

- Children's services
- Educational establishments with beds for children
- Residential special schools

Please note: CQC and OFSTED do not distribute these alerts. Independent healthcare providers and social care providers can sign up to receive MDAs directly from the Department of Health's Central Alerting System (CAS) by sending an email to: [safetyalerts@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:safetyalerts@dh.gsi.gov.uk) and requesting this facility.

## **Contacts**

### **Manufacturer**

Invacare (UK) Ltd  
Pencoed Technology Park  
Pencoed  
Bridgend  
CF35 5AQ

Tel: 01656 776 279

Fax: 01656 776 244

Email: [mhughes@invacare.com](mailto:mhughes@invacare.com)

## England

If you are in England, please send enquiries about this notice to the MHRA, quoting reference number **MDA/2012/038** or **2012/005/009/291/017**

### Technical aspects

John Ward or Sara Vincent  
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
Floor 4  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
London SW1W 9SZ

Tel: 020 3080 7232 / 7169

Fax: 020 8754 3965

Email: [john.ward@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.ward@mhra.gsi.gov.uk)  
[sara.vincent@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sara.vincent@mhra.gsi.gov.uk)

### Clinical aspects

Jonathan Plumb  
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
Floor 4  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
London SW1W 9SZ

Tel: 020 3080 6648

Fax: 020 8754 3965

Email: [jonathan.plumb@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.plumb@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  
Health Estates Investment Group  
Room 17  
Annex 6  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Dundonald BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890 523 704

Fax: 02890 523 900

Email: [NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto: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

Email: [nss.irc@nhs.net](mailto: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:

Improving Patient Safety Team

Medical Directorate

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Tel: 029 2082 3922

Email: [Haz-Aic@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Haz-Aic@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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