



本署檔號 OUR REF.: S/F (23) DH/MDCO/18-25/2  
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:  
電話 TEL.: 3107 8483  
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17 April 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Safety Alert on Mobile Electric Patient Hoist**

It has come to our attention that inclined electric actuators of mobile electric patient hoists may suddenly fail and cause the dropping of the hoist arm without any symptom or warning. These failures may cause serious injuries to both the patients and carers.

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a safety warning concerning this problem vide [www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON008417](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON008417). The document is also enclosed herewith for your information.

These failures are most influenced by the usage (number of lifting cycles performed) rather than the age of the actuator. There is also a risk of damage and material fatigue failures caused by inappropriate handling, abnormal use and lack of proper servicing of the actuator mounting points. However, most hoists in the market do not have counters fitted to record the number of lifting cycles and the sealed design of electric actuators makes the internal examination difficult. Hence wear and tear may not be easily detected until sudden failure occurs.

You are recommended to:

- (1) Contact your supplier/service provider for technical information regarding the calculation of usable life and servicing requirements;
- (2) Perform proper servicing and regular checking by a competent personnel;
- (3) Estimate the usage of the actuator or carry out a risk assessment regularly (at least once per year), to determine if the electric actuator needs replacement.

Patient hoists shall be properly managed and maintained to provide a safe environment for both your staff and patients. Please bring this important notice to the attention of your staff concerned.

Should you have any enquiry, please feel free to contact our Ms Maria Leung at 3107 8467.

Yours faithfully,

(Jennifer K S MAK)  
for Director of Health

**Encl.**

竭誠服務 顧客為本 素質為先

*We are committed to providing client-oriented service*