

## Urgent Field Safety Notice

### Flamingo Hoist - Replacement of Spreader Bars

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009

FSN 016

Ref: 2009/001/022/301/001 and MDA/2007/043

#### **Urgent Safety Information:**

In the interests of the safety of our customers we would like to remind you of a Field Safety Corrective Action which was initiated in the UK in 2004. A letter was originally distributed in September 2004 to all customers who had purchased a Flamingo Hoist with a date of manufacture prior to that date. A second letter, a reminder for the need to complete this FSCA, was issued in October 2006; the FSCA was also supported by Medical Device Alert 2007/043. Following the previous warnings less than half of the original spreader bar units have been replaced.

A small number of incidents have occurred, with two different types of failure reported:

- 1) Incorrect fitting of the spreader bar (old design).
- 2) Failure of the mounting hook casting.

Both could result in serious injury to the user. To eliminate the possibility of both these types of failure re-occurring, a design change was implemented in 2004, and the method of attaching the spreader bar to the hoist was made more secure (**please refer to attached documents**).

**NB.** Invacare recommend that your Flamingo Hoist is removed from service until you have obtained and fitted a replacement spreader bar. Replacement spreader bars are available free of charge from Invacare Technical Service Department. A copy of the follow-up letter is also attached for reference. The attached letter contains details of part numbers and description of the various spreader bar units.

Please ensure that this notice is made available to all relevant personnel within your organisation and / or customer base, and that awareness is maintained for an appropriate period.

Invacare acknowledges that this may be an inconvenience; however it is not an option and must be done immediately to mitigate the potential safety risk.

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

#### **Technical Services Department**

Tel. 01656 647327  
Fax. 01656 753299

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

**INVACARE UK OPERATIONS LIMITED**

South Road Bridgend Industrial Estate Bridgend CF31 3PY  
Sales/Technical Service Tel: 01656 647327 Fax: 01656 649016 Reception Tel: 01656 664321  
Registered in the UK No. 3281202

Monday, October 30, 2006

## NEW FLAMINGO SPREADER BAR

Dear Customer,

Last year, as an improved safety measure *Invacare*<sup>®</sup> decided to introduce a new, free of charge attachment fitting for spreader bars to the *Flamingo* mobile hoist.

Our records show that you have not requested this fitting for some or all of the *Flamingo* hoists you have purchased. We would thus like to reiterate our offer to provide the new fitting at no charge, and refer you to the enclosed documentation from hoist manufacturers *EC-Høng A/S* explaining the reasoning behind the upgrade.

Replacement kits for hoists already in use are available on request from our **Customer Service Department** on **01656 647327**. The new part numbers are as follows:

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1449378-0152 | Spreader bar 2 point 350 mm |
| 1449379-0152 | Spreader bar 2 point 450 mm |
| 1449380-0152 | Spreader bar 2 point 550 mm |
| 1449381-0152 | Spreader bar 4 point 450 mm |
| 1449382-0152 | Spreader bar 4 point 550 mm |

Please read carefully the enclosed information and if you have any questions, contact the Business Development Manager for your region or our Customer Service Department on the number above.



By Appointment to  
 HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother  
 Wheelchair Manufacturer  
 Invacare  
 Bridgend

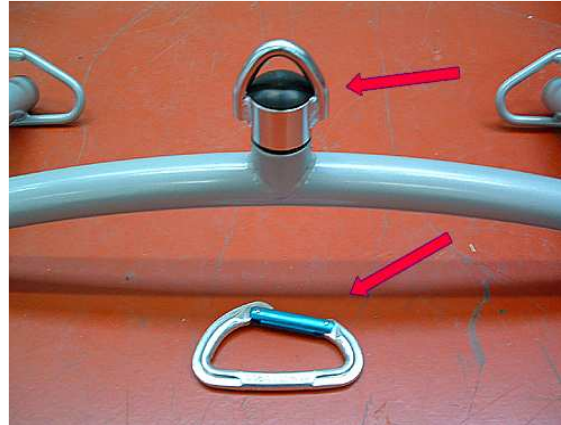


September 2004

## Flamingo: New spreader bar attachment



1) Old design: Dismount the old version of the spreader bar from the hoist.



2) New design: Revised spreader bar attachment, consisting of carabiner and re-designed spreader bar.



3) Hold the carabiner like shown, with its opening pointed towards the cross pin of the lifting arm. (Widest part of carabiner pointing upwards).



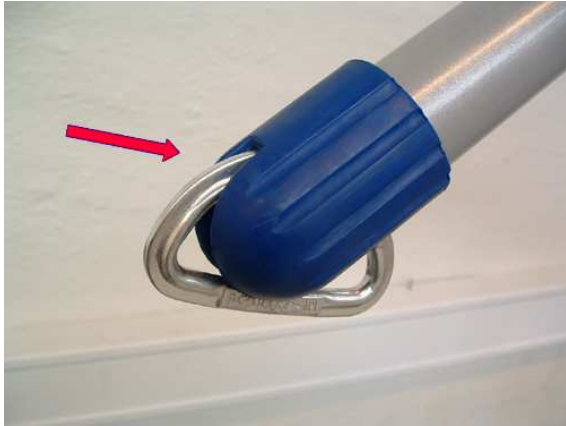
4) Open the safety catch by use of two fingers and press upper part of the carabiner around the cross pin.

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By Appointment to  
 HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother  
 Wheelchair Manufacturer  
 Invacare  
 Bridgend



5) Upper part of carabiner partly positioned around the cross pin.



6) Turning the carabiner all the way around the cross pin. (Because of friction between the rubber protection and the carabiner, considerable force may be applied when performing this step.)



7) Carabiner correctly positioned on the lifting arm, ready for use.



8) Easy opening of the carabiner by pulling the safety catch backwards with two fingers.



9) Attaching the spreader bar to the carabiner.



10) Correctly attached spreader bar .

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