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Invacare Technical Bulletin

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Subject: Routine inspection and maintenance requirements for patient lifts.

Products: All Invacare® Patient Lifts

Overview: Patient lifts utilizing battery powered electric actuators or hydraulic pump cylinders have been widely available for over 20 years. Lifts that are heavily worn, not maintained in accordance with their instructions or used beyond their expected service life may be at an increased risk of failure. In some circumstances, failure of a patient lift can result in a patient fall and injury, or injury to a care provider, or other persons near their operation.

Detail: Patient lifts are used to lift and transfer a patient from one surface to another, as from a bed to a wheelchair. The parts associated with the device can involve complex components and subassemblies. Caster bolts, boom pivot connection points, actuator or hydraulic cylinder clevis pivots and base leg assembly mechanisms are examples of the items on a lift that are subject to normal wear and tear. Unaddressed wear and tear or maintenance items can result in failure of the lift.

In addition, the various hardware and fasteners on a patient lift are impacted by inevitable wear and tear. Hardware and fasteners can become loose by normal use of the device. If left unaddressed, loose or worn hardware and fasteners can fail, resulting in a patient fall that can result in injury.

Expected Service Life: Patient lifts, when used and maintained in accordance with the labeling that accompany them, have an expected service life of 8 years.

Actions: To assure safe and effective operation, patient lifts must always be installed and maintained in accordance with the device's instructions, which ship with the product and are available online at www.invacare.com. Lifts should be subject to routine inspection and maintenance in accordance with device labeling. It is highly recommended to inspect hardware and fasteners prior to each use, but, at minimum, hardware and fasteners must be inspected prior to first use and once a month thereafter. Lifts found to require maintenance must be immediately removed from service until repaired by a qualified person. Lifts that are beyond their expected service life should be thoroughly inspected by a qualified person to determine whether the device can continue to be safely used. It is highly recommended to replace lifts outside their expected service life of 8 years. Hardware and fasteners should not be replaced, except as directed by device labeling, including hardware specified in service kits and their instructions.

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin or any Invacare® patient lift, please call Invacare Technical Services at 800-832-4707, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. EST, for assistance.