



## Stryker Recall

Stryker Corporation has issued a recall involving 213 Stair-Pro Stair Chairs. The reason for the recall states: "Handle could come off. The bolts may back out over time, resulting in a risk of dropping the patient and/or injury to transport personnel, a delay in medical treatment or a delay in evacuation."

### Products involved include:

- Stryker Medical Stair-Pro Stair Chair with wheels, patient transport device, Model 6251, Recall #Z-0648-2009.
- Stryker Medical Stair-Pro with wheel and a track system, patient transport device, Model 6252, Recall #Z-0649-2009.
- Stryker Medical Stair-Pro Evacuation Chair, civilian use stair chair, patient transport device, Model 6253, Recall #Z-0650-2009.

Do we really want or need to wait for a recall before we discover this type of problem? Is all of your equipment inspected at reasonable intervals according to manufacturer's recommendations? Do you do a daily inspection of equipment whose failure could result in significant injury to patients or personnel? Is the inspection recorded and tracked? When defects are found, do your policies mandate that the equipment is immediately taken out of service and repaired or replaced?

### Here's a partial list of routine considerations for inspecting equipment:

- Chassis/Housing: Is it clean and intact with no evidence of spillage or abuse? Is all hardware present and secure?
- Mounts/Fasteners: Are they secure with all hardware in place?
- Wheels/Brakes: Do they move freely? Are they intact? Do they work?
- Electrical cords: Are they damaged? Have they been inappropriately repaired?
- Tubes/Hoses: Are they intact, clean and correctly attached?
- Cables: Are there any breaks in insulation? Are they securely gripped in connectors?
- Fittings/Connectors: Are all fittings tight and not leaking? Are o-rings cracked or brittle? Are replacements immediately available?
- Electrode Pads: Are they outdated? Stored properly? Do they match the equipment for which their use is intended? Is there an adequate number?



If you haven't updated your inspection policies or checklists recently, why don't you make it a company-wide activity? Let people choose the type of equipment they would like to address. Make it a contest and give a prize or have a get together for participants.

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