

Field Safety Notice

Type of Action: Removal of limitations in use and revision of user instructions

Date: 27 February 2009

Device: Battery powered wheelchairs, Balder F290 with additional equipment, manufactured by Hand-Pro AS, Norway.

Problem: Further to FSN dated June 2008 regarding the suitability of standard four point webbing systems for use in a vehicle available at that time. A new solution is now available.

Action: All Balder F290 wheelchairs with additional equipment have been traced and were advised of the potential risks and advised that the wheelchair should not be used as a seat in a vehicle when secured using standard four point webbing systems. The affected users have been advised not to use the wheelchair as a seat in vehicles when secured using a standard four point webbing system until they can verify that the chair weighs less than 140kg.

A manufacturer of webbing restraint systems has developed a system that is suitable for Balder wheelchairs weighing up to 160kg. This system has been dynamically tested to international standard ISO 10542-5 and ISO 7176-19.

The user instructions for the wheelchair have been updated and can be downloaded from <http://www.etacuk.com/en/etacuk/Start-Page/About-Us/Quality/> . To request a hardcopy of the revised instructions please call 01256 767181 or send an email to info@etacuk.com .

All users of Balder F290 wheelchairs who transport their chair using webbing restraints and those involved in providing transportation for these users should read the revised user instructions and implement any changes required.

Hand-Pro AS offers an automatic clamp down system that allows the wheelchair to be used in a vehicle. This requires the wheelchair and the vehicle to be fitted with the appropriate parts of the lock down system, in addition to a suitable occupant restraint. Users wishing to have their wheelchairs and vehicles converted should contact Etac UK Ltd for details.

For further information please contact:

Ian Carter
Etac UK Limited
29 Murrell Green Business Park
London Road
Hook
RG27 9GR