

Safety Alert



SUBJECT: WOMBAT R82 CHAIR

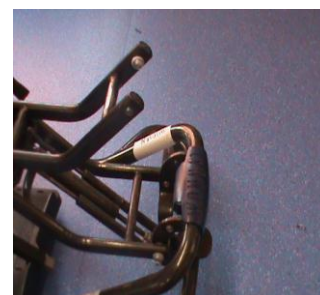
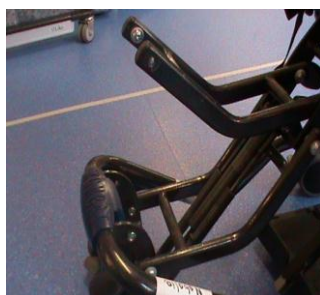
RECIPIENTS: Children's Directorate: Schools, Homes and Social Care

ISSUE DATE: OCTOBER 2013

REF: HSA7

Failing of connecting bolt

- 1. There has been an incident** where the support bracket securing bolt sheared on a Wombat R82 Activity chair being used in an LCC School.
- 2. The immediate cause of the incident** was due to a child 'rocking' severely whilst seated in the chair and the subsequent forces on the securing bolt resulted in it shearing. There was no injury to the child involved.
- 3. The incident may have been prevented** if changes in the behaviour and use of the chair had been reported and the risk assessment reviewed.
- 4. All users of this type of chair are advised to ensure that it is used within the supplier's recommendations and specifications** – if the children are "violently" rocking or moving the majority of the time whilst seated on such chairs then a review of the risk assessment should be undertaken to identify a more suitable chair that is designed to accommodate such movement and the child's individual needs.
- 5. There are a wide range of chairs that could be used to suit individual requirements.** For any queries regarding safe use of chairs or obtaining alternative chairs staff should contact the relevant paediatric specialist i.e. Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist to carry out a risk assessment review to determine suitable seating for the individual child.
- 6. This incident highlights the need for staff** to carry out routine visual checks of specialist furniture and equipment to identify obvious defects and to report any concerns about the use of specialist chairs or equipment to their line managers so that appropriate action can be taken.



Example of Wombat Chair and Photographs of the Wombat R82 Chair with the support bracket fixture showing the disconnected support arms

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
Mr David Hortop Mouchel Health and Safety Advisor on 01522 836717 or 07793187663**