

# *Dash Stowaway*

## **FULL FOLDING ATTENDANT WHEELCHAIR USER GUIDE**



**Table of Contents:**

<i>Item</i>		<i>Page:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Amendment Record</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Important Symbols</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Wheelchair Features</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>General Warnings</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Intended User</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>User Suitability</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Important Product Information</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Handling and Stability on Steps and Slopes</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Transportation of Product</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Wheelchair Technical Information</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Safety Precautions and Warranty</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Wheelchair Cleaning and Maintenance</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Service Checklist</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Useful Addresses</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Distributor Stamp / Information</b>	<b>16</b>



**IMPORTANT:**

DO NOT USE YOUR WHEELCHAIR UNTIL THIS MANUAL HAS BEEN READ AND UNDERSTOOD.

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**Amendment Record:**

ISSUE	PAGE	AMENDMENT	DATE

## 2. IMPORTANT SYMBOLS IN THIS MANUAL



THIS SYMBOL WARNS YOU OF A RISK!

This symbol is used to give a warning or caution that is related to the safe use of the wheelchair. Follow the instructions to avoid personal injury or damage to the product.



This symbol indicates hints and suggestions, which should help make operating the wheelchair easier and point out any special functions.



This symbol indicates hints and suggestions that should not be carried out while operating the wheelchair.

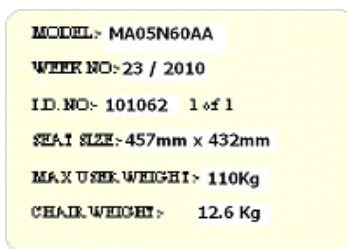


This symbol indicates the use of different tools and other adjustments or when service/maintenance may be required. It should only be carried out by suitably trained or competent persons.

### 2.1 WHEELCHAIR IDENTIFICATION

Each wheelchair carries a unique identification/serial number that is printed on the serial number label. This label is fitted on the rear of the wheelchair on the rear cross brace tube (Fig. 1) This label also carries the model code designation, which includes the wheelchair size and colour. In the event of any queries please have this information to hand if contacting R Healthcare.

Fig. 1



2. Contract Plate label and CE label are situated as below photograph ; rear uprights

#### Label/Decal Placement

1. Dash Stowaway stickers are situated on the front of the bottom tube, 2 per chair, one on each side frame



#### Company specific labelling / decals as shown

R Healthcare can be contacted as follows:

R Healthcare, Building 2, Philips Campus, Wellhall Road, Hamilton, ML3 9BZ

Customer services: 0044+ 0870 60 90 600, e-mail: [sales@rhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:sales@rhealthcare.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.rhealthcare.co.uk>

### 2.2. CARLESSNESS CAUSES FIRE

This label shows the model number, serial number, max. User weight and manufacturer details. This label shows the flame retardency details. The label is fitted to the rear of the backrest and seat.

### 2.3. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- The wheelchair is manufactured to meet the requirements of BS EN 12183
- The Upholstery meets the requirements of ISO 7176-16 and the fire and furnishing regulations SI1324. Other materials wherever possible are ignition retardant.

### 2.4. MODIFICATIONS AND ALTERATIONS



Making any unauthorised modifications or using non approved parts may change the wheelchair structure and create an unsafe condition.

<b>CARELESSNESS CAUSES FIRE</b>	
Remploy Healthcare Ltd	
BS EN ISO 9001 2008 Registered Firm	
<b>BATCH DATE REFERENCE</b>	<b>QUALITY ASSURED</b>
<b>MATERIALS &amp; CONSTRUCTION to SI 1324 furniture and fire regulations 1988</b>	
Outer covering is polymer coated fabric there is no interliner cushion combustion modified polyurethane foam padded quilting is PVC foam	
<b>ALL MATERIALS TO APPROVED STANDARDS</b>	



Neither R Healthcare nor your wheelchair provider will accept responsibility for damage caused by misuse or noncompliance with instructions or advice set out in this manual. Users attempting to use the wheelchair beyond the manufacturer's recommendations may put themselves at risk of serious injury or even death.

### 3. WHEELCHAIR FEATURES

#### 1.1 DESCRIPTION OF WHEELCHAIR

Dash Stowaway attendant propelled (transit) wheelchair is fitted with 31cm (12") diameter wheels. The standard configuration for the wheelchair is shown below which identifies the key components.

1. Push handle
2. Backrest
3. Armrest
4. Rear Wheel
5. Footplate
6. Front castor
7. Brake



#### 4. GENERAL WARNINGS



The removal of detachable parts that are supplied either as standard as prescribed or recommended by the user's prescriber, healthcare professional or wheelchair dealer, other than for the purpose of storing or transporting the wheelchair is not recommended and may compromise the correct use of the wheelchair by the user and the provision of any beneficial effects from the complete equipment.



Take precautions when using your wheelchair to avoid fire risks, such as avoiding smoking or parking against open fires or heat source.



Do not store your chair in direct sunlight. Direct heat such as sunlight will increase the temperature of parts on the wheelchair such as the frame or upholstery and they may be hot to touch.



Low temperatures such as frost will have the opposite effect and may make parts of the frame very cold to touch.



DO NOT hang items such as bags on the back of the push handles, as this can overload the chair and affect the stability of the wheelchair - causing it to tip over. This chair is not supplied with stabilizers



DO NOT exceed the occupant weight limit for your chair and do not carry more than one person. If you feel that your body weight may have changed then contact your healthcare specialist.



Using a cushion raises the seated position and may reduce the stability of your wheelchair. Some features and accessories may affect stability. Your healthcare professional can provide guidance on the stability of your wheelchair and should be consulted when cushions and accessories are being used.

Your wheelchair should be delivered pre assembled apart from requiring the footrests to be inserted into the front tubes and secured by a nut and bolt. You should remove any packaging before use. If you have not used a wheelchair or are uncertain about any of the features of your wheelchair then please contact your healthcare professional, wheelchair dealer or your wheelchair service and ask for assistance. If you have been informed that you must receive specific instructions about your wheelchair before using it, and then it is important that you await this instruction for your own safety.

1. Release front and rear over centre braces
2. Grasp the Push handle grips and with a flicking motion; push and fold together in a single motion until chair is fully collapsed.

#### 5. Intended use

Your wheelchair is intended for use in the home, the office, public places and buildings, on pavements, pedestrian paths and firm surfaces. It is intended to assist with the mobility of the user on the seat and should not be used as a ladder or as a means of pulling or transporting items, or similar.



Do not use the wheelchair on soft surfaces such as sand, deep snow, slush or mud as this may affect the stability.



This chair is not designed to be tied down in a moving vehicle, it has not been crash tested to ISO 7176 prt 19.



Care should be exercised when using the wheelchair on wet or slippery surfaces such as wet cobbles or icy pavements, as these may cause the wheels to slip or may cause carers/attendants controlling the wheelchair to slip.

#### Using your wheelchair during darkness or in poorly lit areas.



When using your wheelchair during darkness or in poorly lit areas, then consideration should be given to the use of high visibility markers or reflectors that can be fitted to the wheelchair or the use of high visibility/reflective clothing such as fluorescent waistcoats, belts or armbands, particularly in poorly lit areas or when crossing the road.



#### Maximum safe slope

The maximum safe slope for this wheelchair is 8 degrees. (This represents a slope of approx 1 in 6). See further notes and guidance in section 7 on wheelchair stability.



Users, carers and attendants attempting to use the wheelchair beyond the manufacturer's recommendations may put themselves at risk of serious injury or even death.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USER SUITABILITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For people who cannot, or find it difficult to walk</li> <li>• For people with mobility issues requiring improved comfort levels</li> <li>• For trained confident users</li> <li>• For use with accessories, supplied by R Healthcare Ltd. Other adaptations may be suitable dependent upon clinical assessment</li> <li>• Suitable for storage in cars boot and similar vehicle types</li> <li>• Not suitable for occupants who require stabilisers, Dash 4 Life modular wheelchair would be more appropriate.</li> <li>• Not suitable for use with elevating leg rests</li> <li>• Not to be used in transportation</li> <li>• Not suitable for use with stump supports</li> <li>• Not suitable for occupants with limited comprehension</li> <li>• Not suitable for use on slopes greater than 8 degrees</li> <li>• Not suitable for occupants with visual impairment, where corrective vision is not optional, unless an attendant is in control.</li> <li>• Not suitable for side transfer without assistance</li> <li>• Not suitable for use in wet leafy conditions</li> <li>• Not suitable for wet heavy or soggy ground type conditions</li> <li>• Suitable to a maximum occupant weight of 110 Kg</li> <li>• Suitable for use with cushions or similar comfort aides</li> </ul>
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## 6. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### INTRODUCTION

The type of wheelchair, and attachment features, provided will be different according to individual user requirements, and clinical assessment of need. In many cases the result will be a compromise solution.

Some modular wheelchairs can be set up or finely adjusted to suit user needs. Users should contact their approved distributor if they are having problem in using their wheelchair, a simple adjustment or alternative build configuration may help to resolve the problem.

R Healthcare manual wheelchairs can be divided into two broad categories.

- Attendant Propelled
- Occupant Propelled

Note:- The model Stowaway is only offered in an Attendant version

This general information section covers safety issues of wheelchair use covering all of these.

Please read carefully together with all other information provided, covering the specific model supplied, which will give particular details of the wheelchair features and construction, methods of operation and correct setting methods.

### INTRODUCTION & OPENING THE PRODUCT PACKAGE

Factors considered in selecting a wheelchair apply to both occupants and carers and include:

- method of propulsion
- seating position
- occupant size and weight
- physical ability of occupant and carer ( where applicable )
- ease of use
- environment
- safety
- degree of independence
- costs

Clinical Assessment teams have a responsibility to provide the wheelchair occupant and carer, where applicable, with a means of achieving effective mobility, bearing in mind all the above considerations.

There are many different types and variations of wheelchairs available today. It may not be possible to satisfy all requirements and environments with one chair for every need of the occupant (and carer) for home, travel or work.

### 6.1 GETTING IN AND OUT OF A WHEELCHAIR FACING FORWARDS

For maximum safety, these operations should be carried out with the help of an attendant. The occupant should always try to assist the attendant wherever possible to share the total effort.



**Carers should not attempt to lift without help.**

### Getting into the wheelchair.

Make sure that the brakes are on, flip up the footplates, taking care that the heel support straps (if fitted) are not jammed against the footrest support frame. On some models, footrests may be detached or swung away for easier access.

The occupant may be able to help by pushing on the armrests to provide support whilst being lowered into the seat. Finally, push the footplates down, and locate the occupant's feet on them. **see fig 2.**

### Getting out of the wheelchair.

Make sure that the brakes are on, then flip up the footrests or detach them. The occupant should place a hand on each armrest, bend slightly forward and place both feet well back.

### 6.2 SIDE TRANSFER

When the wheelchair armrest is pivoted as shown; it will allow sideways entry to the chair and vice versa, from another chair or car seat. **See fig 3.** Physically active Independent users with upper body and arm strength should eventually develop skill to carry out this manoeuvre without help. However, it is advisable that an attendant should be available if assistance becomes necessary.



Make sure the brakes are on, or that the wheelchair is prevented from moving, It is easier to transfer when flip up footrest assemblies are pivoted up out of the way, or removed so as not to interfere with the legs. Feet should be firmly on the ground and not on the footrest. The safest way to transfer is to bend slightly forward. If there is a gap between the two seat surfaces, it may help to slide along a smooth transfer board, or to use some other lever point such as a car hand grip for additional support whilst manoeuvring from one seat to the other.



**DO NOT ATTEMPT SIDE TRANSFER ON SLIPPERY OR UNEVEN FLOORS**

**Fig 2 - Getting in/out of the wheelchair**

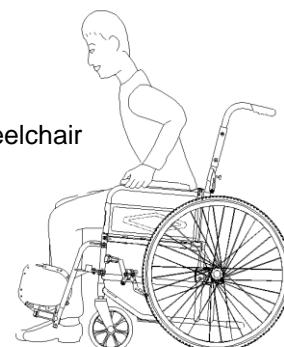


Fig 3 – Side Transfer

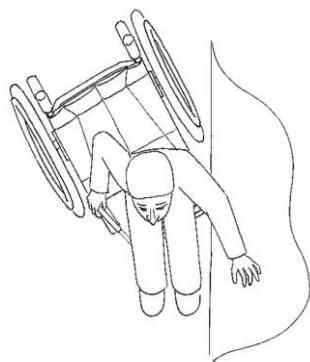


Fig 4 – Maintain a firm grip on the push handles



Fig 5 – Attendant Control

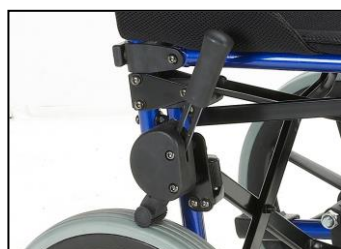
### 6.3 BRAKES

Hand brakes are provided for preventing wheel movement when parked, particularly on a slope, or during occupant transfer to and from the wheelchair.

Operating the wheelchair in this way however, demands that the attendant is skilled in the controlling operation, as a sudden change in direction will result if one wheel is retarded in advance of the other.

Brake adjustment— Loosen sideframe brake bracket clamp, and drop brake sub assembly until there is a 5mm gap between the brake while in the off position and tyre. Tighten and secure to 10ft/lbs ensuring brake shoe is central to the tyre.

#### Images showing extending brake handle



### 6.4 PUSHING TECHNIQUES



Pushing a wheelchair with a helpful occupant can be an enjoyment for both people involved provided that there is mutual confidence and understanding.

When first planning a trip, the pusher should check the distance and terrain to be covered, bearing in mind that a slope going out is a hill coming back. A combination of slope and camber is common in many areas. Try the chair out on typical surface conditions nearby, and practice manoeuvres likely to be encountered on a longer trip.

The pusher should be familiar with the operation of the wheelchair, remembering to put the brakes on and steady the chair before the occupant gets in and out.

Where applicable, detachable features should be checked for security before setting out on a journey. The occupant should not be rushed during transferring in and out of the chair.

Before setting off, the pusher should make sure that the occupant is comfortable and that clothes, rugs, covers etc do not catch in the wheels or interfere with the general workings of the wheelchair.

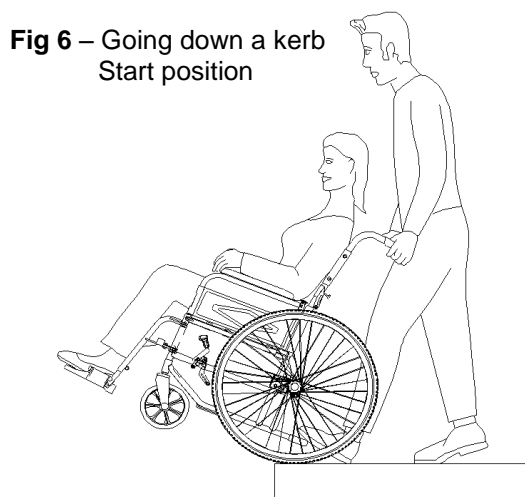
The pusher should walk at a sensible speed, and tell the occupant before changing position, tipping the chair or manoeuvring, also paying attention to the surface conditions and avoiding uneven or soft ground wherever possible.

The pusher should always maintain a firm grip on the push handles. The chair should not be jolted or jarred, or rocked like a pram. **See figs 4 & 5.**



Shopping bags or other additional heavy loads should not be carried in a wheelchair unless specifically designed for the purpose. This particularly applies to hanging items over the push handles, which can overload the chair and affect stability resulting in injury if the occupant tips out of the chair when it is left unattended momentarily.

Fig 6 – Going down a kerb  
Start position



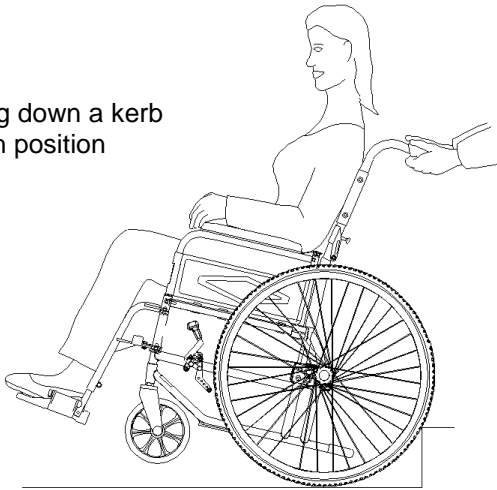




Make sure that the front end of the chair is lowered slowly to the floor, and that the castors are pointing to the rear.

**Fig 7 – Going down a kerb**  
Finish position

Castors with small wheels are more liable to dig in, than large wheels, and require extra care in use.



## 6.5 KERBS



### Negotiating a kerb.

The methods described here involve an attendant controlling the operation. Active users adopt balancing techniques carry out kerb manoeuvres independently, but methods will vary according to the setting of the chair, the physical strength of the user and skills acquired through training and practice with wheelchair experts. See section 1.6.

### Going down a kerb:

The chair castors should be taken to the edge of the kerb. The pusher should hold the chair handles firmly, pressing down on the tipping lever and at the same time tilting the chair back. **See fig 6 & 7.**

The rear wheels can then be taken to the kerb edge and the foot removed from the tipping lever. The chair is then lowered down the kerb on its rear wheels, with the castor wheels facing rearwards, *this prevents them jamming up momentarily as the chair starts to move*, before pivoting the chair gently to the ground, to face direction of travel and then pushing forward.

### Going up a kerb. First method.

The chair footplates, or occupant feet if longer, should be taken to just in front of the kerb edge. The pusher should hold the chair handles firmly, pressing down on the tipping lever, tilting the chair backwards using body weight leverage, bringing chair forward till the back wheels touch the kerb.

The front castors wheels can then be lowered down onto the path, making sure that the wheels are facing rearwards. With the push handles held firmly the attendant should now lift and push the chair.

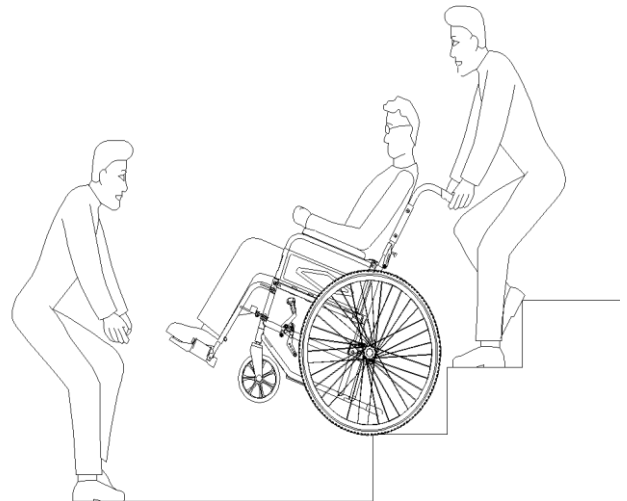
### Going up a kerb. Second method.

The chair should be turned round so that the back wheels are against the kerb and the attendant should hold the pushing handles firmly and tip the chair backwards.

Using body weight as leverage the attendant should then pull the chair off the kerb and up onto the pavement, making sure, as above that the castor wheels are facing rearwards.

The chair may then be pivoted to face the direction of travel and pushed forward.

**Fig 8 – Going down/up a flight of steps**



**Note: The chair must not be tipped forward or the occupant may fall out. When stabilisers have been fitted, this operation is more difficult to control, and extra care should be taken.**

## 6.6 FOOTREST

Correct positioning of the footrests to suit occupant size and position is very important as it has a major effect on distribution of seating pressure. The underside of the occupant's legs should be supported as far forward as possible over the length of the seat, to reduce high-pressure areas. When transferring to and from the wheelchair, avoid contact and weight on the footrest, as this will cause the wheelchair to tip forwards.

To detach the footrest assembly: undo and remove the retaining screw 'a' and lift out of the frame. To attach the footrest assembly: Locate the footrest in the front frame and Align the holes to the required setting and replace and tighten the retaining screw ensuring that the screw head is on the outside of the chair



**Tools required: 4mm Allen Key**

**Keep fingers and other items away from the footrest attachment assembly when it is being attached to prevent injury .**

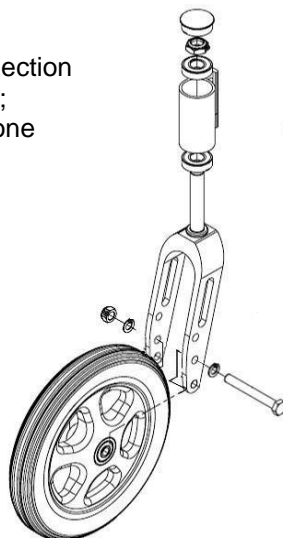
When the chair is fully open, push the footrests down. The height of footrests on the Dash Stowaway is adjustable.

With the user sitting in the wheelchair, lower the footplate and ensure that it is in a comfortable position for their feet. The safest position is usually with thighs horizontal, and hips and knees at right angles. If the position is not comfortable the footplate can be adjusted.

## 6.7 CASTOR

There are three height selection holes for the castor wheel; however only the middle one should be used

**Fig 9 – Castor assembly exploded view**



## 7. HANDLING & STABILITY ON STEPS & SLOPES

A little forward planning can eliminate difficult manoeuvres such as steps. Modern public buildings should provide permanent wheelchair ramps, with a practical slope angle, built according to regulations, for safe access.

Technical Test data on stability of wheelchairs should be seen as a tool for comparison. Data does not convey actual feel of the wheelchair in the intended environment. Initial supervised user training and assessment by a rehabilitation professional, with the wheelchair in the intended usage environment is recommended, and users should ensure that they are confident with regard to this aspect of use.

An important factor in considering accessibility and slopes is the effort demanded from the occupant or attendant using the chair (attendant brakes are an available option). Pushing up a steep slope which extends over a distance, may create a need to stop and rest, which in turn demands additional and undesirable effort to start back upwards again. Stopping a wheelchair on a steep downward slope also demands effort and control, and surface conditions need to be taken into account when deciding what outdoor route to take. Manoeuvres, which demand over exertion, may create risk of injury to the user and should be avoided. However, if in temporary difficulty, wheelchair users should not hesitate in asking for assistance from people nearby, someone will usually be happy to help.

Modern buildings should have slopes built to a required standard angle, but this is not the case with all access areas. Learning the geography of an area is important. As an all round guide, a maximum safe slope of 8 degrees is our recommendation for the R Healthcare range of manually propelled wheelchairs. However this recommendation may need to be changed if the wheelchair has attachments added to it, such as an elevating legrest or carry bag, which adversely affects stability. Such changes to the chair specification may have a critical effect, and they require re-assessment by rehabilitation professional.



**SAFE SLOPE OF 8 DEGREES FOR MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS**

Where possible, the hazard of negotiating steps should be avoided. Many falls and injuries to both occupant and helper can occur when inexperienced people are carrying out this operation, and if users or carers are concerned about a particular hazard in the usage environment, which they must regularly overcome, they should consult their wheelchair rehabilitation service, or community services department, as appropriate.

There may still be occasions when steps must be negotiated. In the event of the chair having detachable pushing handles, these should be checked for security in the locked position before attempting this manoeuvre. Stabilisers may require removal if they interfere with the chair balance angle on a flight of steps. This should first be checked out with an unoccupied chair.

Two attendants at least are required for this operation. The attendant supporting the main load should grip the chair at the push handles, and repeat the procedure as section 2.6 for getting down a kerb at each step, the second attendant at the front will be required to guiding the footrest area, and provide reassurance to the occupant. A third person could act as guide for the chair team if the steps are high. Reverse this procedure for going up a flight of steps, with the attendant supporting the main load at the push handles pulling, and the second attendant at the front guiding the chair using the corner of each side frame.

Specialist training for very experienced users to negotiate a flight of stairs independently is available, but this is beyond the context of this guide.

The model Stowaway is not fitted with Stabilizers and therefore the chair attendant must be aware of instability when the possibility of chair rearward tilt is

### Outdoor Safety Hints

Most pavements slope slightly towards the kerb and the wheelchair may have a tendency to pull towards the road. Occupant controlled Active User wheelchairs with cambered wheel setting reduce this tendency.

The fitting of polyurethane tyres eliminates punctures, and provides reassurance of not being stranded some distance from a service centre, but the use of these tyres imposes a harder ride and the wheels must be checked more frequently, to ensure that there is no deterioration of spoke tension and security. Polyurethane tyres have slightly less grip than pneumatic tyres; therefore, self propelled chairs fitted with polyurethane tyres are also fitted with a high friction brake shoe grip.

When out at night, ensure that both you and your wheelchair are visible, consider both clothing, and light reflective trim features.

## 8. TRANSPORTATION

Wherever possible it is recommended that wheelchair occupants transfer to a vehicle seat during a journey, with the wheelchair securely stored separately in a purpose made storage area.

### Stowing the wheelchair in a car boot

The folded chair should be placed close to the car boot with armrests, footrests and other removable parts detached to split total weight into component form. Wheelchairs with detachable wheels reduce the weight for lifting. The person stowing the chair should grip convenient fixed parts of the chair, and lift

FIG 10

keeping the back straight, bending from the hips and knees. If in any doubt about handling the weight, assistance should be sought.



### Car Driver Information

Physically active wheelchair users can drive cars and store the wheelchair in the car independently, with a lot of practice. Training at specialist driving centres is recommended. Two door cars provide the greatest access space. Gaining entry to the car first involves side transfer as section 3. When carrying this manoeuvre wheelchair users should chose a position where there is no risk of interference from other traffic.

The stored wheelchair requires locating not only so that the driver can reach it, but also to remain safely secured during the journey.

It is recommended that wheelchairs stored on the front passenger seat are secured using the car seat belt through the frame. A wheel bag may be useful for long journeys or for keeping dirt away from the car seating area. When there is another able bodied passenger present, the storing options as section 9.1 are recommended.

## 9. Stowaway Technical Data

<b><u>DASH STOWAWAY</u></b>	<b><u>Results</u></b>
Max occupant weight ( advised )	110Kg
Stump Support	NO
Elevating Legrest	NO
<b>Seating area dimensions</b>	
service reference width	18"
service reference depth	16"
effective width	455mm
effective depth	420mm
backrest canvas height	410mm
backrest frame angle from vertical	10 degrees
seat frame angle from horizontal	5 degrees
side transfer by collapsing arms	ALL MODELS
compact static footrest	ALL MODELS
height of armrests	200mm
occupant leg to seat angle	90°
footrest to seat adjustable height	405mm» 485mm
seat front edge to ground	505mm
push handle height	935mm
<b>Corridor widths to turn (315mm wheel)</b>	
through 360 degrees between walls ( includes attendant )	1425mm
<b>Overall dimensions (315mm)</b>	
open width	580mm
open length	930mm » 980mm
open height	953mm
folded width	320mm
folded length	895mm » 960mm
folded height	590mm
frame wheelbase	375mm
<b>Rear wheel</b>	
Fixed	ALL MODELS
diameter	315mm
width	40mm
<b>Front castor one type only</b>	
diameter	190mm
width	30mm
Total weight for lifting (No detachable components 315mm)	12.60 Kg
Dynamic test ISO 7176-8 ( Rolling Road )	200,000 Revs
Dynamic test ISO 7176-8 ( Kerb Drop )	6666 Drops
<b>Static Stability (315mm)</b>	
forwards	13°
backwards	14.5°
sideways	16.5°

## 10. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

When using the chair, both indoors and outside, always take precautions against fire risks. Avoid smoking, and do not park the wheelchair against an open fire, or intense heat source. Bear in mind that the temperatures reached in a hatchback car on a hot day can cause stored wheelchair component parts to become too hot to handle. When parking, the pusher should position the chair so that the occupant can see and communicate as well as possible. In buildings check that fire exits and procedures are understood.



**DISABLED PERSONS ARE AT GREATER RISK THAN OTHERS IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE. THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH A WHEELCHAIR IS USED SHOULD INCORPORATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO MINIMISE FIRE RISK TO WHEELCHAIR OCCUPANTS**

## GENERAL PRECAUTIONS & INFORMATION

### Warranty

R Healthcare guarantees the products supplied to be free from manufacturing defects, and will replace components where necessary free of charge, for a period of 24 months from the date of purchase as long as the product has not been deemed to have been subject to miss-use. This guarantee is subject to the condition that the product has been used, adjusted and maintained in accordance with the user and maintenance instructions supplied by R Healthcare.

This does not affect your statutory rights. A more complete warranty statement is available on request from Authorised Distributor or Disablement Service Centre.

**The recommended lifetime of the model Dash Stowaway is Five years from purchase date.**

### Service

Service Records should be completed by the Authorised Distributor Servicing Department and retained by the user as a reference. Service checks should be carried out by the Authorised Distributor at the recommended interval specified on the Service Record. Batch code and serial numbers are essential for the specification of spare parts. If in doubt, your Authorised Dealer or Rehabilitation Specialist will be able to provide help and professional advice on correct and safe use of wheelchairs. There are also many national and local organisations, which will be pleased to provide help and advice for wheelchair users.

All R Healthcare wheelchairs are designed with the needs of disabled people in mind. We hope that our wheelchairs provide their users with the reliability, freedom or independence they need for a more improved lifestyle.

R Healthcare has a policy of constant product improvement and reserves the right to change specifications without prior notice.

This guide contains information of a general nature. All models and attachments have specific features and will have additional information provided showing correct operation method.



**UNAUTHORISED WHEELCHAIR MODIFICATIONS MAKE THIS WARRANTY VOID. R HEALTHCARE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENT RESULTING FROM SUCH UNAUTHORISED MODIFICATIONS.**



## 11. LOOKING AFTER YOUR WHEELCHAIR - GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE

**READ ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO USE**

Users should not attempt major repairs or modifications. Approved Distributors have full Service Information and are able to advise if the chair becomes damaged, requiring major part replacement, or refitting. If in any doubt about service requirements, contact the Approved Distributor. The R Healthcare Customer Services Dept is also available for more information. The Service Record included with this Information Guide, has details of model references to be quoted when Service Information is requested.

Frequency of distributor service maintenance depends on usage level. We recommend that chairs are checked by the distributor at assessed intervals, according to the level of use and usage environment. Warranty can be affected if a wheelchair is not adequately maintained.

Users should note that wheelchairs retain appearance if looked after and cleaned regularly, referring to the list below for routine maintenance and safety checks, which they are responsible for.

### **Information received from upholstery manufacturer**

The fabric used for wheelchair upholstery is easily cleaned in-situ. However, as there are some substances which may affect the material, careful attention to REGULAR cleaning will not only prolong its life but will ensure that its appearance is maintained.

### **Resistance to stains and chemicals**



The upholstery is resistant to most mild acids, alkalis and household stains. Some substances such as ball-point pen ink, lipstick, newsprint and food colourings may be absorbed by the vinyl and cause permanent staining. This can often be minimised by immediate cleaning with a damp, soapy cloth or sponge

### **Cleaning**



To maintain its appearance, the fabric should be cleaned REGULARLY to remove fatty substances in soiling, which may reduce its service life. Light soiling can be removed by adding a small amount of washing up liquid to some warm water and then applying to the fabric with a cloth. Rinse off with clean water before allowing to dry. If need be, a Mild solution of antiseptic can be applied to the fabric.

### **Do not use**



Chemical bleaching materials, abrasive cleaners, wax polishes or aerosol spray polishes. The use of these substances is likely to be harmful to PVC laminates and repeated use can result in the removal of plasticiser from the PVC compound which will result in hardening and subsequent cracking of the material's surface.

### **PRESERVATION & STORAGE**



If the wheelchair can not be kept indoors, then it is recommended as a minimum consideration that the wheelchair is stored in garage type conditions, away from wet or damp areas.

During the course of general use, the wheelchair may become wet, due to rain and such events. When practical the wheelchair should be wiped down with a dry cloth, this is to reduce the risk of corrosion.

Where wheelchairs are stored in the back of cars and similar transportation vehicles, there are occasions especially in hotter climatic conditions such as summer, it is advisable to cover the wheelchair with a suitable cover. This will reduce the risk of the wheel becoming hot, having an effect on user or carer handling the chair out of the vehicle.

When a doubt exists, where the wheelchair has suffered constant miss use of storage, the wheelchair should be removed from the client, and disposed of.

## 12. SERVICE CHECK LIST

Brakes	The brake should hold the chair on a ramp angle of approx. 10 degrees. Try the chair on a slope or ramp, which you may use. If necessary, have the brake readjusted.
Wheels	Check general condition, free running and clearance in hubs, wheel wobble of 3mm measured at rim is acceptable, excessive movement is an indication of wear. Chairs fitted with puncture free tyres in particular will require frequent checks on spoke security, and any spoke looseness or other fault should be brought to the attention of the Approved Distributor. It is recommended that wheels and castors are always replaced in pairs
Tyres	Ensure that the solid tyres are free from splits, flats or significant damage that may effect the handling / use of the product. Badly worn tyres should be replaced. It is recommended that wheels and castors are always replaced in pairs
Moving Parts	Occasional lubrication of sliding parts and pivots. We recommend the use of a non toxic lubricant is used e.g. Superlube Plus (from Lubrication Services) which is FDA approved for food use, will allow easy operation.
Upholstery	The upholstery should be wiped with a damp cloth. Marks can be removed using a mild detergent. Pressure washing is not recommended. Damage should be repaired before it causes problems. A slight catch in the upholstery may result in a longer tear if not dealt with when it first occurs.
Frame and Fittings	Paint work can be protected using a proprietary car wax polish. Check that all detachable parts latch in correctly and positively, particularly push handles, footrests, armrests and stabilisers where appropriate.
Handgrips	Ensure that the Handgrips are secure. If grips are loose or damaged the wheelchair is unsafe and the grips must be replaced. Replacement grips and method of fitting must be to R Healthcare approved specification.

## 13. Useful addresses

### MHRA Medicines & Healthcare

Products Regulatory Agency  
 Wheeled Mobility Centre  
 241 Bristol Avenue  
 Bispham  
 Blackpool  
 FY2 0BR  
 Tel 01253 596000  
 Fax 01253 596177  
 Website: [www.mrha.gov.uk](http://www.mrha.gov.uk)

### R Healthcare

Building 2  
 Philips Campus  
 Wellhall Road  
 Hamilton  
 ML3 9BZ  
 Tel 0870 60 90 600  
 E-Mail: [sales@rhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:sales@rhealthcare.co.uk)  
 Website: [www.rhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.rhealthcare.co.uk)

### BHTA British Healthcare Trades Association

New Loom House  
 Suite 4.06  
 101 Back Church Lane  
 London  
 E1 1LU  
 020 7702 2141  
 020 7680 4048  
 Website: [www.bhta.com](http://www.bhta.com)  
 E-mail: [bhta@bhta.com](mailto:bhta@bhta.com)

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