



## Safety Bulletin 136

### Follow up - Official Manufacturers Update Regarding Razor Deck Incident

Following on from a recent bulletin regarding an incident involving a MEWP, the following information has been issued, which we have been asked to distribute. Please take note and forward on to whoever deemed necessary.

There is currently a 'Safety Alert' going round, which originated from a Health & Safety officer from Wates Construction, due to a Razordeck unit collapsing on site. The unit was on hire from A-Plant by a contractor working on the site. We understand the operative sustained minor injuries and was back at work the next day.

This was meant to be an internal email to all Wates sites advising the units be taken out of action until a full investigation had been carried out by the manufacturer, but it seems the email has been forwarded to almost everyone in the construction trade.

A full investigation has been carried out on site by the manufacturers and it has been confirmed that the unit collapsed due to the operative not locating the lower 'secondary safety catch', which is located opposite the ladder end (step 5 of the setup procedure), and is not a design or manufacture fault.

Unfortunately this email had been sent out before the manufacturers had inspected the unit in question and seems to have caused a mass panic!

Although the catch is sprung loaded, it should still be checked to ensure it has engaged before the unit is used. Over time, dirt and debris which builds up can affect the self locking operation of the catch. We recommend spraying the catch assembly with some WD-40 or other thin lubricating fluid to help stop the catch from sticking.

On the 15th July the manufacturers released the following press release:

*Further to the Safety Alert issued regarding an incident with a Razor Deck 200 Self Erecting Tower an investigation has been conducted and an external consultants report has been produced confirming that the tower did not collapse due to product failure.*

*Fortunately the individual involved was not seriously injured and he returned to work the following day. As the fall was from a 2 metre platform height, the potential for injury was much greater and it was this potential that instigated the initial Safety Alert.*

*The conclusion regarding the likely chain of events, although difficult to prove, is that the hinge locks were not properly engaged by the operator so when weight was put on it the leg collapsed.*



*In response to the incident, the manufacturer is working closely with the customer to enhance instructions and training materials provided with the product to reduce the risk of such an incident occurring in the future.*

*The Razor Deck product range has undergone stringent testing meeting the requirements of all applicable safety standards to ensure suitability for use.*

*Razor Deck remains to be the only product on the market that can be fully erected from ground level offering a solution to safe working at height.*

Many of the Razordeck units used on site are supplied by hire centres and probably not supplied with a user guide. Although this is an isolated incident, we would recommend making a copy of the user guide available to any contractors using the Razordeck on site to ensure they are using the product correctly and safely. This can be downloaded from [www.razordeck.co.uk/razordeck\\_manual.pdf](http://www.razordeck.co.uk/razordeck_manual.pdf)

**If you require any further information, clarification or assistance with the above, then please do not hesitate to contact us:**

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