

REF ISB2503

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Office chair safety

What happened?

IRIC has identified an increase in adverse incident reports involving office chairs.

Between 2022 and 2025 IRIC received 9 (nine) adverse incident reports involving office chairs

This compares with 0 (zero) adverse incidents in between 2018 and 2021.

Multiple manufacturers, models and suspected problems are involved.

Failure modes include collapse, backrest detachment, and sudden seat lowering.

What did we learn?

The 9 referenced adverse incident reports do not highlight any trends involving manufacturers, models or root causes and do not support any specific evidence-based conclusions or recommendations

Office chairs can be used very intensively and in some cases they may be in use 24/7.

When office chairs fail injury can be caused.

How can it be prevented?

Follow manufacturer's instruction for assembly, use, ongoing inspection, maintenance and cleaning of office chairs.

Damaged or worn-out chairs should be repaired or replaced.

Follow local Display Screen Equipment (DSE) and Health & Safety policies.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published [seating at work guidance](#) to ensure workplace seating is safe and suitable.

National Procurement manage the framework **NP801 Office & Patient Furniture** and product catalogues are available on Pecos.

If you become aware of an adverse incident or near miss, or if you have a safety concern about a piece of equipment, report it to IRIC (details below). Incidents and near misses should also be reported to your local incident reporting and learning system which you might know as InPhase, Datix or Ullyses.

IRIC Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre

To find safety alerts:
scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)



To report an incident:
scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)

