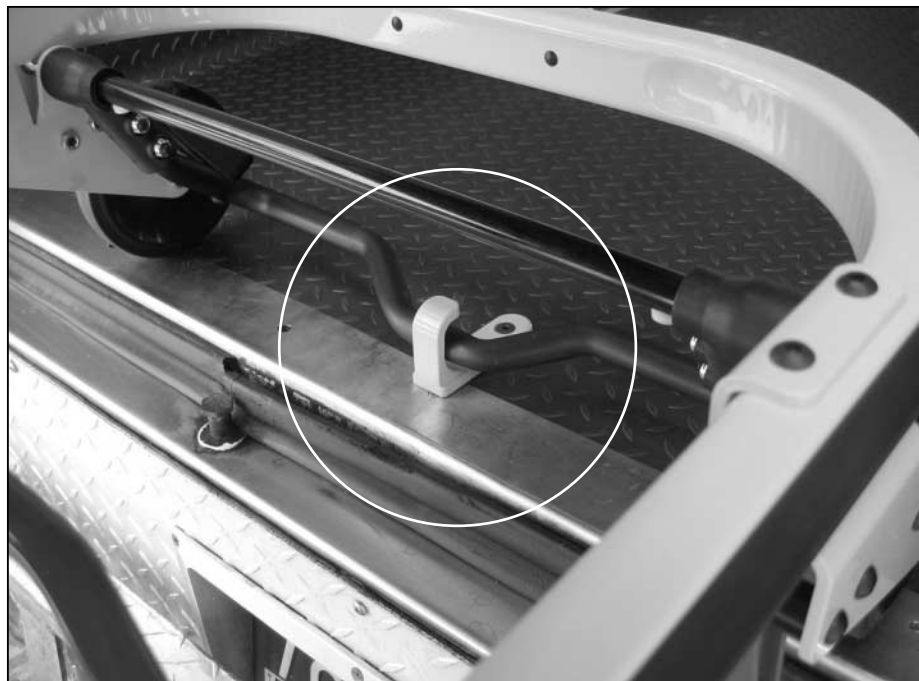
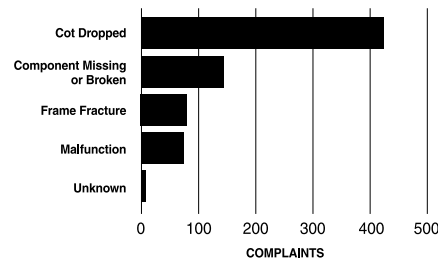


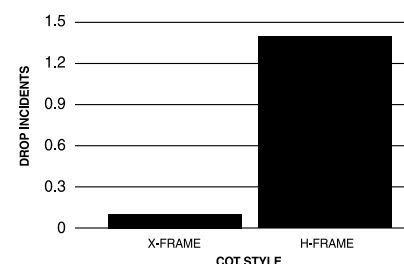
# Installation of a Safety Hook Helps Reduce the Risk of Cot Drop Incidents



FDA Medical Device Report Analysis (1993-2003)\*



Cot Drop Incidents Per 1,000 Cots in the Field\*



\* U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Device Reporting Database, July 2003

## Situation

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel perform a wide array of potentially hazardous rescue procedures. In this intense environment, one mistake can sometimes be costly. The common procedure of loading and unloading patients on an ambulance cot presents several opportunities to make a mistake, such as a cot drop.

In fact, industry medical device reports filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cite cot drop incidents as a leading cause of potential patient handling accidents.

Further analysis reveals that the number of cot drop incidents per 1000 cots in the field is 14 times greater for H-Frame style vs. X-Frame style cots.



MX-PRO™ R3



EZ-PRO® R4

## Rationale

Stryker EMS recognized the opportunity to provide a product that could reduce the risk of cot drop incidents and potential operator or patient injury during the loading and unloading process.

A distinctive difference in H-Frame and X-Frame features, as they relate to cot drop incidence, is the use of a safety bar and hook. The safety bar and hook are designed to keep the cot from being removed from the ambulance accidentally and provide increased operator assurance and confidence when unloading. Since inception, MX-PRO model X-Frame cots have been equipped with the safety bar and hook. Realizing the benefits of this feature, Stryker raises the industry standard by now making the safety bar and hook standard on its EZ-PRO model H-Frame cots.

To further enhance its application with H-Frame style cots, Stryker also developed a new safety hook to provide additional ambulance bumper clearance.

## Results

Industry studies show that cots with standard safety bars and hooks have far fewer drop incidents than those without.

Stryker's experience with using the safety bar on the MX-PRO should ensure operators receive these same benefits on the EZ-PRO R4.

In addition, the new safety hook configuration maintains the cot's easy load functionality and provides greater operator confidence when unloading.