

Staebel Liberation Wheelchair User Manual

Product Code: 40400



INTRODUCTION

Before you use your new Staebel Liberation, you must fully read and understand this user manual. Also, as you have this user manual, you agree to the conditions mentioned in this user manual. We want to thank you for the confidence in our Staebel ® products.

The policy of Staebel is focussed on continuously improving the quality and reliability of our products. We therefore reserve the right without further notice to make any changes to this user manual.

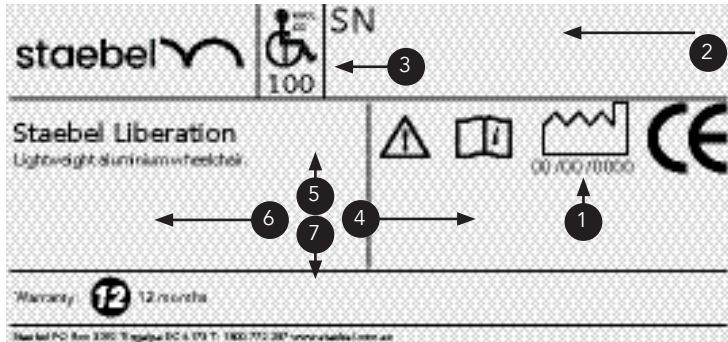
It is important you read this user manual very carefully, before you use your wheelchair. This user manual contains important information about the safe use and maintenance of your wheelchair. We recommend you keep this user manual safe because this document is also your proof of warranty.

The safety instructions within are general guidelines, which must be seen as overall guidelines. It is possible that you develop your own way to make common movements. However, we advise you to consult a professional for assistance in developing safe and effective techniques, regarding your daily activities within your physical capabilities.

Your new wheelchair requires frequent maintenance, much of which you can do yourself. We advise you to take your wheelchair to a professional, at least once a year for a check. You will find a maintenance schedule further on in this user manual. Should you have any queries regarding the operation of this product, please contact your dealer.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Your wheelchair is equipped with a unique serial number. You will find this number on the frame of your wheelchair. Please see below for an example of the frame label sticker. Here you will find details of all the information on the frame label along with an explanation listed below.



1. Production Date

The date of manufacture.

2. Serial Number

Every wheelchair has its own unique serial number. You need this number if you have any technical questions or if you want to order any warranty parts for the wheelchair.

3. Maximum Weight

The maximum weight allowed on the wheelchair.

4. Model Number

This number indicates which model of wheelchair you have. You need this number when you have any technical questions or you want to order any parts for the wheelchair.

5. Model Name

The model name of your wheelchair starts with the brand name Staebel. The brand name Staebel, followed by the additional model description forms the model name of the wheelchair. You need the model name if you have any technical questions or if you want to order any parts for the wheelchair, in this case the Staebel Liberation.

6. Description

The intended use of your wheelchair is described here.

7. Warranty

Here, the warranty period of your wheelchair is reflected. Section 12 (page 21) describes the warranty conditions in further detail.

WHEELCHAIR COMPONENTS

Your wheelchair is equipped with various components and parts. You should know these components and parts before proceeding to use the Staebel Liberation wheelchair.

1. Push Handle
2. Brake / Parking Brake
3. Backrest
4. Armrest
5. Foldable Backrest
6. Seat
7. Side Frame
8. Cross Frame
9. Rear Wheel
10. Footrest (Swing-away)
11. Front Fork
12. Front Wheel
13. Footplate



About The Staebel Liberation

The Staebel Liberation is a comfortable, lightweight aluminium Transit wheelchair designed for transport and compact storage. With its sleek modern frame and lightweight foldable design, the Staebel Liberation wheelchair is perfect for travel. All features of this chair have been designed to make life easier for the user. Features include, fully foldable backrest, dual brake and parking brake push handle function, fold-up armrests as well as lightweight foldable Swing-away footrests. The Staebel Liberation is a wheelchair that comes standard with;

- Seat Belt
- Foldable Footplates
- Puncture Proof Tyres
- Fully Foldable Backrest
- Brake and Parking Brake
- Foldable and Removable Swing-away Footrests

GENERAL SAFETY

Stael will not take responsibility for any injuries or property damage, in the unlikely event of an accident when the recommendations and warnings described in this user manual are not followed. The Stael Liberation is a very safe product when used correctly and if operated incorrectly may cause injuries and or damage.

Protect your wheelchair by checking it regularly. When any part of your Stael Liberation doesn't function correctly, a dangerous situation could occur. Therefore, you must keep your wheelchair in perfect condition, to ensure safe use. Periodical inspection, a correct adjustment and replacement of broken or worn parts in quick time will result in use for years without any problems. An authorised Stael dealer, who will only use Stael replacement parts, will take care of your wheelchair and make sure you can use your wheelchair for years without problems.

To prevent any damage to your property, the wheelchair or the user of the wheelchair, you must read the following warnings. Failure to follow all the instructions in this manual may result in damage to the wheelchair or serious injury.

Warnings!

- Always operate your wheelchair with thought, care and safety.
- Avoid using your wheelchair on roads and always use pavements where possible.
- Do not travel into kerbs.
- It is important that the maximum user weight is not exceeded. The maximum user weight is the weight of the person including luggage etc.
- This model of wheelchair is not suitable for use as a seat in a motor vehicle. The wheelchair could fail in the event of a vehicle impact, leading to injury of the wheelchair user and or others.
- Unauthorised modification and or use of parts not supplied by Stael will invalidate the wheelchair warranty which may lead to user injury and or damage to the wheelchair.
- Do not let children play with or on your wheelchair and allow any children to sit on your lap.
- To avoid a tipping hazard, do not lean over the back of the wheelchair.
- All wheels must be in contact with the floor at all times during use. This will ensure the wheelchair is properly balanced.
- Do not use your wheelchair when it is damaged or has any malfunction.
- Do not attempt to use your wheelchair on an escalator. Always use an elevator.
- Do not carry passengers under any circumstances.
- Always make sure the area around the wheelchair is safe before mounting or dismantling.
- Do not travel backwards or across on an incline or across an uneven surface.
- Always make sure the seat is secured before using your wheelchair.
- Do not use your wheelchair if you are under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication as this is dangerous.

- Before leaning or reaching forward whilst in your wheelchair, always ensure your weight is as far back as possible in the wheelchair and that the castors are faced forwards.
- Always ensure there is no obstruction of the wheels and all loose objects are secured.
- For suitable protection from potential obstruction the footrests should be a minimum of 7 cm clear of the ground.
- Always be aware of and careful near pinch points especially when assembling and disassembling your wheelchair.
- Never sit on your wheelchair when it is being transported.
- Always take extra care when travelling on soft or uneven surfaces such as grass and gravel.
- Always cross streets at intersections and use pedestrian crossings or the most direct route, making sure that your path is clear whilst ensuring you are visible to motor traffic.
- Never travel backwards off a kerb.
- Always check with your doctor to determine if any of the medications you are taking may affect your judgment and or your ability to operate your wheelchair. Also check with your physician concerning your physical ability to operate a wheelchair.
- Do not stand on the footrest as this will cause the chair to tip and could result in user injury.
- Place the wheelchair on a stable, flat surface and use the brakes before transferring to or from the wheelchair.
- Use the brakes whenever stationary.

Warning

- Any changes to the Staebel Liberation wheelchair, which are structural changes, are always at the expense of the warranty.
- Surface temperature can increase when chair is exposed to sunlight, and lead to injury on contact. Therefore, cover these parts or protect the wheelchair from direct sunlight.

USER INSTRUCTIONS

It is very important that you learn the correct and safe usage methods for your wheelchair. Therefore, you need to know all the components of the wheelchair as described in this user manual. Always check with an expert about developing safe methods regarding your physical abilities to use your wheelchair.

Daily Use

Daily use of your wheelchair, for example, getting off/on, reaching or bending in your wheelchair will change the weight distribution, specifically the centre of gravity of you and your wheelchair. Therefore you will need to perform these methods as described below.

Before using the wheelchair in busy or hazardous environments, familiarise yourself with the operation of the wheelchair. Practice operating the wheelchair in a safe open environment to build your confidence.



Transferring

Transferring in a wheelchair is usually a daily task and can be a difficult manoeuvre if not performed correctly. Consult your physician for assistance in developing a safe individual method for you to use. The possibilities you have for making a transfer are depending on your physical build and strength capabilities.

Getting Out / Off The Wheelchair

- Before getting out of the wheelchair make sure it is on a flat surface.
- Make sure that your wheelchair stands as close as possible to the place of where you wish to transfer to.
- Position the castors forward and use the brakes.
- Swing-away the footplates and place your feet on the ground as this will ensure you are in a safe position to carry out the manoeuvre.
- Shift your weight towards the front of the chair, using the armrests as a support and move yourself to the place where you wish to transfer to. If necessary you can use a transfer board.
- When getting in your wheelchair you should follow the same steps for getting out in reverse order.

UNEVEN SURFACES

Going Up Pavement / Kerbs

The attendant can help you in two different methods, however we advise you to do it the first way.

Method 1

- Ensure you and the attendant are facing forwards towards the incline.
- The attendant must pull the push handles towards themselves.
- This causes a leverage effect that tips the wheelchair upwards which allows the attendant to pull the chair up on to the pavement / kerb.

Method 2

- Ensure the attendant is standing on the pavement and the wheelchair is positioned with the rear wheels as close as possible to the pavement.
- The user of the wheelchair should lean backwards. This causes a leverage effect that tips the wheelchair upwards which allows the attendant to pull the chair up on to the pavement / kerb.
- When the wheelchair is up on to the pavement, the attendant can let the front wheels back on to the ground.

Warning

- Do not drive into kerbs!
- Do not get on or off the wheelchair whilst travelling up and or down an incline.
- Do not carry extra weight that exceeds the maximum user weight. This changes the balance and increases the chances of tipping backwards.
- Do not go backwards down or up an uneven surface.

Going Down Pavement / Kerbs

- Ensure you and the attendant are facing forwards towards the decline.
- The attendant must move the wheelchair forward to the decline.
- The user of the wheelchair should lean backwards. This causes the wheelchair to tip backwards which allows the attendant to find a balance point. When the wheelchair is balanced the attendant can move the wheelchair slowly over uneven pavement and or kerbs.
- When the wheelchair is down on to the pavement, the attendant can let the front wheels back down on to the ground.

Warning

- Never go up or down an incline that is covered with snow, ice, leaves, pebbles/stones, wet grass or recently mowed grass. Avoid any ground that may be dangerous to travel on.
- Inspect the slope always for risks, such as holes or slippery and uneven surfaces before you attempt to travel.

Stair Use

Stairs can be a challenging obstacle for many wheelchair users to manoeuvre. However, with a little help from others and or your attendant, it is possible to climb up and down stairs in a easy safe way.

Going Upstairs

- You should go upstairs backwards with two attendants.
- Always ensure you have one attendant at the front and one attendant at the back.
- The attendant at the back should grab the push handles and let the wheelchair tip backwards until the chair has become balanced.
- When the wheels are balanced the front attendant should grab the side frames. This ensures you are in a safe position to proceed up the stairs.
- The front attendant should push the side frames up until they are above the first step whilst the attendant at the back should then step on to the first step of the stairs.
- Repeat this technique until the last step of the stairs has been reached. You can let the front castors down when the attendant at the front has taken the last step.

Going Downstairs

- You should go downstairs facing forwards.
- The attendant at the back should tip the wheelchair until it becomes balanced.
- The front attendant should support the wheelchair by holding the side frames. The wheelchair should then be guided slowly down each step of the stairs.
- For suitable protection from potential obstruction the footrests should be a minimum of 7 cm clear of the ground.
- Never lift a wheelchair by the push handles, armrests or footrests. Always hold a part of the main frame.

Wheelchair Specifications

Below you find the specifications for The Staebel Liberation.

Seat Width:	420 mm
Seat Depth:	400 mm
Seat Height:	450 mm
Total Length:	650 mm
Total Width:	600 mm
Total Height:	900 mm
Backrest Height	400 mm
Max User Weight:	100 kg
Total Weight:	8 kg



Model Operations

Before using your new Staebel Liberation, please make sure you have read and understood the General Safety Warnings.

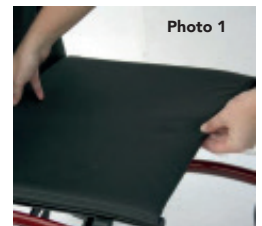
The Staebel Liberation is available in Transit and can only be propelled by an attendant. The attendant should push the wheelchair from behind using the push handles.

Disassembly / Transportation

Your Staebel Liberation is designed to be easily transported by car. Furthermore your wheelchair is equipped with foldable Swing-away and removable footrests. As well as the footrests, some other components are removable for transportation.

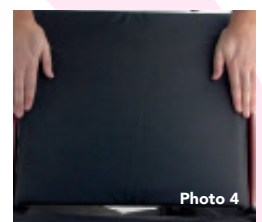
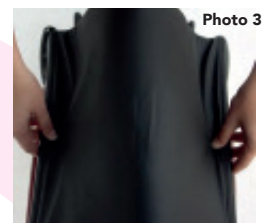
To fold the wheelchair, please follow the steps below;

- Fold up the armrests.
- Before you fold the wheelchair, fold the footplates and swing the footrests 90 degrees outward.
- Get a hold of the seat in the middle from rear to front then pull it straight up (see Photo 1).
- To fold the chair completely, pull the seat up until the frame has completely folded up (see Photo 2).



Unfolding The Wheelchair

- Stand next to the wheelchair.
- Grab both seat tubes and pull them apart.
- Push both seat tubes downwards so that the wheelchair will unfold (see Photo 3).
- Go to the front of the wheelchair and push again on the seat tubes to ensure that they are directly on the frame. This is confirmed when the seat upholstery is flat (see Photo 4).
- Swing the footrests back to their normal position and unfold down the footplates.
- You should now be able to use the wheelchair.



Folding The Wheelchair For Transportation

To fold your Staebel Liberation for transportation, please follow the above Section 5.2 steps in reverse order then follow the below.

- Loosen the mechanism on the foldable backrest and fold the backrest down (see Photo 5).
- Stand in front of the wheelchair.
- Place one hand on the centre of the front of the wheelchair seat and one hand on the rear of the seat then pull up.



Photo 5

Photo 6

Photo 7

Unfolding The Wheelchair After Transportation

- Grab the push handles and pull them towards yourself (see Photo 7).
- Grab both seat tubes and pull them apart (see Photo 3, section 5.2.1 page 12).
- Push both seat tubes downwards so that the wheelchair will unfold (see Photo 3, section 5.2.1 page 12).
- Go to the front of the wheelchair and push again on the seat tubes to ensure that they are directly on the frame. This is confirmed when the seat upholstery is flat (see Photo 4, section 5.2.1 page 12).
- Place the footrests back on to the frame and unfold the footplates (see section 5.3.1, page 14).

Legrest Removal

The legrests of the Staebel Liberation are both foldable and removable. To remove them, you should follow the steps below;

- Stand in front of the wheelchair.
- Fold up each footplate (see Photo 8 and 9 above).
- Remove the mechanism on each of the legrests (see Photo 10). You should now be able to swing the footrest outwards and inwards.
- Swing the footrests 90 degrees outward (see Photo 11).
- Pull each footrest up out of the wheelchair frame.

Legrest Re-Install

- Stand in front of the wheelchair.
- Place the footrests back on to the frame and at a 90 degrees angle (see Photo 11).
- Swing the footrests back to their normal position and unfold down the footplates (see Photo 10).
- You should now be able to use the wheelchair.



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11

Folding / Unfolding The Armrest

- Stand in front of the wheelchair facing the backrest.
- Grab a armrest from the end not attached to the backrest and pull up towards yourself (see Photo 12 and 13).
- Repeat the step above on the other armrests

To fold the armrests, follow the steps above in reverse order.



Photo 12

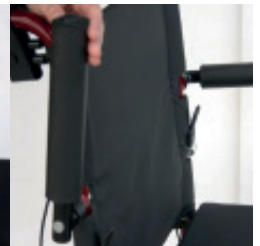


Photo 13

Folding / Unfolding The Backrest

- Stand in front of the wheelchair facing the backrest at rear wheel end.
- Squeeze the backrest release levers at both sides of the wheelchair together (see Photo 14).
- Push down the backrest towards the wheelchair seat until flat.
- To unfold the backrest stand in front of the wheelchair facing the backrest at rear wheel end
- Grab the push handles and pull up the backrest towards yourself (see Photo 15).
- You should hear a click sound, this confirms that the backrest has been securely folded back into position.



Photo 14

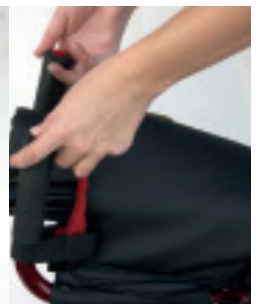


Photo 15

Brakes

The Staebel Liberation models come with a dual brake push handle featuring brake and parking brake.

We recommend you engage the brakes when going in and/or going out of the wheelchair, but also when you are stationary. If you want to engage the brakes, please follow the steps below;

- To engage the brakes, gently squeeze the red lever to slow down the speed of the wheelchair (see Photo 16).
- Do not push the wheelchair whilst squeezing the brake lever as this can cause damage to the wheelchair brakes and tyres.



Photo 16

Attendant / Parking Brakes

The push handles of your Staebel Liberation are designed with Attendant brakes as standard (see Photo 17). Attendant brakes allow the attendant to safely control the speed of the wheelchair and apply the parking brake with ease. The parking brake can be applied by pulling the red lever down towards the ground to engage the parking brake. They will now lock into place, keeping the brake applied even when you release the lever. Pull the red lever up to release the brake (see Photo 16 above).



Photo 17

Using The Seatbelt

- When in the wheelchair, you can fasten the belt by clicking the two loose ends together (see Photo 19).
- If the belt is too loose or too tight you can adjust this to your chosen preference (see Photo 20).
- To release the seat belt, press on the lock plates to unlock it.

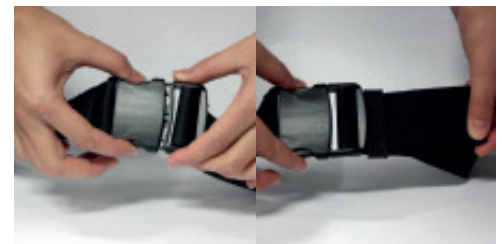


Photo 19

Photo 20

Transportation

The Staebel Liberation is designed to be easily transported by car and easy to disassemble for compact storage. The Staebel Liberation comes standard with a transport bag, for loading and unloading ease (see Photo 21 and 22).



Photo 21



Photo 22

Maintenance

There are a lot of things you can do yourself to keep your wheelchair in optimum condition. If you regularly check the wheelchair and perform small maintenance tasks, this will extend the lifetime of your wheelchair and increase the ease of use. In the following paragraphs these steps maintenance are further described.

Tyres

Examine tyres periodically for wear and replace them as needed.

- PU tyres have the advantage that they do not need to be pumped up and can not be punctured. This PU tyre can wear out. Check periodically to see if the tread is still deep enough.

Brakes

Inspect both brakes for sharp rims. If there are sharp rims on the brakes we advise you to replace them. Ensure that all the parts of the brake are in the right position and fastened secure.

- Ensure that the mechanism is functioning smoothly. If it is not functioning smoothly, put some oil at turning points with one or two drips of WD40 oil or Teflon. Remove surplus oil and dirt.
- Ensure the brakes do not come into contact with the wheels as you are moving.

Cross Brace

The cross-frame of the wheelchair has to be in a good condition. The cross brace is the base of your wheelchair.

- Always check the wheelchair can easily be folded and unfolded.
- Always check the wheelchair travels in a straight line while moving.
- Ensure the cross frame is not bent and shows no signs of wear.

Rear Wheel

A good adjustment of the rear wheels improves the stability of the wheelchair.

- Make sure that the wheels can move freely without touching anything.
- Make sure there is no marks on the rear wheels.

Front Castor / Front Castor Fork

The front fork must move and turn freely to ensure a smooth ride when using the wheelchair.

- Make sure the nut of the front fork is not over tightened or overly loose.
- When the nut is too loose, the wheels will rotate but the ride will be uncomfortable.
- If the nut is too tight, the chair will be difficult to steer because of the bearings getting pushed so the balls can not move freely.
- When the nut is correct in place the front wheel will stop slowly.
- Make sure the front castor shows no signs of wear.

Upholstery

It is important to check the upholstery of your wheelchair regularly. Torn or worn upholstery can no longer support human weight and this can create dangerous situations.

- Check the upholstery for holes, cracks and worn areas.
- Check the upholstery mount grommets to make sure that they are all correctly aligned and secured.

Cleaning

It is important to clean your wheelchair regularly.

- Clean the upholstery, chassis and plastic components on the wheelchair regularly with a mild soap and water. Never use abrasive cleaners, they can damage the varnish. Also never use steam or high pressure cleaners.
- Wax the varnish of the chassis regularly. Never use solvents, abrasive waxes/chemicals and or spray silicone.
- Dry the wheelchair after cleaning. Also dry your wheelchair after you have been in wet weather conditions, for example, rain.

General Maintenance

Your wheelchair needs periodical maintenance. A badly maintained wheelchair is likely to create more technical problems and fall out of the warranty terms.

Preventive maintenance is most important and many of these things you can easily do yourself or a friend or family member can help you. We highlight below the maintenance you can do yourself.

Every month

- Check the fold ability of the wheelchair.
- Check upholstery for wear.
- Check wheel movement front and rear, check turn ability of the wheels.
- Check if the brakes are working correct.

Every three months

- Check all bolts, screws and nuts, tighten if necessary.
- Check tyre tread for wear.

Recycling

Even a wheelchair that can no longer be used represents valuable material that can be recycled into the industrial process. Therefore, never throw away your wheelchair for disposal in the household waste, but have it disposed of professionally in an official waste-disposal centre. Your local waste service will be pleased to advise you. The environment will thank you.

Warranty Application

On your wheelchair is a factory warranty label which details the warranty terms of your product.

This warranty is only granted to you as the consumer. It is not intended to be used commercially (hire or institutional use). The warranty is limited to defects to materials and possible hidden shortages. Staebel guarantees the following components on your Staebel Liberation wheelchair.

- Warranty period: 12 months

Warning. Staebel cannot be liable for any consequent or individual damage whatsoever. While this manual is created with care, it is not exclusive. If your wheelchair does not comply with the rules contained in this user manual, you should always go to an authorised Staebel dealer or the dealer who sold you the product to discuss the problem. The warranty is only valid during the indicated period. If adjustments are made to the Staebel Liberation wheelchair, which have structural impact on the product, the warranty will become void.

Warranty Conditions

The warranty period starts upon the date of purchase of your wheelchair. If within the warranty period, your wheelchair develops a defect, it will be repaired or replaced. However you do need to provide to Staebel a complete warranty registration form or a copy of receipt with date of purchase. Without a warranty registration form or a proof of the purchase, the warranty will start at the date when you purchased the chair from the dealer.

Repairs and replacements must be fitted by an authorised Staebel service agent. To qualify for the warranty, your wheelchair must have an up to date service schedule. Furthermore, if a problem occurs, you need to inform the Staebel Service Team immediately.

When parts of the wheelchair fail within the warranty period of purchasing, the part or parts will be repaired or replaced free of charge, if the problem is a manufacture or material errand or only if the wheelchair is with its original owner, our warranties are non-transferable between shops or persons.

This warranty does not include any labour charges incurred by replacements. Replaced or repaired parts fall under the same warranty conditions as the original wheelchair. Worn parts are not guaranteed, unless these parts are worn as a direct result of an original manufacturer defect. These parts are for example upholstery, tyres, inner tubes and similar kinds of parts. The warranty conditions above describe all wheelchair parts, and are applied for the models bought at the normal price.

Under normal circumstances no responsibility is accepted when the wheelchair needs replacement or repairs as a direct result from:

- Not maintaining the wheelchair and parts according to the recommendations of the manufacturer, or not using the specific original parts.
- Damaging the wheelchair or parts by inattentive use, accident or wrong use.
- Adjusting the wheelchair or parts, different from the specifications of the manufacturer, or reparations done before the service agent is warned.
- If the product is not equipped with an original factory frame number and identification label as described in the manual (see Section 2 Product Identification).

The wheelchair which is described and shown in this user manual can differ from your own model in details. However, all instructions are relevant, independent of slightly different details. We reserve the right to change the product in this user manual without further notice. All drawings, measures and capacities showed in this manual, are approximations and may be slightly different to your wheelchairs specifications.

For warranty service, contact your authorised dealer from where you bought your wheelchair . In the event they are unable to help or satisfied, Staebel welcomes you to contact us in writing.

T: 1800 772 287 | www.staebel.com.au | hello@staebel.com.au

Postal Address: PO Box 3392 Tingalpa DC 4173 Australia

CERTIFICATE



Product identification

Product: *Manually propelled wheelchairs*
 Brand: *Caremart*
 Model/type: *Carrymate*
 Version:

Manufacturer:

Name: *Van Os Medical B.V.*
 Address: *Koperslagerij 3*
4651 SK Steenbergen

Country: *The Netherlands*

EU Representative:

Name: *W. van Os*
 Address: *Koperslagerij 3*
4651 SK Steenbergen

Country: *The Netherlands*

Function: *Director*

Technical constructed file

Prepared by: Name: *J.M.J. Brouwer BBA*
 Function: *Research and Development*
 Issue date: *01-04-2014*
 TCF date: *01-04-2014*
 Recertification date:

Means of conformity

The product is in conformity with Directive 93/42/EEC based on the use of a Technical construction file in accordance with Article 9 (Class I products) of the Directive.

Signature of EU representative:

Place : *Steenbergen*

Date : *01-04-2014*

Number : *VOS.TCF.EX.0251*