Advisory No. 2

SLIDING GATES

Tips for Minimizing Accidents

This advisory is intended to address the need for greater safety considerations in the design, construction, installation and maintenance of manual and automatic sliding gates. It is being issued as an interim guide to homeowners and other stakeholders in light of recent accidents, involving sliding gates.

1. INSTALL A SAFETY POST

A safety post prevents falling or toppling if the gate comes off the track; details of its construction are as follows:

Height: Full height of the gate (at the gate post) or at least the height of a horizontal member which spans the entire width of the gate and whose position is at the mid-height of the gate or higher.

Location: Adjacent to and approximately 6" (150mm) on the inside of the gate post (the one remote from the latch),

Details: At least a 3" (75mm) diameter steel pipe or 3"x3" (75x75 mm) rectangular hollow section cast in an 8" x 8" (200 mm x 200 mm), or 8" diameter foundation which extends 16" (400 mm) deep into the ground.

2. CHECK YOUR SAFETY STOP

A safety stop prevents the gate from travelling past the fully open position which can result in toppling or falling; details of its construction are as follows:

Height: At least 1.5" (40 mm) above ground level,

Location: At the end of the track, where the gate should stop in its fully open position

Details: 1/4" (6 mm) flat steel section cut to fit on track groove and welded to the track. There should also be a supporting back plate to brace the stop

3. CONDUCT REGULAR CHECKS

To ensure that the gate rolls or "slides" smoothly and can be operated safely, conduct the following checks regularly:

• Ensure that the track is free of debris (stones, pieces of wood, metal fragments etc.) or excessive dirt build-up

• Ensure that the wheels (at the bottom of the gate) and the rollers (at the top) are lubricated and rolling smoothly

• Check for any cracks or corrosion on the track, the safety stop and all brackets and welds

• Ensure that the bracket holding the top guide or rollers is securely fastened to the supporting wall or post