



# SISC BULLETIN

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS of CALIFORNIA

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February 2, 2001

TO: Directors of Maintenance and Operations  
SISC II Member Districts

FROM: Catherine Wilson Jones, CSP  
Director, Safety and Loss Control

SUBJECT: Stackable Chair Collapse

A recent incident occurred in a SISC member district involving a chair that collapsed causing injury to a district employee. The type of chair was a plastic stackable chair with metal legs. The cause of the collapse was due to a metal failure at the weld site. Inspection of additional chairs revealed a number of metal and weld failures. The chair involved in this most recent incident is manufactured by Virco.

Virco is a popular chair used in many districts. The newer chairs have the following notice attached:

“NOTICE: To prevent structural failures and possible injury, furniture should not be used other than for its intended purpose and should be inspected regularly for loose or missing screw or rivets, metal fatigue, cracks, broken welds, missing attachments, loose staples, and general instability. Furniture that is damaged or appears to be unstable should immediately be removed from service, reported to the facility manager, and replaced or repaired. Repairs should only be made using factory-authorized parts and methods. For information on furniture maintenance, or to report furniture that requires service, call Virco toll-free at 1-800-488-4758.”

Virco chairs have a five-year warranty, which provides for replacement of a chair that fails within the warranty period. Close and ongoing inspections will reveal a metal/weld failure before the chair suffers a collapse. Some districts have even been successful in negotiating a seven-year warranty period.

Regardless of the type of chair used in your district, please advise classroom teachers and custodians to monitor chair conditions. It is particularly important to remove chairs from service and to label “damaged - do not use” for any chair that shows signs of damage that may lead to a chair failure.

If you have any questions, please contact your SISC Safety and Loss Control Representative.

CWJ:sh