

## Sling & Lift Compatibility Statement for Savaria Group Product Lines

**October 2023**

Savaria Corporation's group comprised of manufacturing companies which produce a number of lifts and slings within its growing network of affiliated partners around the world (the "Savaria Group"). This statement is provided as a sling and lifter compatibility guidance to its varying brand names. Savaria Group products are always manufactured under strict safety protocols. Savaria Group issues this statement to **confirm** that products manufactured and distributed under the following brand names are interchangeable among its group product portfolios:

**Savaria Concord Lifts Inc.**  
**Handicare Canada Ltd**  
**Handicare USA LLC\***  
**Span-America Medical Products, Inc.**  
**Span Medical Products Canada ULC.**  
**Silvalea Ltd**

\*Handicare USA LLC (formerly Prism Medical) has produced a variety of slings under brands including: Waverly Glen, ErgoSafe, MedCare, Vancare, SystemRoMedic and Prism Medical that utilize an industry-standard hook and loop system.

### Compatibility with non-Savaria Group products

The Savaria Group **guarantees** the use of its loop slings and clip slings using the Savaria *Danser*® *Universal Safety Clip* on other equipment manufactured by independent manufacturers.

The interchangeability of slings across different lift manufacturers should **NOT BE ASSUMED**.

Indeed, a full clinical risk assessment shall always be conducted by a competent assessor. A sling shall always be used in conjunction with its instructions of use, and compatibility is dependent on the lift type and the style of the attachment.

As an example, a 2-point or 4-point loop fixing spreader bar is for those slings with loop slings only and a stud (wishbone style) spreader bar is for clip slings only.

## BEFORE USE

### *Client Assessment*

A clinical risk assessment shall be conducted with the patient at the time of sling selection, or if there is a change in the condition of the patient.

The clinical risk assessment shall be conducted by a qualified nurse, therapist or other medical professional.

The clinical assessment applies especially (but not limited) to patients that are non-weight bearing, or only partial weight bearing, have weak control of their torso, are hemiplegic, or cannot grasp with either hand.

**Note:** Clients with neurological deficits, such as dementia and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) can significantly impact a person's ability to follow directions, and motor and sensory functions.

If applicable follow any care plan that might be in place for your patient.

### *Condition of Sling & Lifting Equipment*

Any sling and lift shall be checked before (and after) use for cleanliness, and if necessary washed according to instructions on the product label.

Sling loops, straps and fabric shall also be inspected for tears, loose threads, and fraying prior to each use.

Initial appraisal of the sling and lift combination shall also ensure the following:

- Care staff shall be effectively trained in identifying the differences in the weight capacities between the slings and the lifting equipment;
- Care staff shall be educated on the different colour-to-size coding of slings;
- Care staff shall be trained on properly sizing and fitting the sling for the client and care situation; and
- Safe Working Load (SWL) shall be clearly stated on the sling and hoist labels – never exceed the safe working load on either the sling or the hoisting equipment. When using a sling and a hoist with different SWL always use the lesser of the SWL as the maximum lift capacity.

**If the label on either the lifting equipment or the sling is not clearly visible, the latter shall be removed from service.**

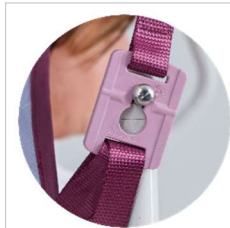
## DURING USE

During the use of a lift and sling system, the following precautions shall be taken:

- The distance from the lift's carry bar to patient in the sling is appropriate and safe; and
- The carry bar of the lift should not constrict the patient, nor shall it be excessively wide.

**MOST IMPORTANT:** check that the sling attachment loops are all fully secured on the carry bar before and during the transfer. The sling loops and straps or clips shall **ALL** be tight and connected properly to the carry bar prior to and at the point of the client's weight being taken up by the sling and lift.

This process shall be reviewed prior to all transfers/repositioning of the patient (i.e. bed to chair, toilet to chair, etc).



This image shows the Savaria Danser® Universal Safety Clip correctly applied to the stud fixing type hoist spreader bar.



These images show the sling loops correctly applied to the standard loop fixing type spreader bar.

## AFTER USE

The sling shall be checked for any soiling, tearing, fraying, or loose stitching. Any indication of damage to the sling requires the sling to be removed from use. With regards to laundering, slings should be classified as medical devices, not linens. The sling shall be inserted into a laundry bag prior to being placed into the washer. Use of a laundry bag will reduce additional wear and tear from the washing machine components.

**Slings must not be exposed to bleaching or caustic agents in the laundry.**

Washing temperatures vary, please follow the wash instructions on the sling label.

*Our technical support teams are on hand to assist you further:*



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