

Why does Stieglmeyer prefer the new split/combined side rails to the previous split side rails that travel with the rests?

The subject of split side rails that travel with the rests is regularly and vigorously debated within the market. This system involves two side rail elements that are connected directly to the backrest and the leg rest respectively. When the position of the backrest or leg rest is adjusted, these two side rail elements move with the rests. This alters the distance between the side rail elements and can be dangerous for the patient. Disoriented patients (disoriented, for example, as a result of their medication) in particular can slip between the side rail elements. Entrapment with severe consequences can result. A gap between the fixed headboard and the side rail also opens up when raising the backrest and this can present a potential hazard.

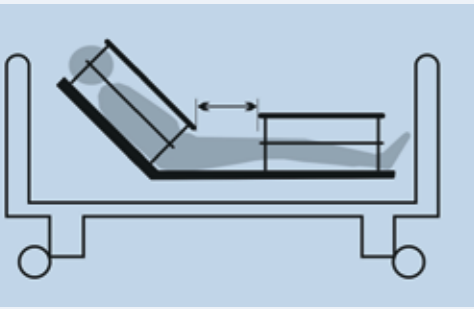
The US federal FDA institute has published a study on split side rails, listing various hazards associated with them. The study also points out that numerous incidents (some with fatal consequences) involving this type of side rail have already occurred in the USA. The FDA study can be found in the internet under www.fda.gov.

Experience regarding side rails that travel with the rests has been gathered over many years in the US nursing and hospital market. The significance of the FDA study is therefore extremely important, particularly since this type of side rail has only been on the German market for a few years and correspondingly less potential experience is thus available in Germany compared to the US. In Germany there have also been incidents with fatal results. Split side rails already take second place on the German Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices' (Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte, BfArM) list of incidents relating to side rails, although this type is relatively scarce on the market in comparison to continuous side rails.

The findings of the US study will presumably be incorporated in the anticipated new international IEC 60601-2-52 standard for hospital beds and care beds, so that possible consequences are also conceivable here.

Due to the changing distances between the side rail elements, the use of rail height extensions is not unproblematic with this type of rail. Height extensions are in ever increasing demand, however, to enable the use of thicker and more comfortable mattresses whilst still adhering to the standards. Many patients need continuous side rails due to their physical or psychological condition. The use of special retrofit elements to close the gap is often considered burdensome by nursing staff. This also often restricts the possible range of adjustments.

Stieglmeyer has developed the new split/combined side rail model based on this awareness and introduced it to the market with great success.



Stieglmeyer sets standards
**THE NEW GENERATION
OF SPLIT SIDE RAILS**



Meeting several requirements with just one construction:
The new generation of split/combined side rails

When raised on both sides, the side rails also fulfil the official requirements for the use of posey belts.



Raised on both sides, the advantages of the continuous side rails are achieved without reservation.



The new handset holder:
Integrated on the mobilisation aid *Mobivit* within easy reach.



The mobilisation aid *Mobivit*:
Positioned perfectly ergonomically, it helps the patient to pull himself up.



With an effective safety height of 42 cm above the mattress base, not only is the patient supported safely (even when the head-end rail alone is raised), but it is also possible to use mattress systems up to 20 cm thick whilst still complying with the standards.



Raised only at the head end: the generous freedom of movement at the foot end enables the patient to leave the bed safely: fall prevention as a design concept.



Even when raised only at the head end, the side rails meet the requirements for adequate safety provision as specified in the current EN 60601-2-38/A1 standard.

The mobilisation aid *Mobivit*: Available in 2 different positions, it can be removed very easily if required and stored under the mattress base, ready to hand, when not in use.



The extremely stable mobilisation aid *Mobivit* helps the patient to stand up.



As a side frame, the side rails offer perfect collision protection due to their closed construction, e. g. nothing can pass between the rails, whatever their position, when the bed is being moved.

It goes without saying that the expected requirements of the prospective new IEC 60601-2-52 standard were taken into account in the development of the new split/combined side rails.