

Hill-Rom®

A HILLENBRAND INDUSTRY

SUBJECT: Ground fault indicator light, using Med-Surge beds on isolated power systems.

Dear Valued Customer,

This is in response to your concern regarding the use of Hill-Rom Centra®, Advance™ and Advanta Med-Surg beds on isolated power in an ICU unit. Under this condition, the "Ground Loss" indicator will be illuminated. If there is a concern as to whether these beds are safe for patients and attendants when used on isolated power, the use of isolated power on any Hill-Rom bed does not present a safety problem. The "Ground Loss" light being on does not indicate that safety has been breached.

When the hospital bed is connected to an isolated power system, the neutral blade on the bed plug becomes separated from its normal connection through the power buss back to the mains and earth ground. It is instead connected to an isolating transformer winding. The "Ground Loss" light will come on because the ground monitor depends on the safety ground and the neutral line being tied together back at the mains. As long as the isolated power system receptacle safety ground pin is returned to earth ground, the frame of the bed will still be returned through its plug to earth ground back at the mains. If there is some question as to whether the bed is earth grounded, a continuity check can be made from the bed frame to the safety ground in a non isolated outlet.

For your information, Hill-Rom bed models 850/852 Centra® Beds have a recessed switch in the nurse panel to disable the "Ground Loss" light when the bed is used on isolated power. This switch is not provided on Centra II /Advance™/Advanta beds.

Regards,
Bill Armstrong
Hill-Rom Engineering