



## **Bringing Safety to the Heart of your Business**

01/09/05

NMI Safety Systems has formed an alliance with Puwertec Limited to undertake annual servicing of equipment to users of vehicles equipped with wheelchair and passenger restraint systems.

Puwertec will audit, inspect and provide an expert and professional UK-wide on-site service, maintaining fixed and portable equipment supplied within vehicles.

NMI are anxious to stress the need for regular maintenance, inspection and servicing, as required of the equipment fitted to vehicles and welcome Puwertec Ltd as the UK provider of formal audit, inspection and maintenance services. NMI will offer initial on site training and subsequent refresher training on all their equipment. Refresher training is recommended to take place on a yearly basis.

Many organisations provide transport, as part of their services for some of the most vulnerable members of their communities, but do not necessarily know whether the equipment within the vehicle remains serviceable and are being applied in the correct manner.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAWA), specifically the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER), an employer has a duty to ensure all equipment is serviceable.

With heightened emphasis on Health and Safety and the full introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act in October 2004, Puwertec are offering an essential and valuable service where wheelchair and passenger restraints are utilised.

If an organisation operates 25 adapted vehicles, carrying on average 2 wheelchair users to and from a Centre. Each year the safety equipment is used over 25,000 times. If regular maintenance is not carried out and staff are not trained in the appropriate application of the equipment, each journey there exists a significant risk to person's dependant on the safety equipment whilst in use and also in the event of an accident.

Puwertec's systems have been developed in collaboration with, and the support of NMI Safety Systems to audit, inspect and service equipment to ensure it remains serviceable.

Whilst a close relationship exists it must be stressed that Puwertec Ltd is an independent organisation and takes ownership, responsibility for all services, information and advice provided to customers.

Puwertec's staff are trained by NMI in all aspects of the NMI equipment supplied, covering specifications/limitations, appropriate application, inspection/service and maintenance/repair and as such are authorised to provide equipment servicing and training.

