



# beneficial designs

designing beyond the norm to meet the needs of all people

Stanford University

Peter Axelson

2022-01-25

# How I got to where I am...

Initial intentions and objectives

Redirected with a new purpose

Found another great place to grow

Personal needs directed my designs

Focused on AT and access for life



# beneficial designs

designing beyond the norm to meet the needs of all people

research

design

education

# Areas of focus

Testing of assistive technology - AT

Assessment of outdoor facilities

Design of assessment equipment

Standards development

Writing publications for AT usage

Development of assistive technology



## Mission Statement

Beneficial Designs works towards universal access through research, design, and education. We believe all individuals should have access to the physical, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of life.

We seek to enhance the quality of life for people of all abilities, and work to achieve this aim by developing and marketing technology for daily living, vocational, and leisure activities.



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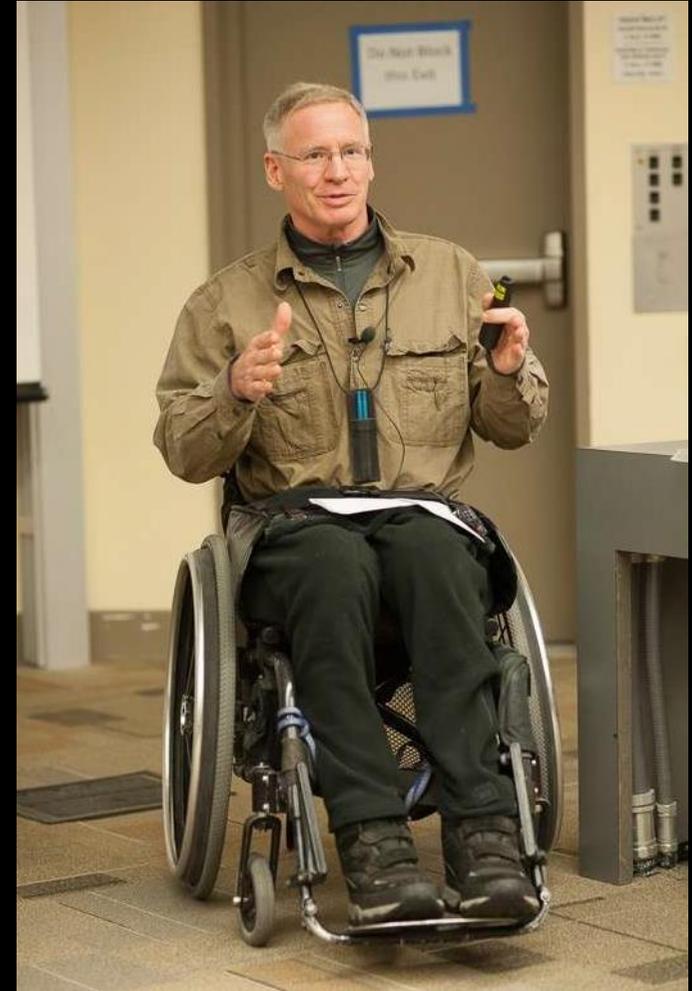
# It takes a team of people...

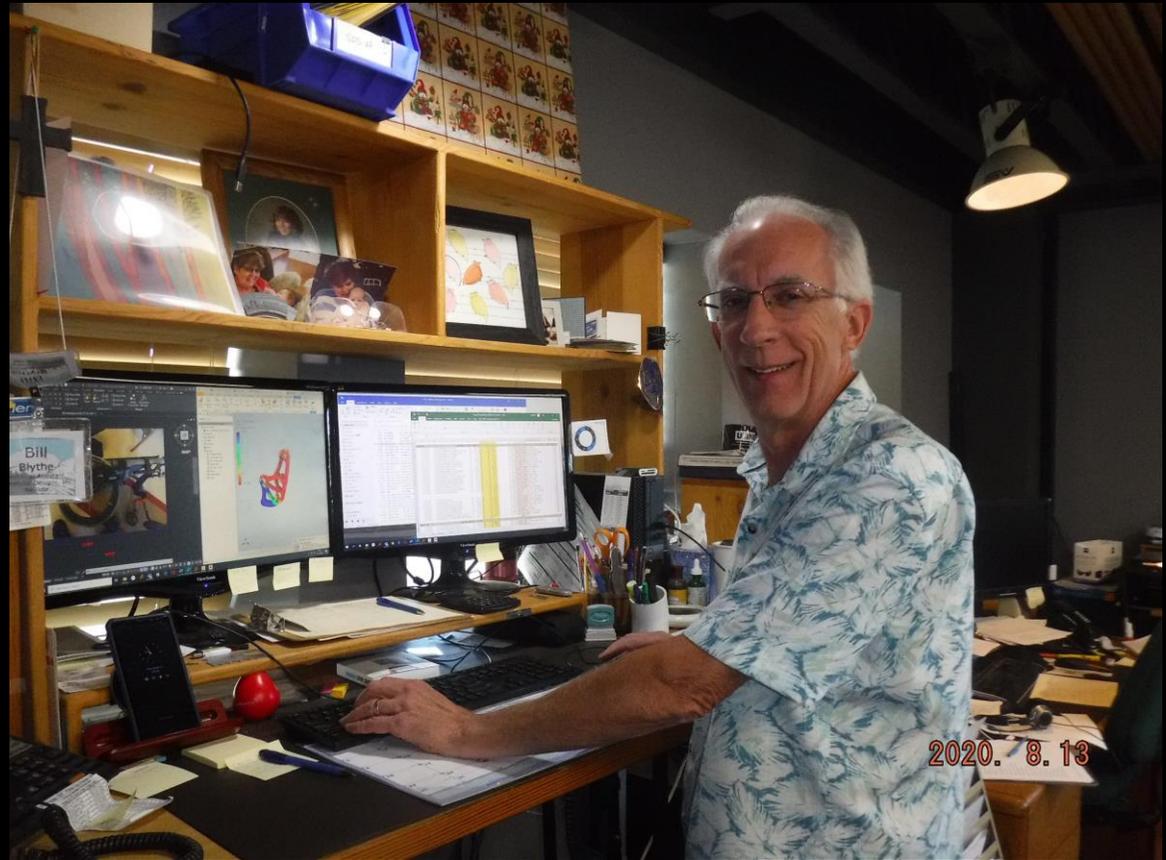
to design, test and assess

to write, map and build

to plan, support and present

Peter Axelson  
Director of R&D





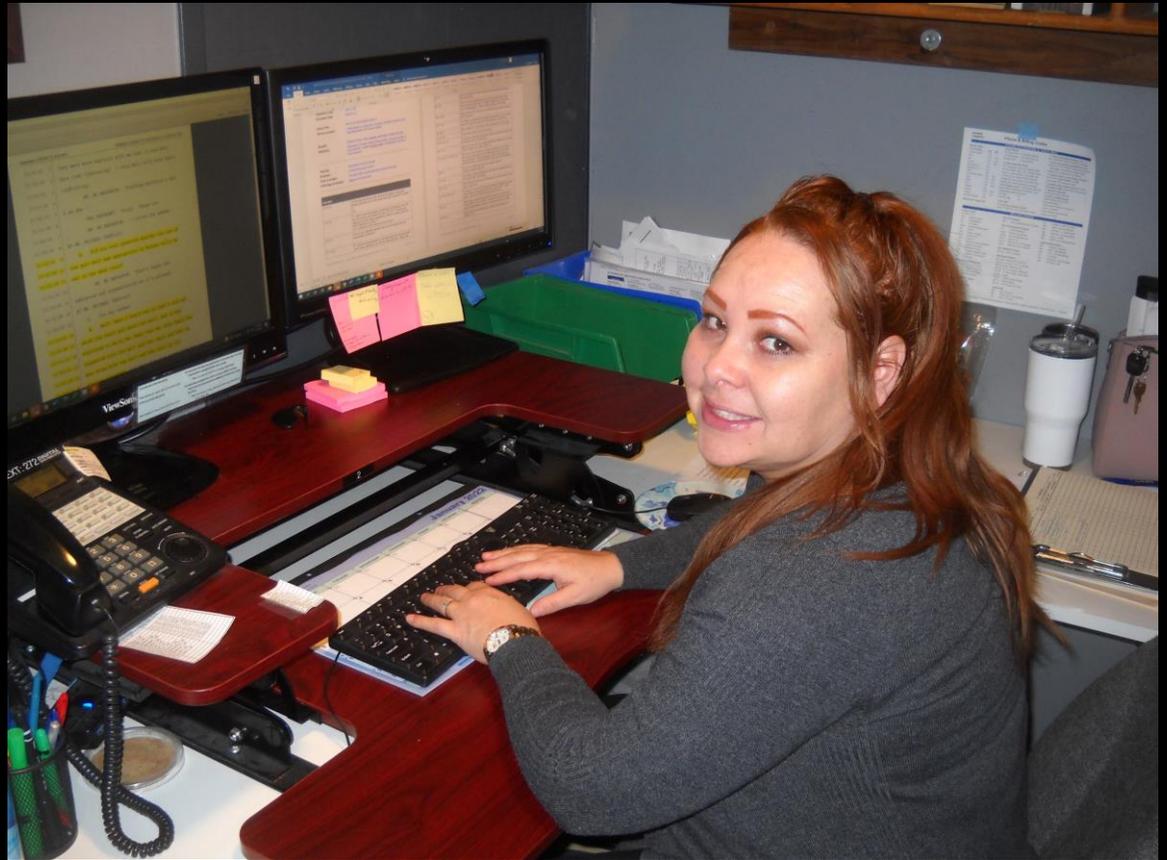
Bill Blythe

it and facility manager



Stephanie Stephens

research assistant – remote from India



Andrea Janota  
office assistant



Maegan Elkaraki

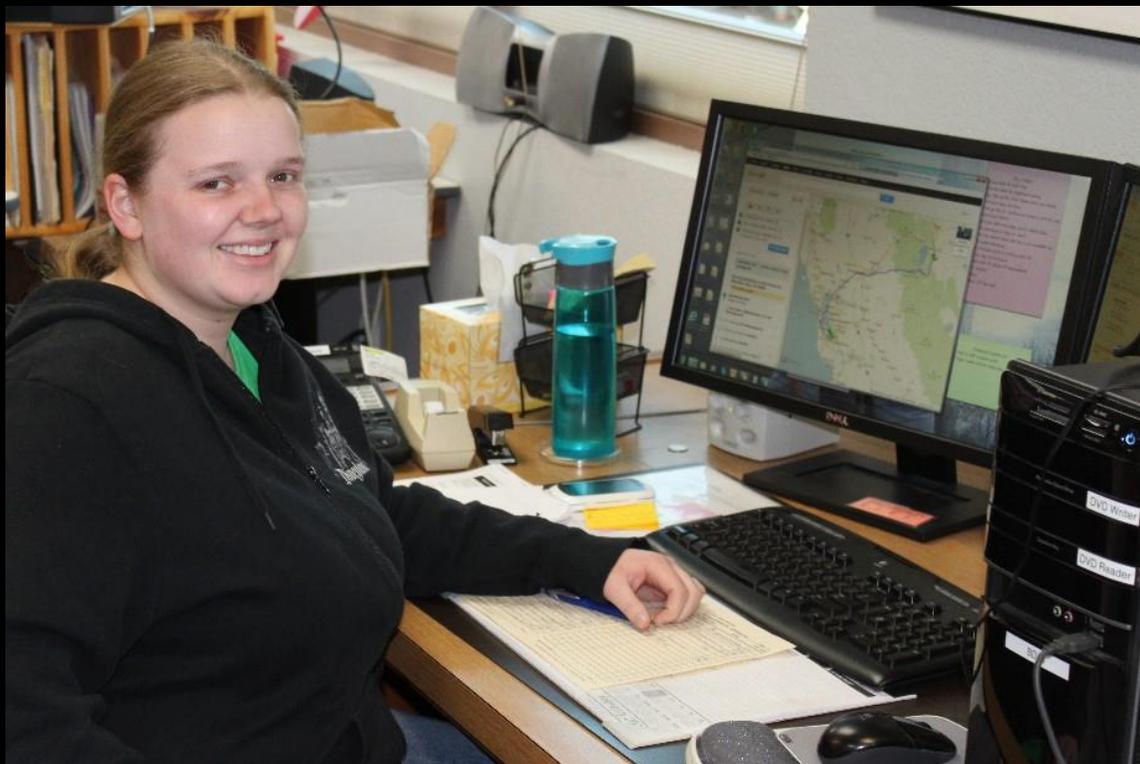
bookkeeping and financial



Paola Vazquez  
office assistant



Ria Axelson  
office assistant



Sharon Vazquez  
office assistant – remote



Julia Woodruff  
office assistant



Paul Schnorbus  
machinist



Stephen Pieters

wheelchair test lab leader



Ben Hubbard  
graphic artist map builder

Debbie Hester  
GIS technician



Todd Ackerman  
sidewalk assessment coordinator





Travis McDonald  
assessment technician



Wynter Sturtevant  
technical assistant



Rob Palmer  
assessment technician

# A working space with tools...

to design and create

to build, test and break

with material and stuff to assemble







2

R2-A



JC Metal Fabrication Inc.  
21831 S Mile Rd., Reed City, MI 49677  
231-832-3551

FAN LIGHT





N-C

N-B

N-A

668



N-D

N-C

N-C

N-C

Calibration  
Check 10/04  
10/11/04

# Testing

Wheelchairs

Surfacing

Adaptive sports equipment

Forensics

# Wheelchair testing

People get hurt using them

Design and manufacturing defects

Making sure the product is safe

Determine the performance of the product

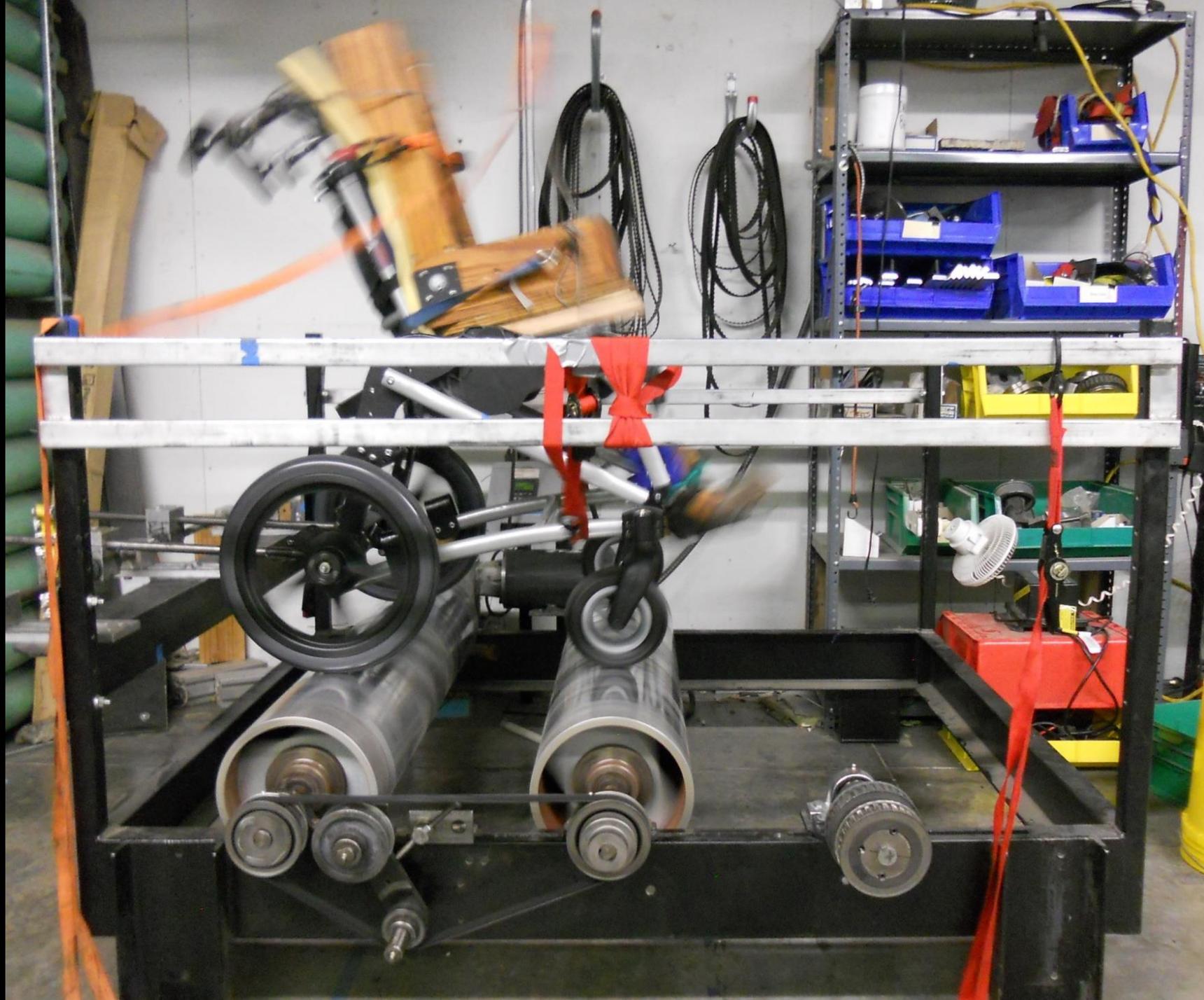
How fast will it go?

How far it will go?

How high it can climb?



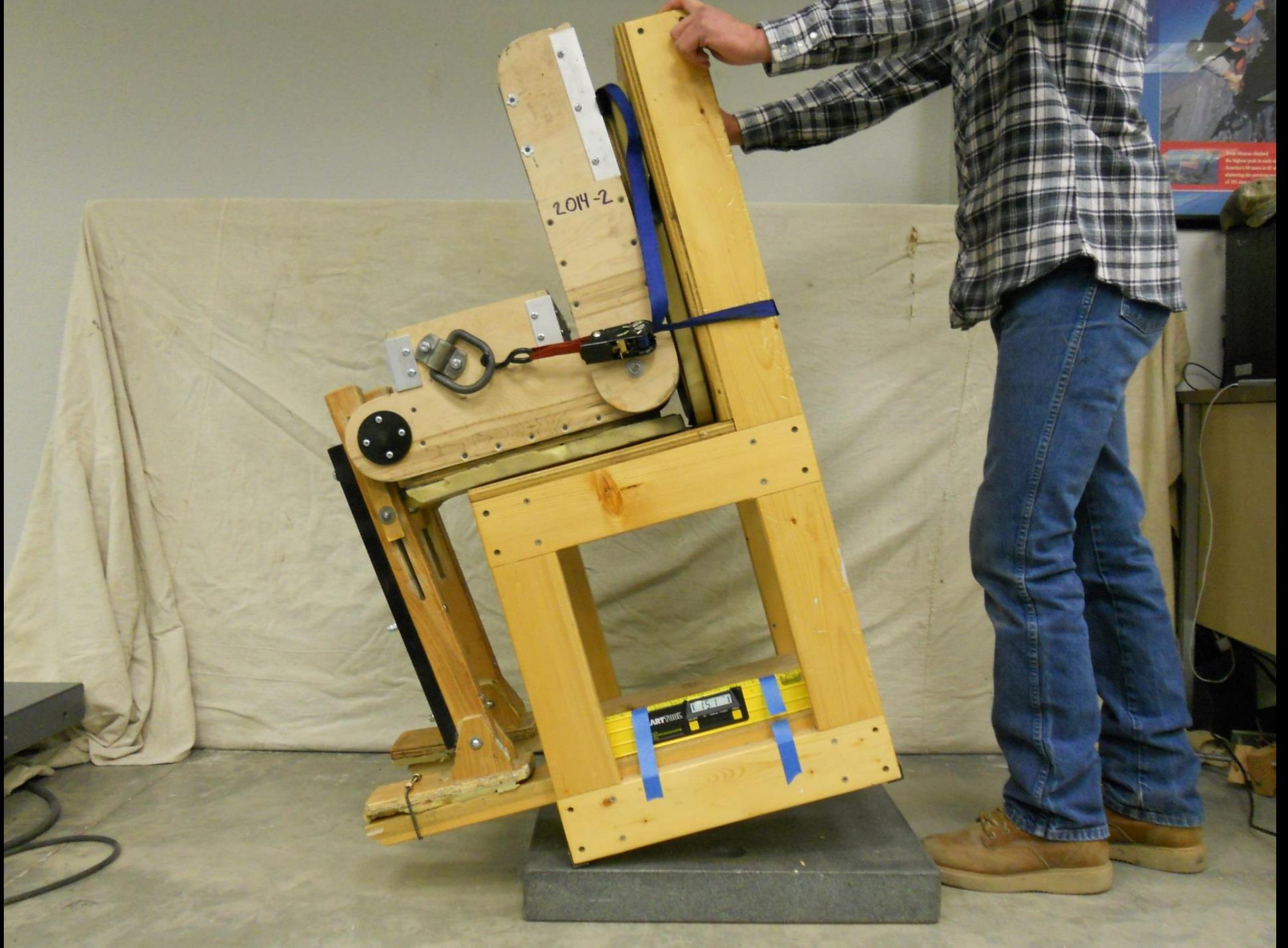






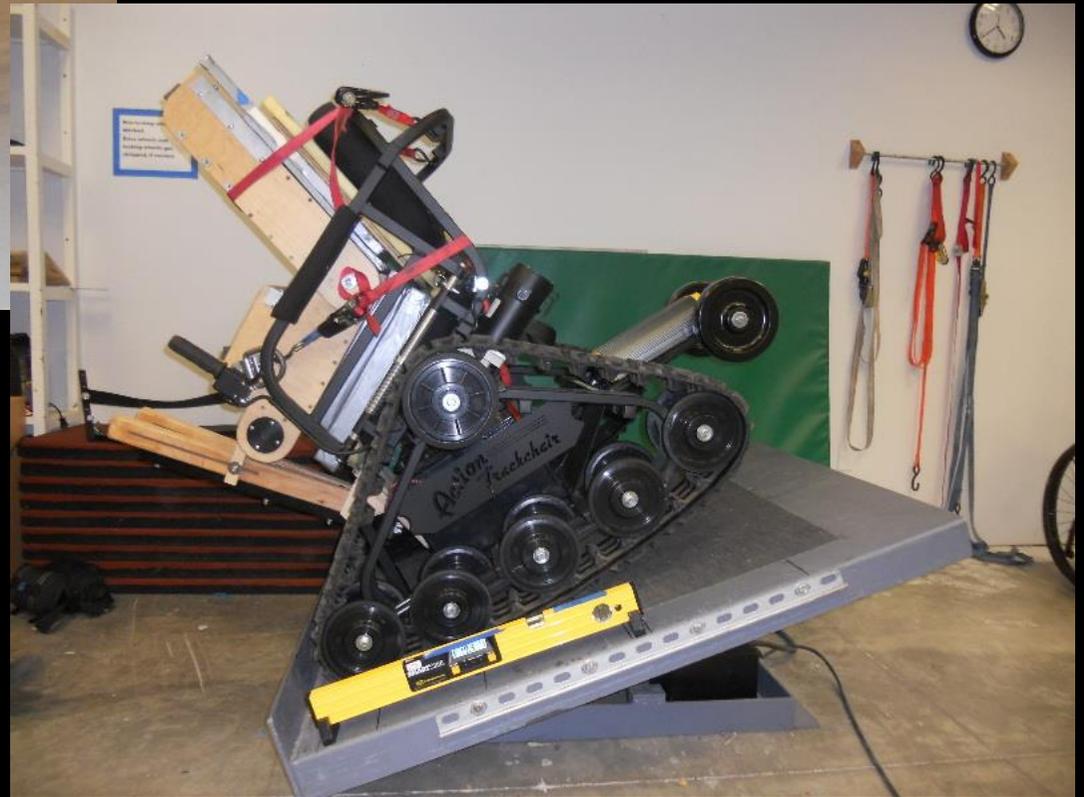
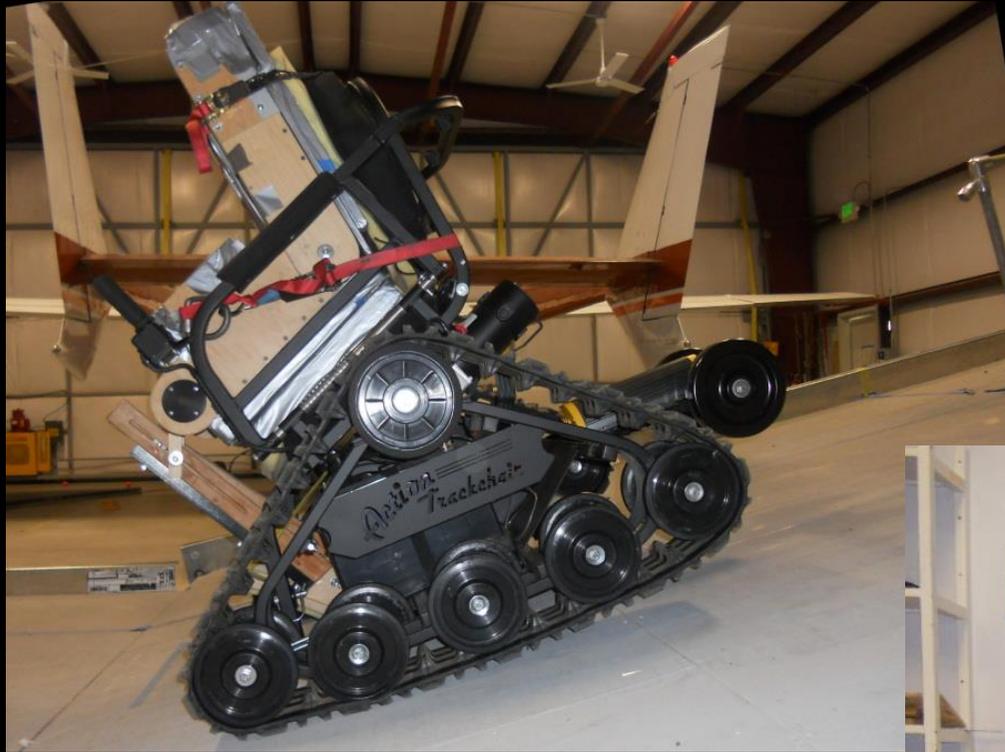
















7.5°





# Playground testing

People get hurt using playgrounds

Soft but firm and stable

Making sure the product is safe

Making sure I don't get stuck in them

How firm is the surface?

How stable is the surface?



# Rotational Penetrometer

objective surface measurement device





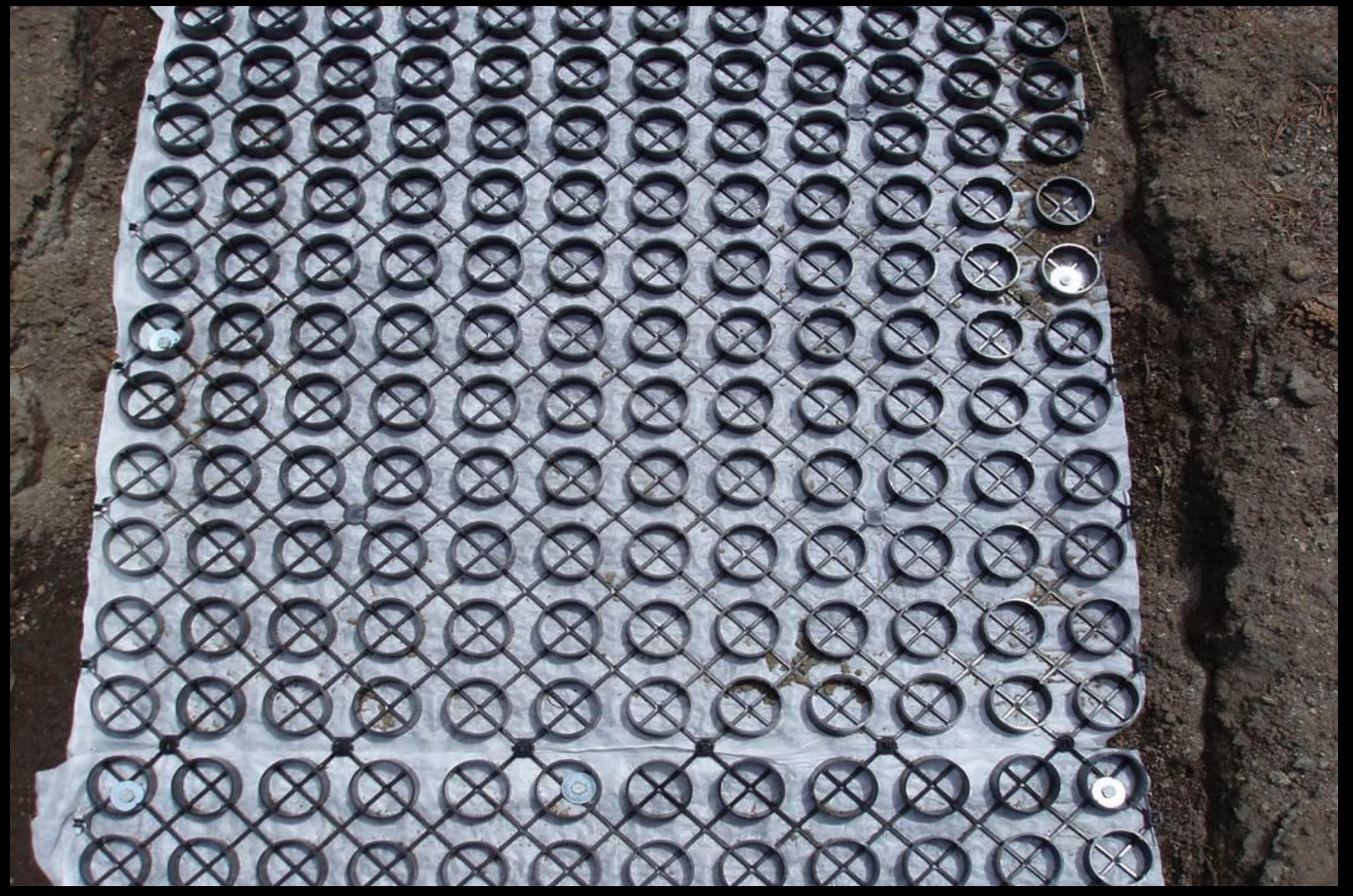


# Trail surface

Trail with firm but  
unstable sandy  
surface

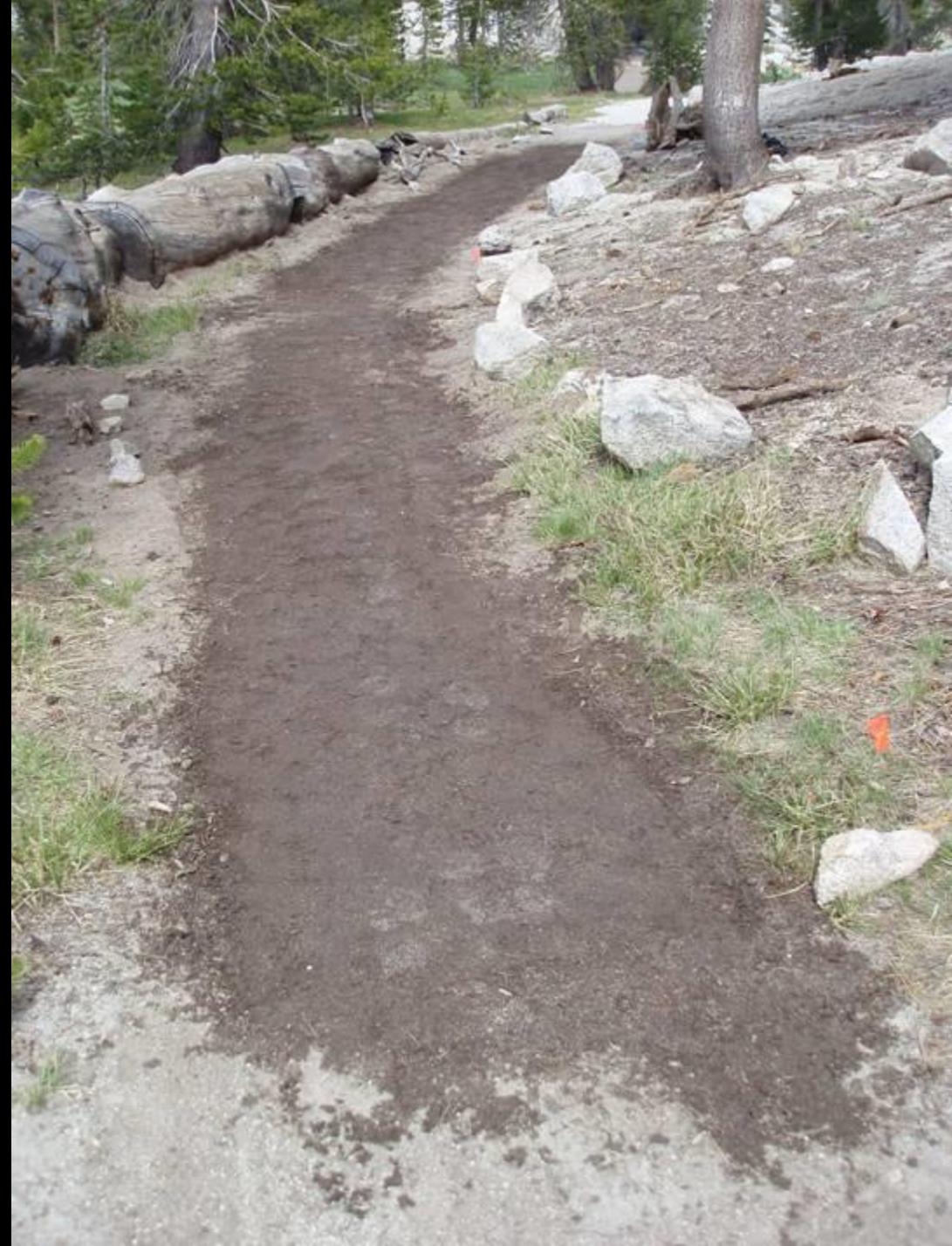






# Trail surface

Trail after installation  
of surface stabilizer



# Rotational Penetrometer readings

## Gravelpave 2

### **Before Application**

Firmness      Stability

0.18

0.77

0.17

0.87

0.17

0.77

0.18

0.88

0.18

0.79

---

**0.18      Avg      0.82**

### **After Application**

Firmness      Stability

0.17

0.37

0.17

0.38

0.18

0.42

0.17

0.35

0.18

0.40

---

**0.17      Avg      0.38**

# Seat cushion testing

People die from pressure sores

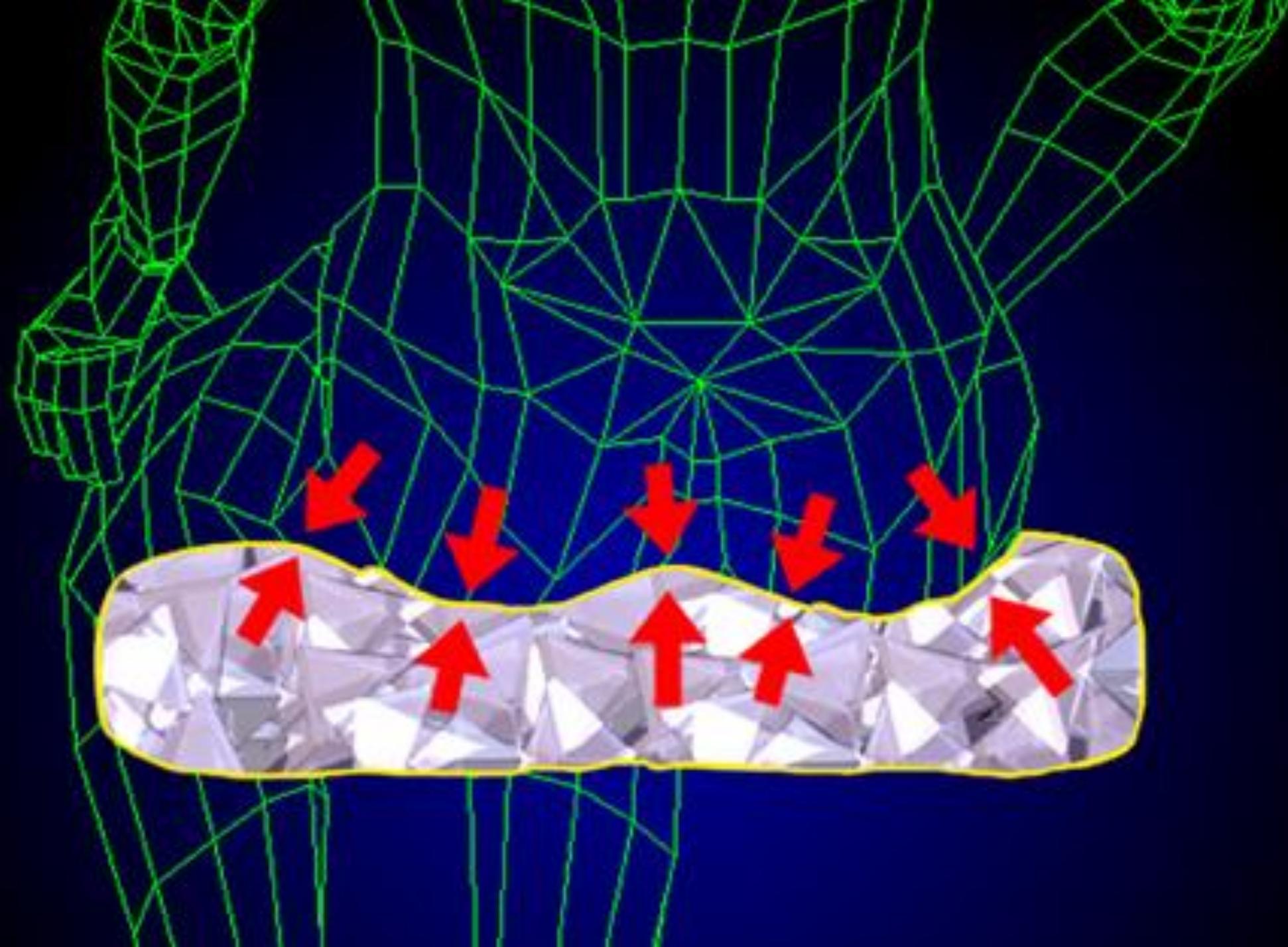
Soft but firm and stable

Making sure the product is safe

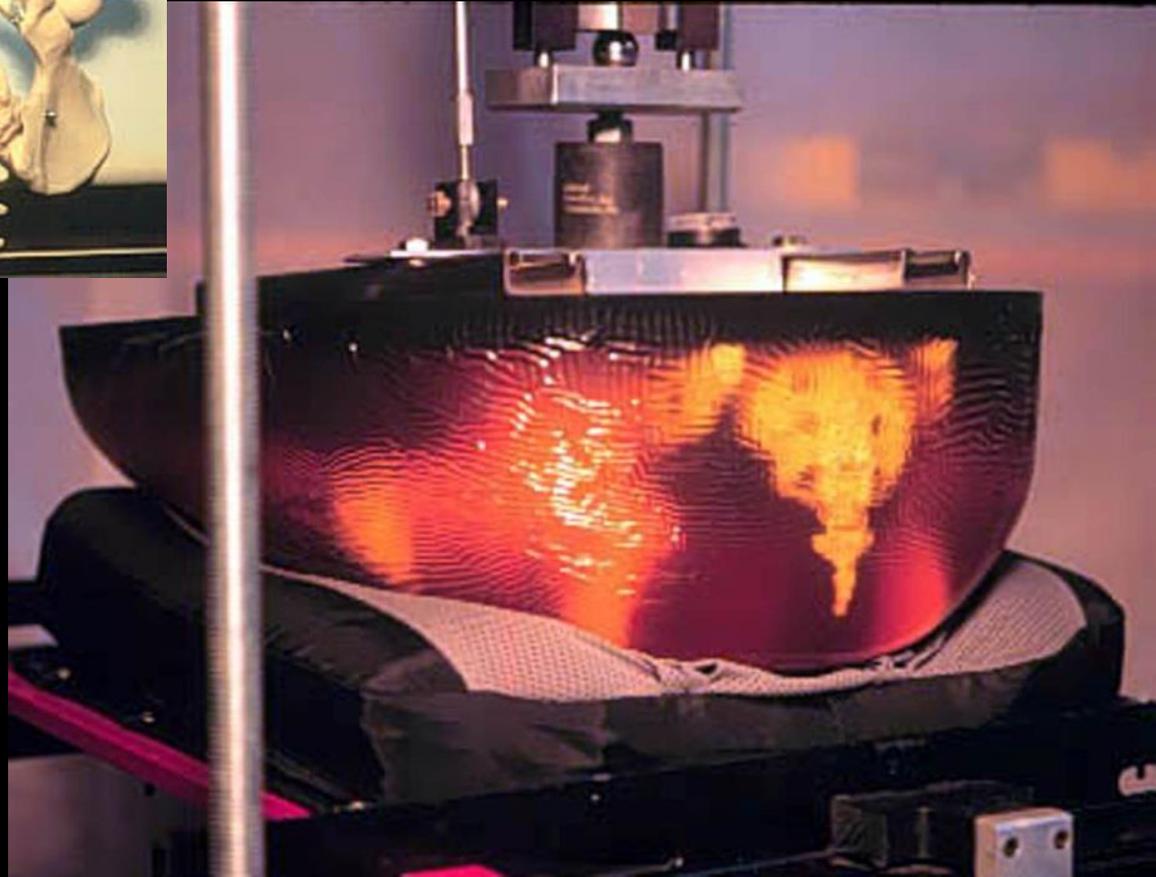
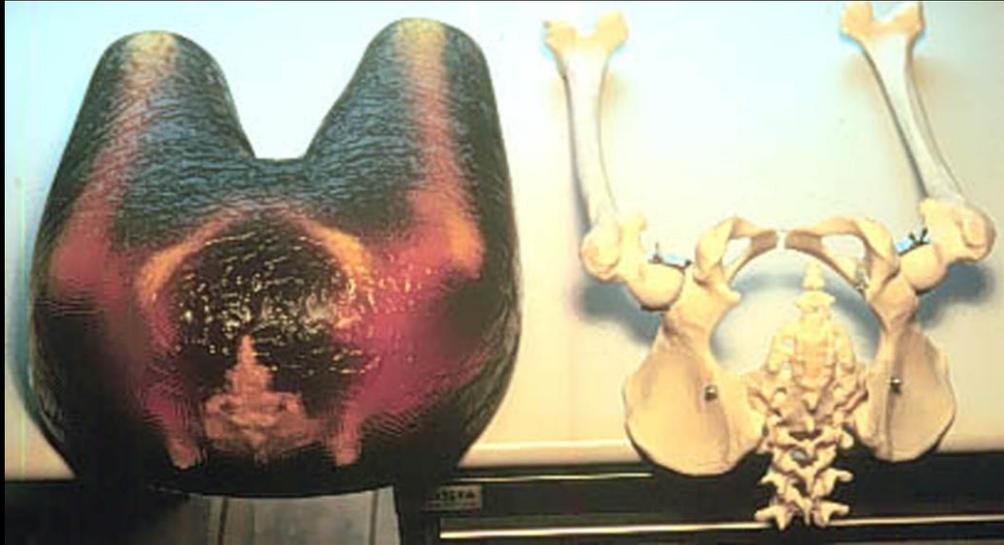
Making sure I don't get a pressure sore

How high are the sitting pressures?

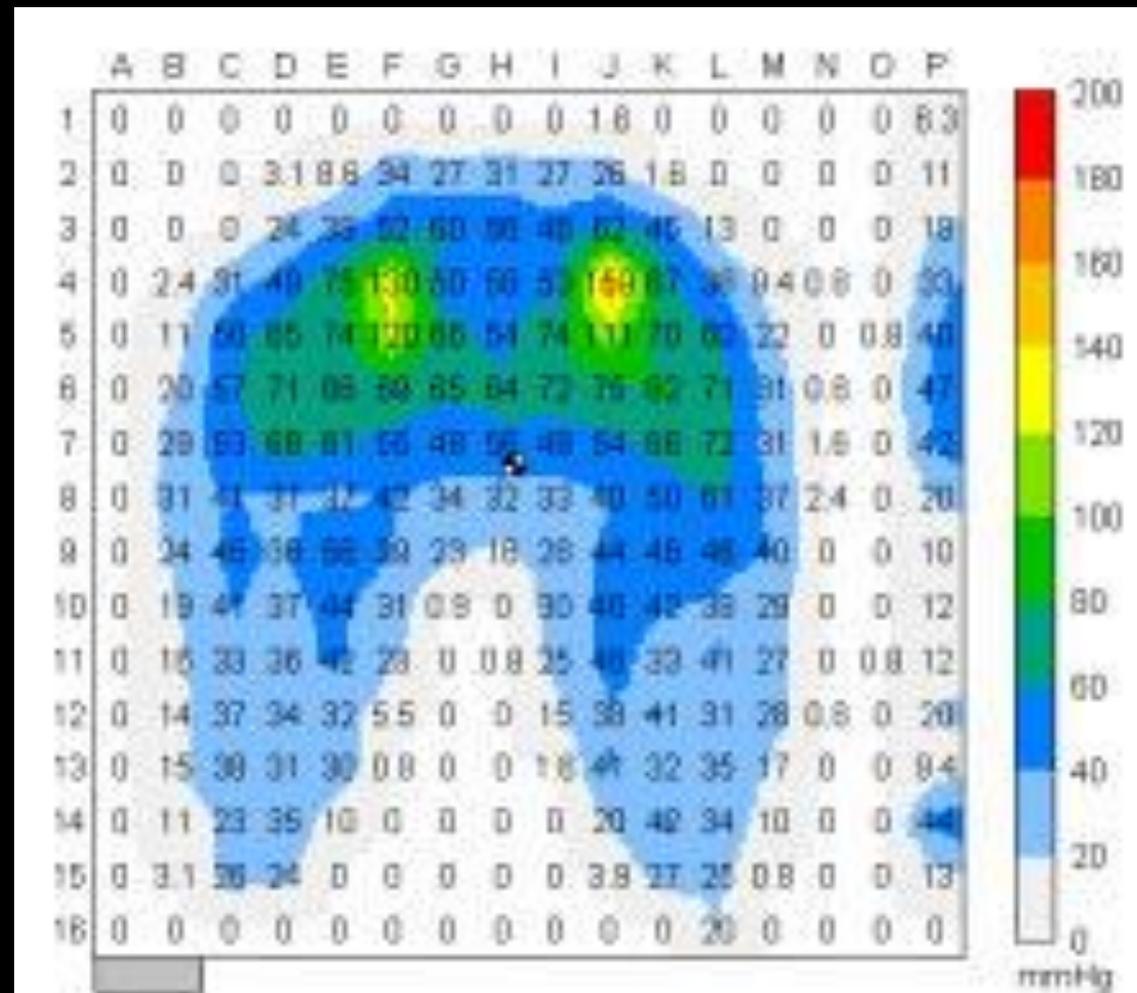
How long can I sit on it?



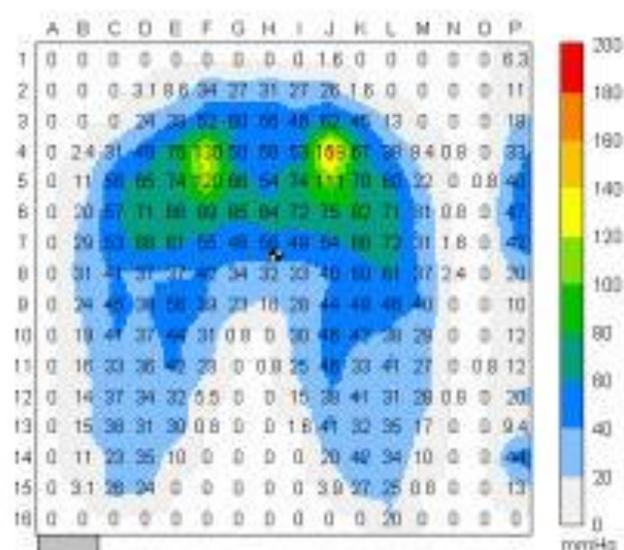
# Seat cushion testing



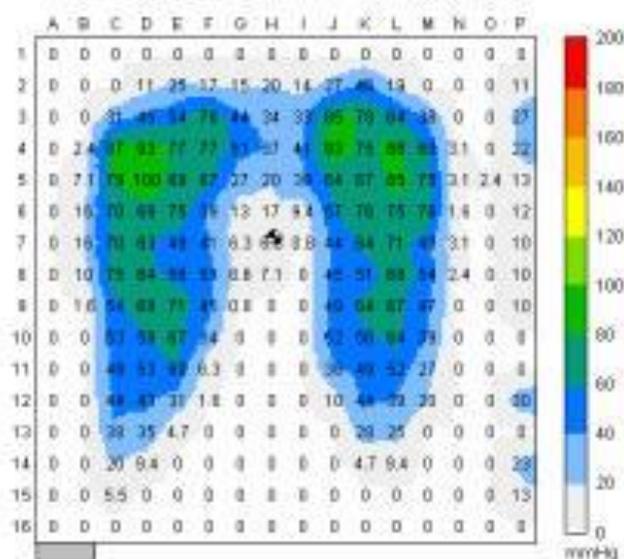
# SKELI used on foam



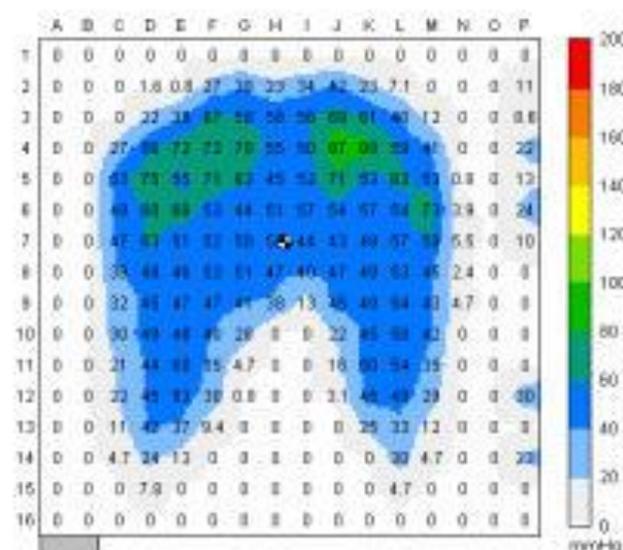
• 2" HR45 Foam Cushion



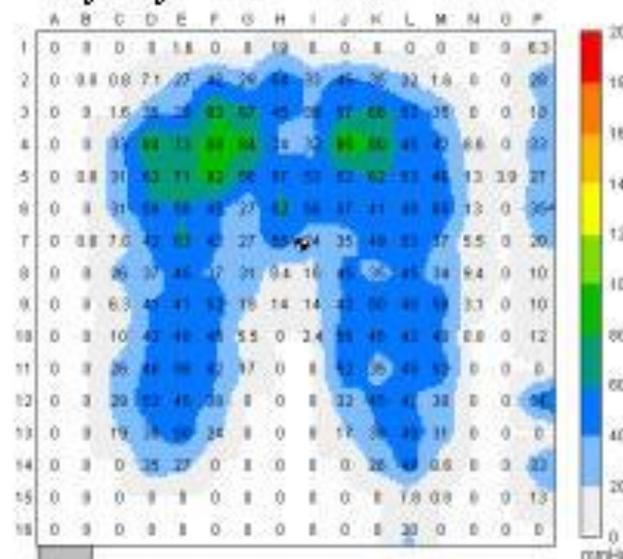
**2" HR45 Foam**



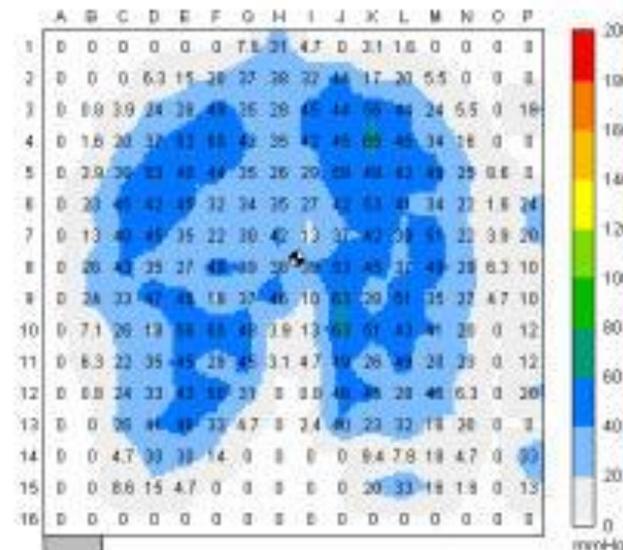
**Contoured by Supracor**



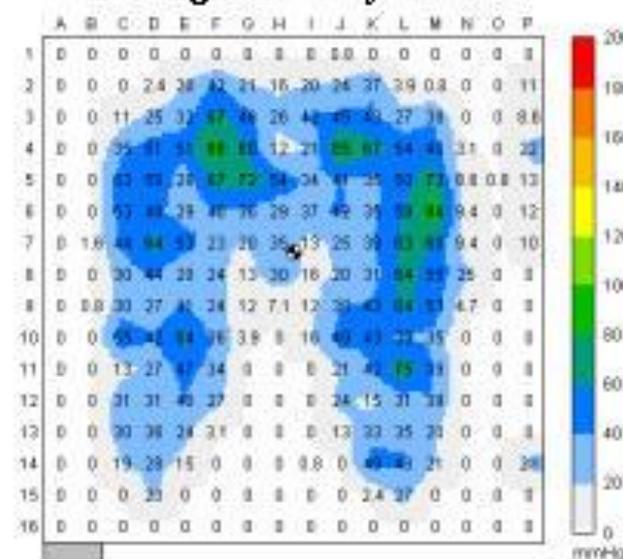
**Jay 2 by Sunrise Medical**



**Model P by Vicair**



**ROHO High Profile by ROHO Inc.**



# ASLI prototype

became an ISO shape

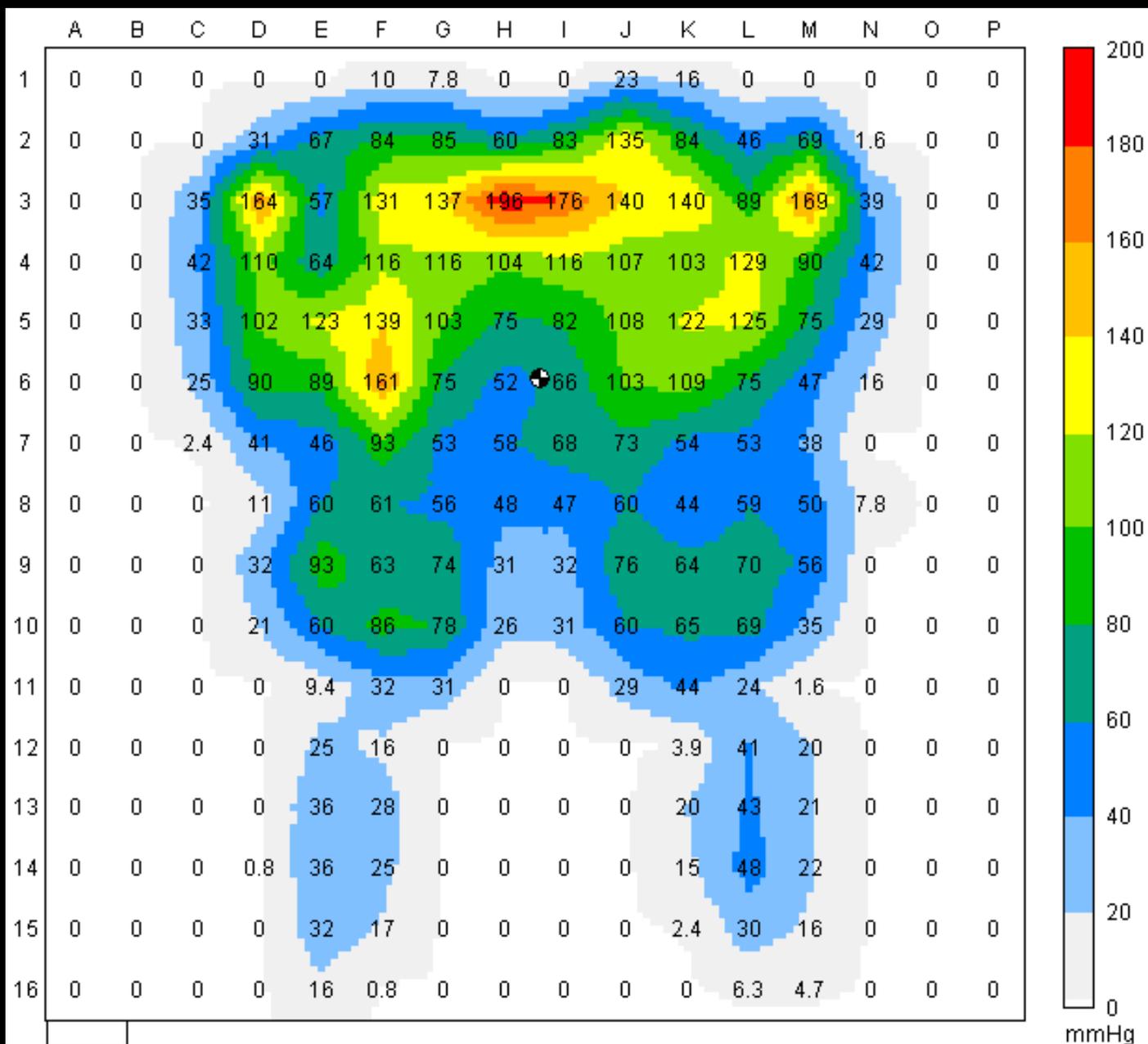






# Pressure measurements

15° posterior pelvic tilt



**Personal technologies**

**Activity-specific technologies**

**Environmental technologies**

# Personal technologies

Things that you wear

# My personal wheelchair



# The need:

More comfort sitting

Improved Posture



# The need:

A better wheel and handrim

a rough surface burns the hands

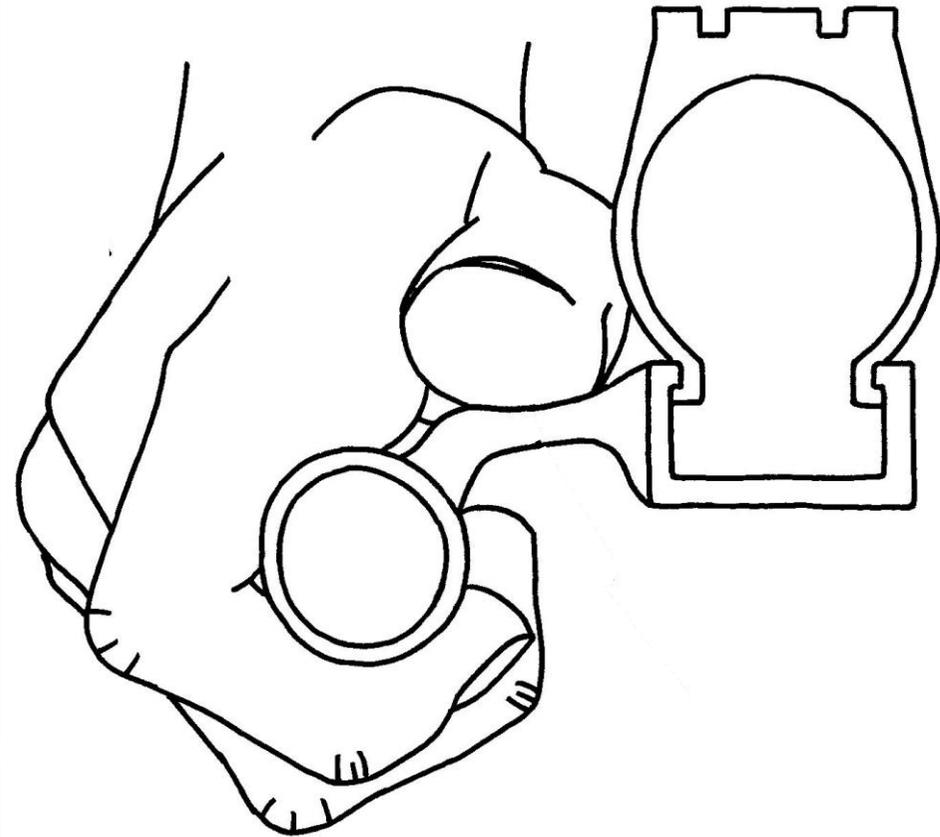
difficult to grip a smooth surface

repeated motion leads to injury

# The need:

A better grip

**Solution:** an ergonomic pushrim



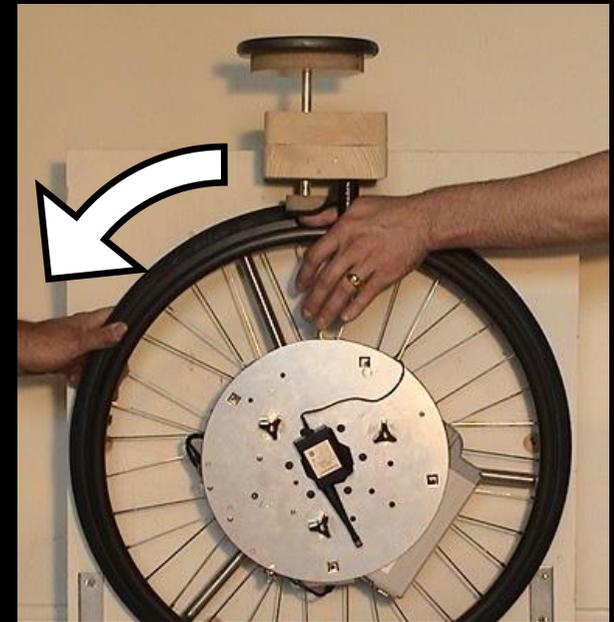
# FlexRim

Combining the discrete compliant fasteners into one



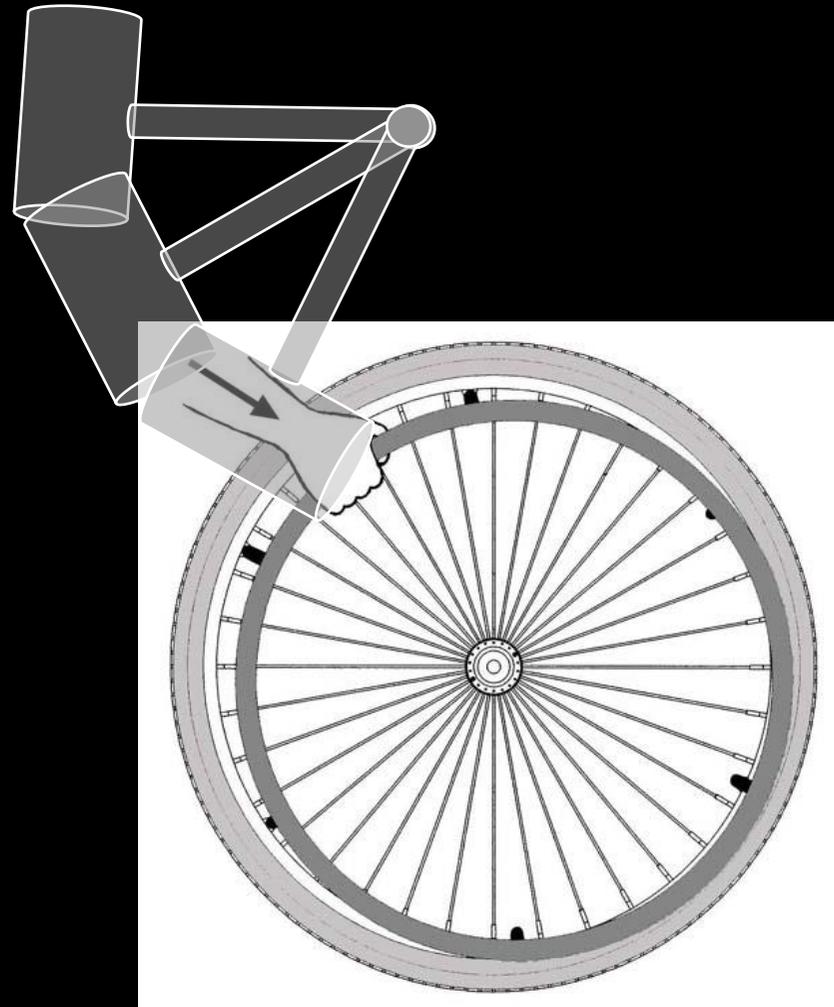
# Frictional improvements

To reduce the grip force required to push



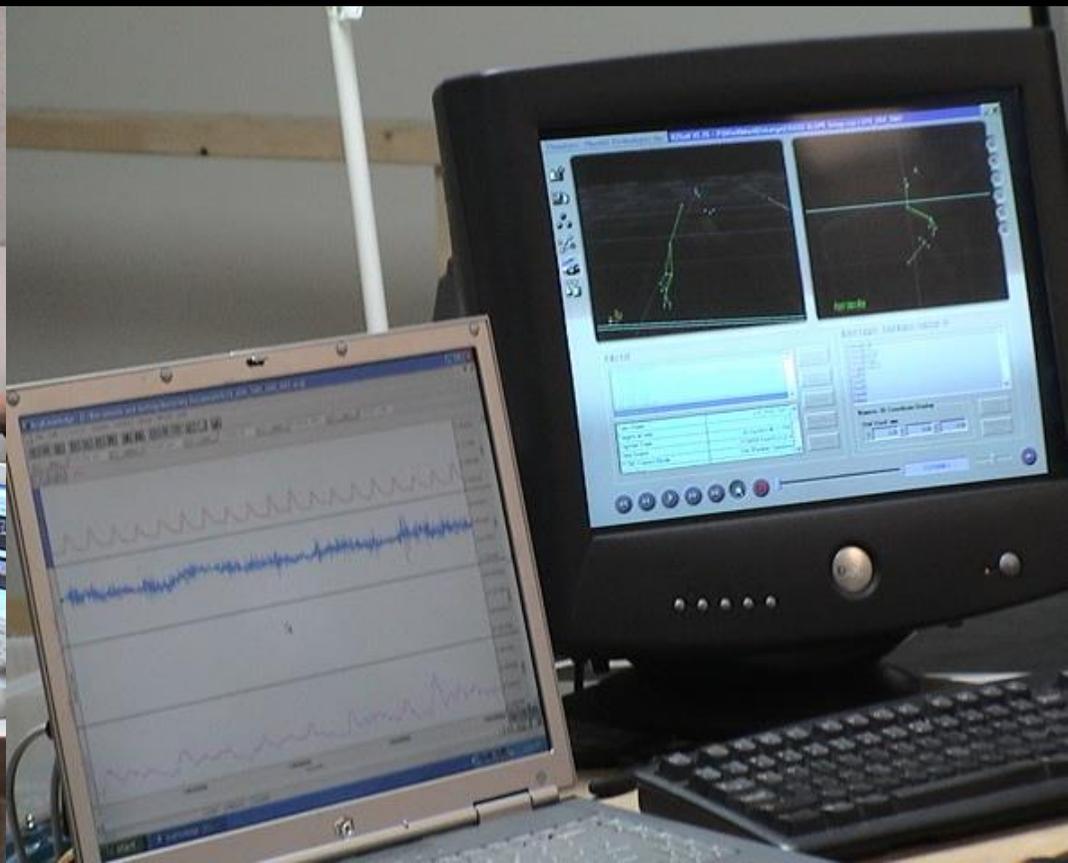
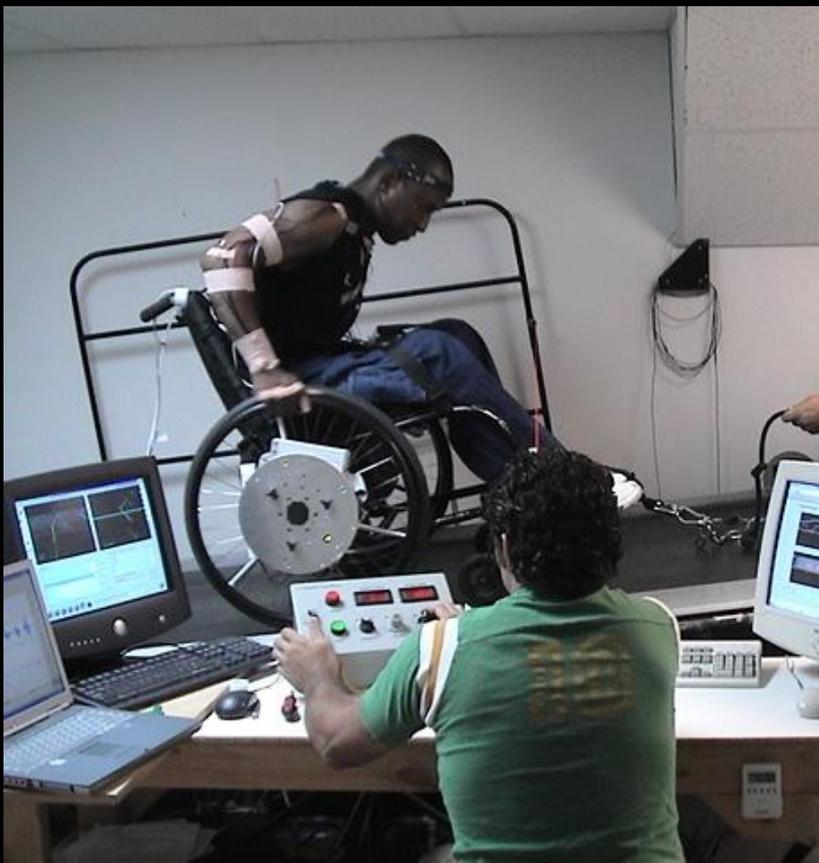
# Impact absorbtion

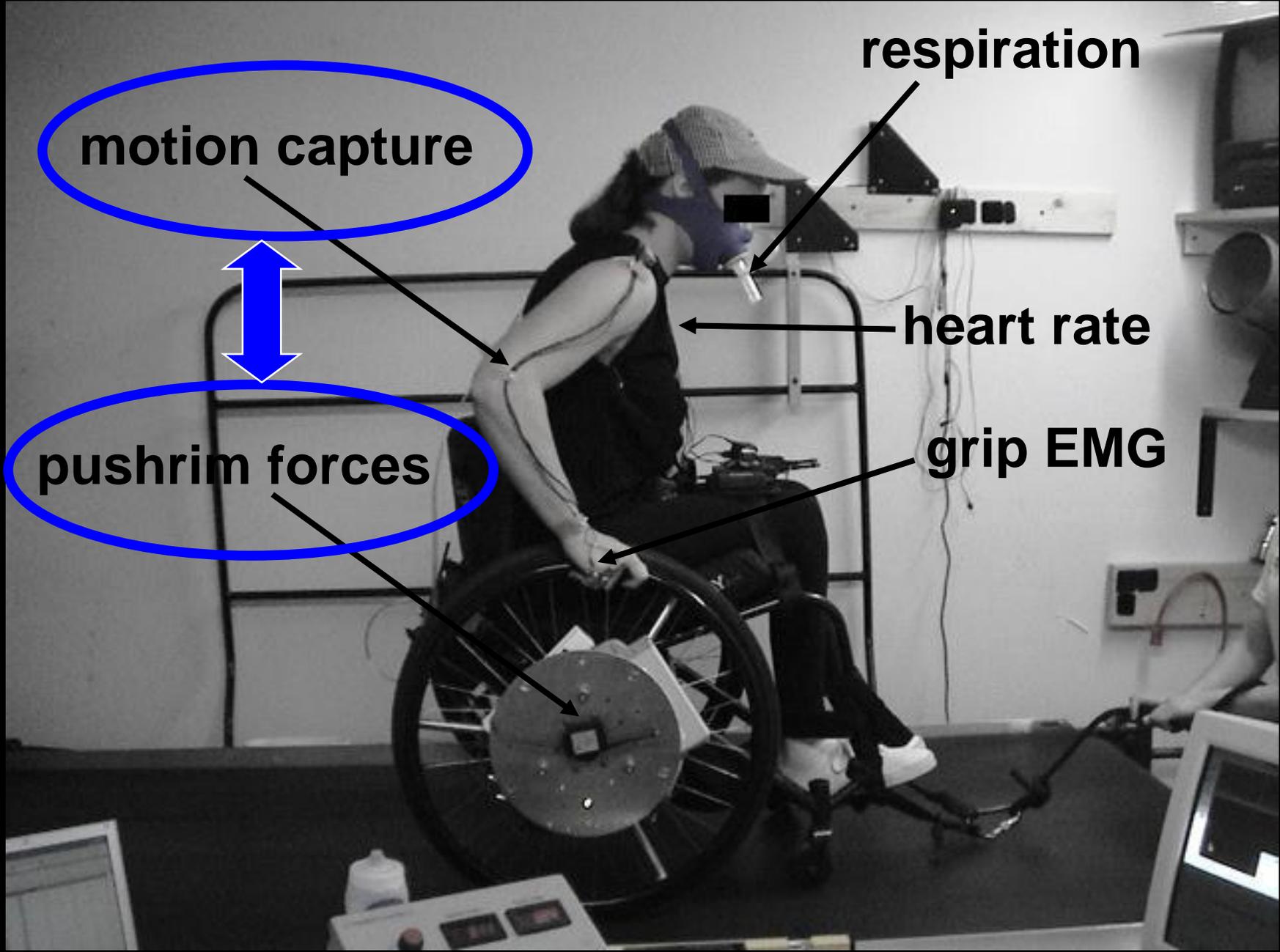
Like running shoes



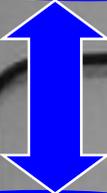
# Subjects are tested

over a wide variety of usage environments





**motion capture**



**pushrim forces**

**respiration**

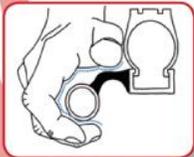
**heart rate**

**grip EMG**

# End product – the FlexRim

## Design

The FlexRim consists of a durable high friction rubber surface that spans between the aluminum pushrim and the wheel. The shape of the rubber is ergonomically designed to conform to your hand when gripped, making it the most comfortable pushrim you will ever use.

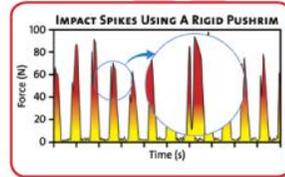


Because the rubber is flexible, the pushrim can compress to allow your wheelchair to squeeze through narrow doorways.



## Overuse Injuries

Shoulder and wrist problems are very common among wheelchair users. Impact loading is one of the contributing factors. Your hands and arms absorb impact spikes when you first hit the pushrim, illustrated in the graph below.



- Reducing impact is one strategy recommended to help protect you from developing overuse injuries.

## Impact Testing

Impact loading of the FlexRim was studied for a wide range of impact intensities.

- The FlexRim was found to consistently **reduce impact loading by 10%**.



## Propulsion Testing

In lab testing, wheelchair users pushed with both a standard pushrim and the FlexRim on a research treadmill. Grip muscle activity, oxygen demand and power generated were all measured during propulsion and compared across pushrims.



## Results of the testing were:

- Users required **12% less grip force** to push with the FlexRim.
- Overall **grip exertion was reduced by 15%**.
- On average users required **12% less oxygen** to push with the FlexRim than with a standard pushrim.
- Users generated **13% more power** when using the FlexRim.

The ergonomic benefits of the FlexRim have been published in numerous scientific journals and in a PhD dissertation at Stanford University.

**FLEXRIM**  
BY SPINERGY

Advanced Ergonomics



# Activity-specific technologies

And the desire to recreate

# The need:

To get back out on the snow



# The Mono Ski

Now a Paralympic sport









# Dynamic seating spring assist







# The desire:

Get back into the backcountry



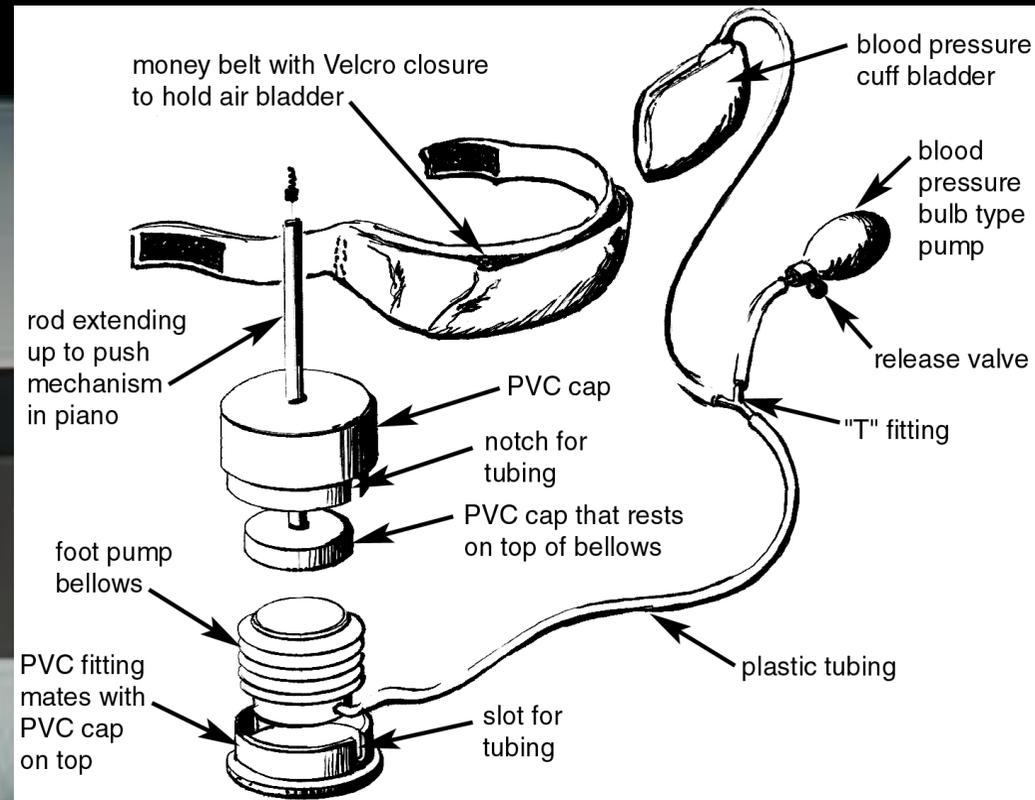


4 12 '98



# The need:

Use the pedal again to play the piano



# The desire:

Drive a manual shift vehicle



# The desire:

Balance and ride a bike again



# The desire:

Ride a tandem bike with a friend



# The desire:

Paddle a canoe again without the required balance





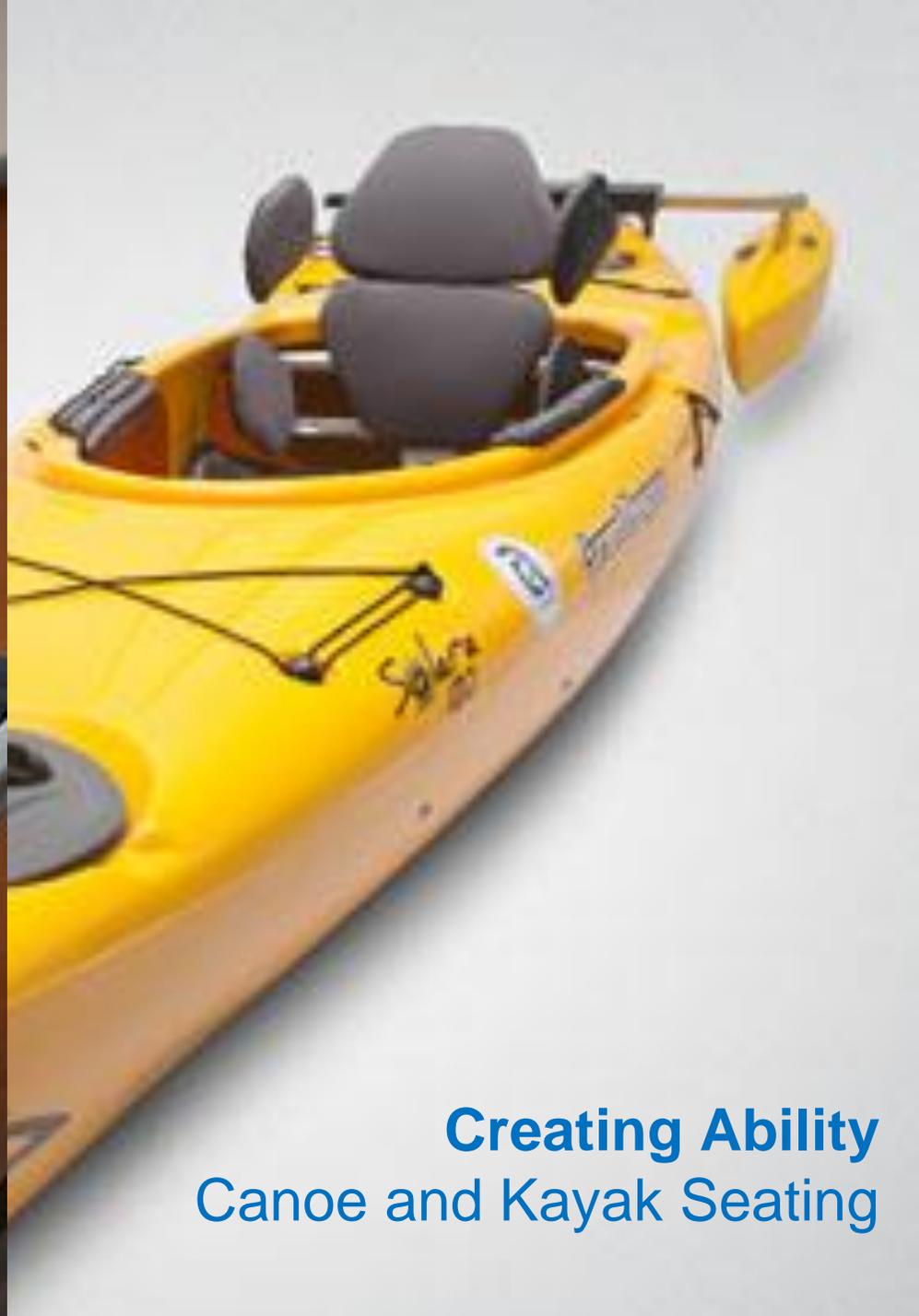
# lateral balance test



# water egress testing







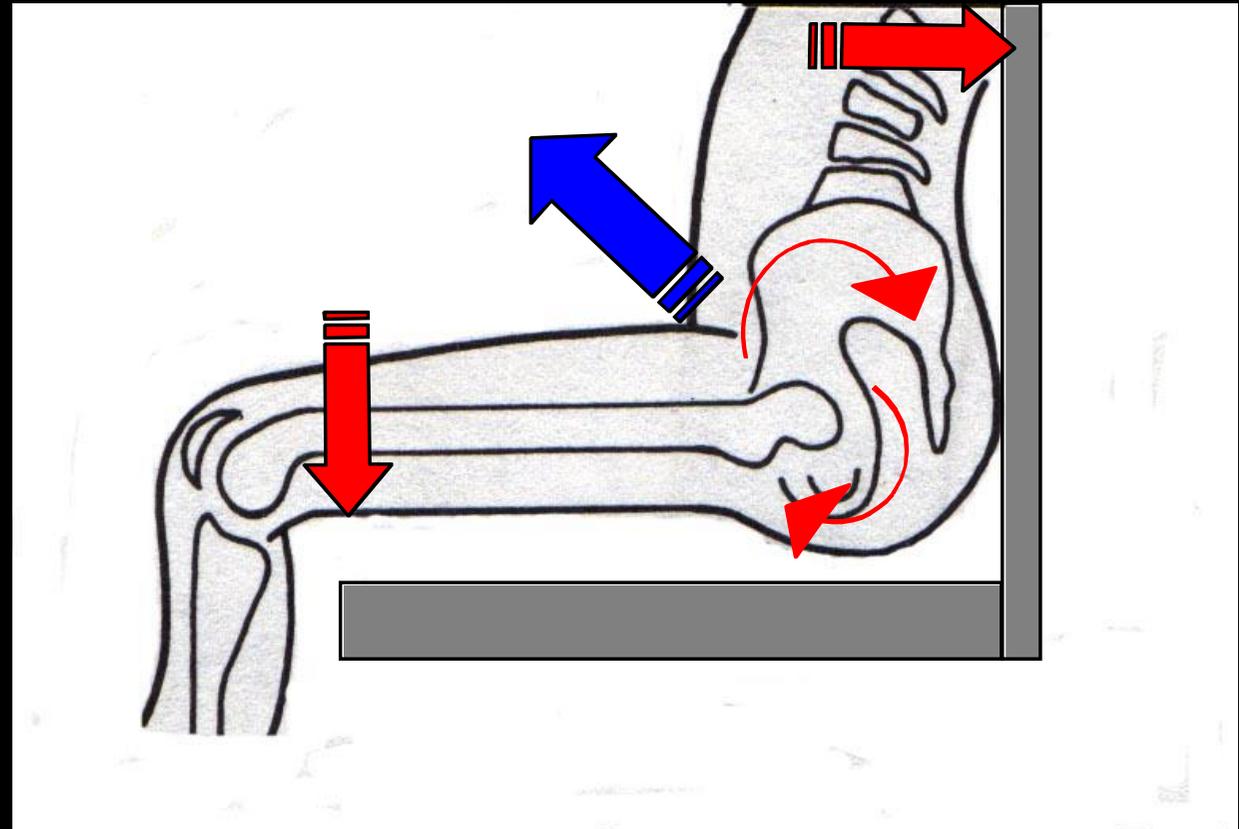
**Creating Ability**  
Canoe and Kayak Seating

**The desire:**  
Surf again



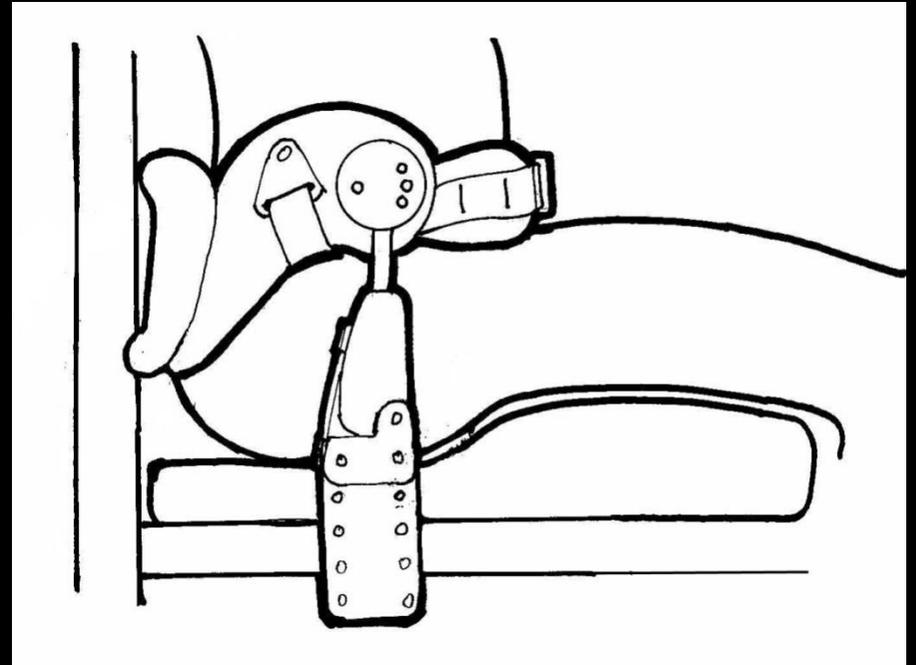
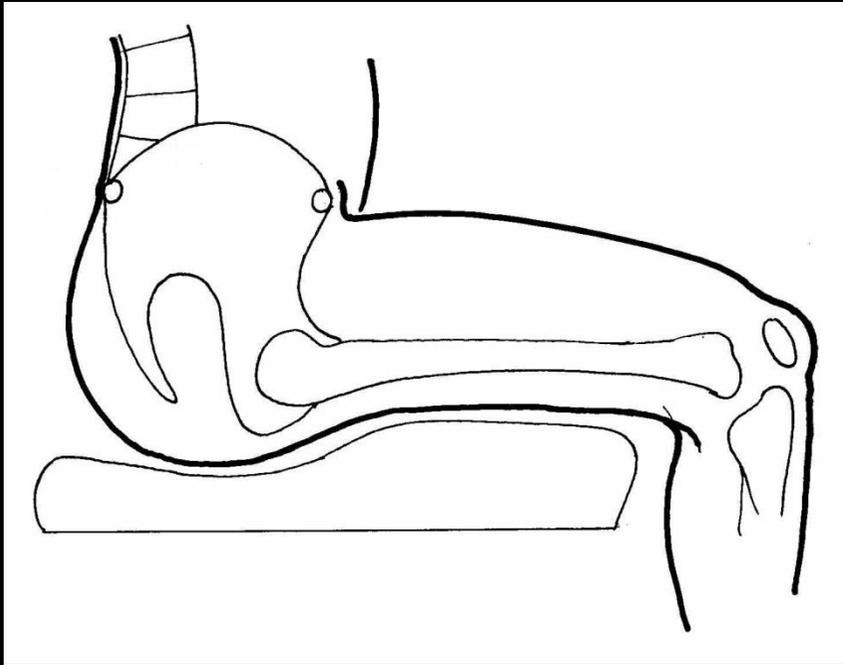
# The problem:

Unwanted pelvic movement due to spasticity

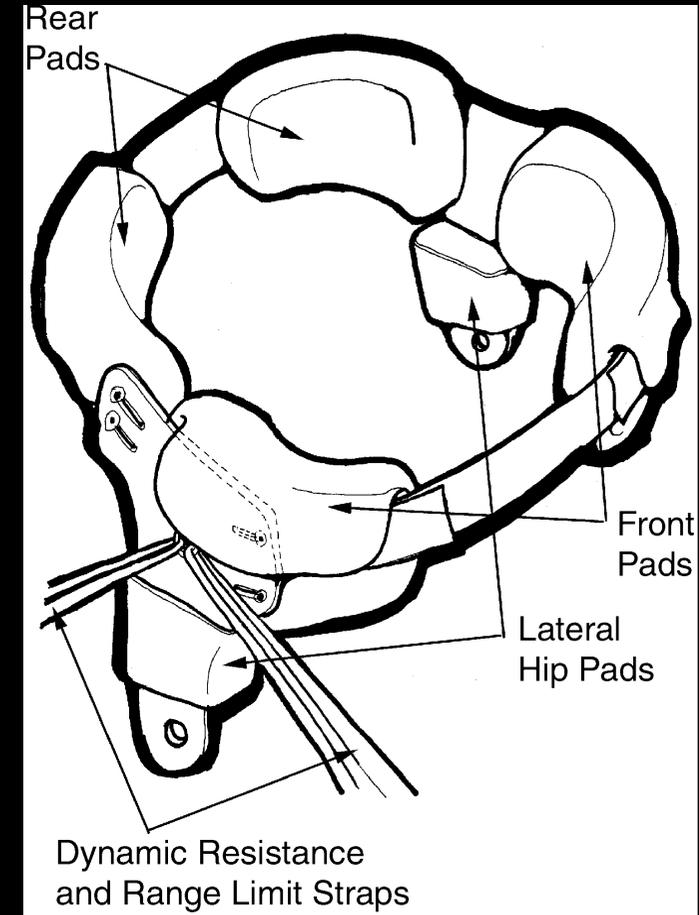
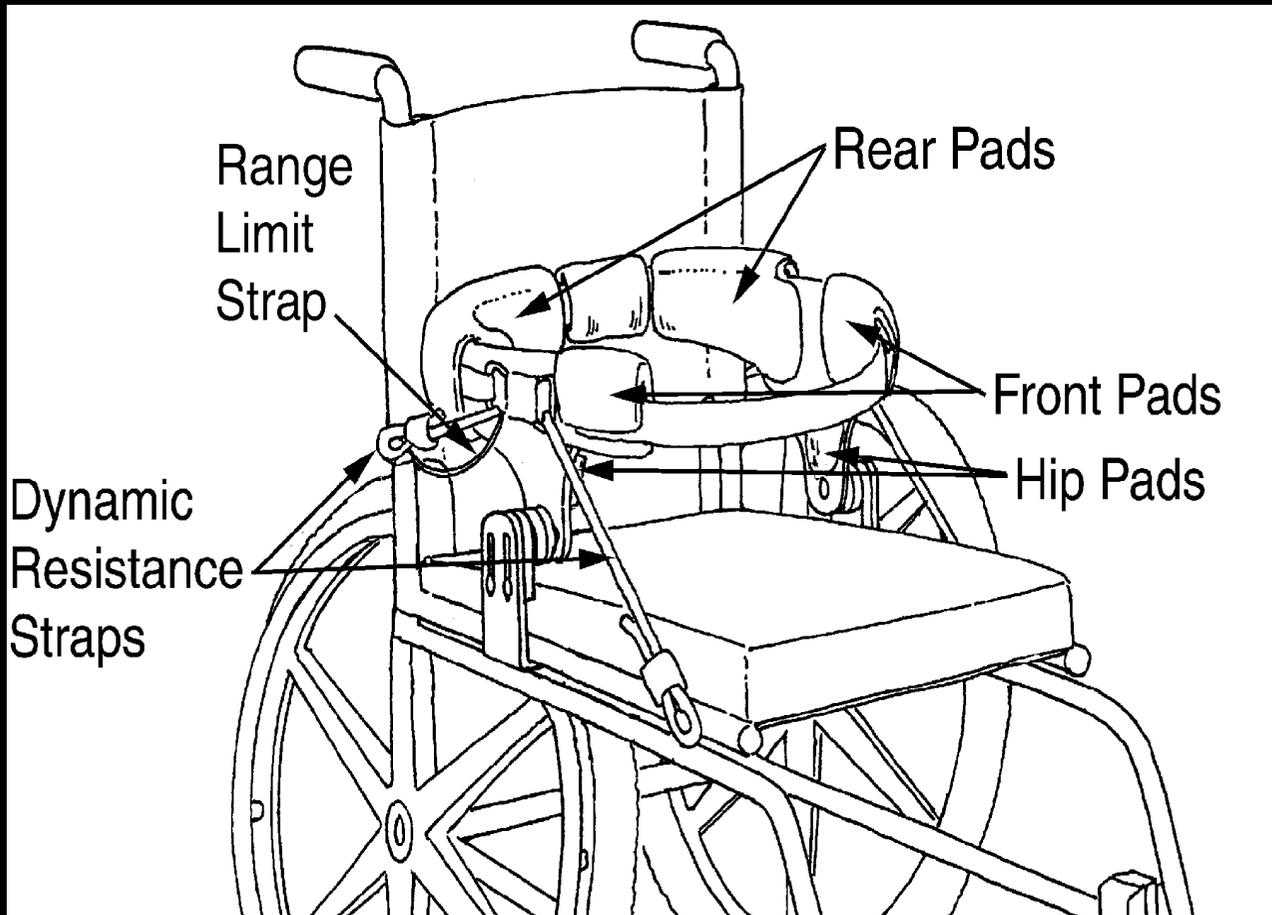


# Concepts developed

to allow the movement, but return to the desired position



# Early prototypes



# Fatigue testing of concept



# The finished product









# Environmental technologies

Things that do not move

# ADA recreation trail

## grade

> 8.33% up to 30% of length

5% for any distance

8.33% for 200 feet

10% for 30 feet

12.5% for 10 feet

14% for 5 feet in drains if cross slope < 5%

# ADA recreation trail

## cross slope

5%

10% in drains if width > 42 inches

## rest areas

60 inches length, trail width, 5% slope

## edge protection

3 inches minimum height when provided

# Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP)



# Key UTAP information



length



grade



width



surface



cross slope



features & facilities

# UTAP assessment team





# UTAP implementation status

**Over 1300 people**

trained to lead UTAP assessments

**Over 155 trainers**

to teach UTAP workshops

# High-Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP)



# HETAP wheel







### Last Station Recorded

25

Paved

Ice

Copy Surf. Data ->

Tread Width:

Surface Category:

Surface Type:

### Current Station To Record

25 in Set MCW

Paved

Ice

Record Station

Add Features

Return Home

Distance Hold

Manual Entry

0.0 Ft

-1.3 %

2.1 %

Distance: 7.2 Ft

Grade: -0.7 %

Cross Slope: 0.8 %

View Data

Alarm Settings

Browse Images

New Segment

Current Segment:

2 Joggin Lampe 2007-06-12

### Outslope

Check Outslope Direction

<- Left Right ->

### Vehicle Orientation

Forwards

Backwards

Show Camera Preview

Compass Heading: ° True

### GPS Location and Status

Lat:

Lon:

Apprx. Err:

Elev:

Error: Garmin GPS is not connected



# Red Road

To Peavine Falls Road

Length 5.5 mi (8.9 km)

Elev Gain 787 ft (240 m)

Elev Loss 420 ft (128 m)



Hikers



Bikes



Dogs on Leash



No Motorized  
Vehicles



No Equestrians

Permitted Use Allowed on Orange Trail only



Peavine  
Trail



Peavine  
Trail

# Trail Access Information (TAI)

TAI SignPosts to convey to users in a Nutrition Facts label format:

Grade

Cross Slope

Tread Width

Surface

Obstructions





### Spooner Lake Loop Trail

Length 2.2 (3.6 km)  
 Elevation Gain 199 ft (60.7 m)  
 Elevation Loss 349.2 ft (106.5 m)

#### TRAIL USE

- Hikers
- Mountain Bikes
- Dogs on Leash
- Equestrians  
North Side of Lake Only
- No Motor Vehicles

#### GRADE

Typical Grade 4.6%  
 20% of trail is 6% to 11%  
 929 ft (283.2 m) is 11% to 24.5%  
 Standard Ramp Grade 8.3%

#### CROSS SLOPE

Typical Cross Slope 5.4%  
 21% of trail is 7% to 11%  
 947 ft (288.6 m) is 11% to 28.1%

#### TREAD WIDTH

Typical Width 37 in (94.9 cm)  
 Minimum Width 24 in (61.0 cm)  
 2502 ft (762.6 m) is 24 in (61.0 cm)

#### SURFACE

Surface Type Soil  
 1% of trail is Hard  
 99% of trail is Firm

#### OBSTRUCTIONS

Multiple Rocks 6-12 in (15-31 cm)

**WARNING:** Trail conditions may have changed since August 2017 when this trail last was assessed. Temporary trail obstructions were not recorded. Obstructions less than 2 in (5.1 cm) or outside of the tread area (36 in (91.4 cm) wide by 120 in (304.8 cm) high) were not reported.

Signage created by Beneficial Designs Inc. using Trail Access Information data collected by a certified trail assessment coordinator. Funded by the Nevada Recreational Trails Program and the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.



# 1 SPOONER LAKE LOOP TRAIL



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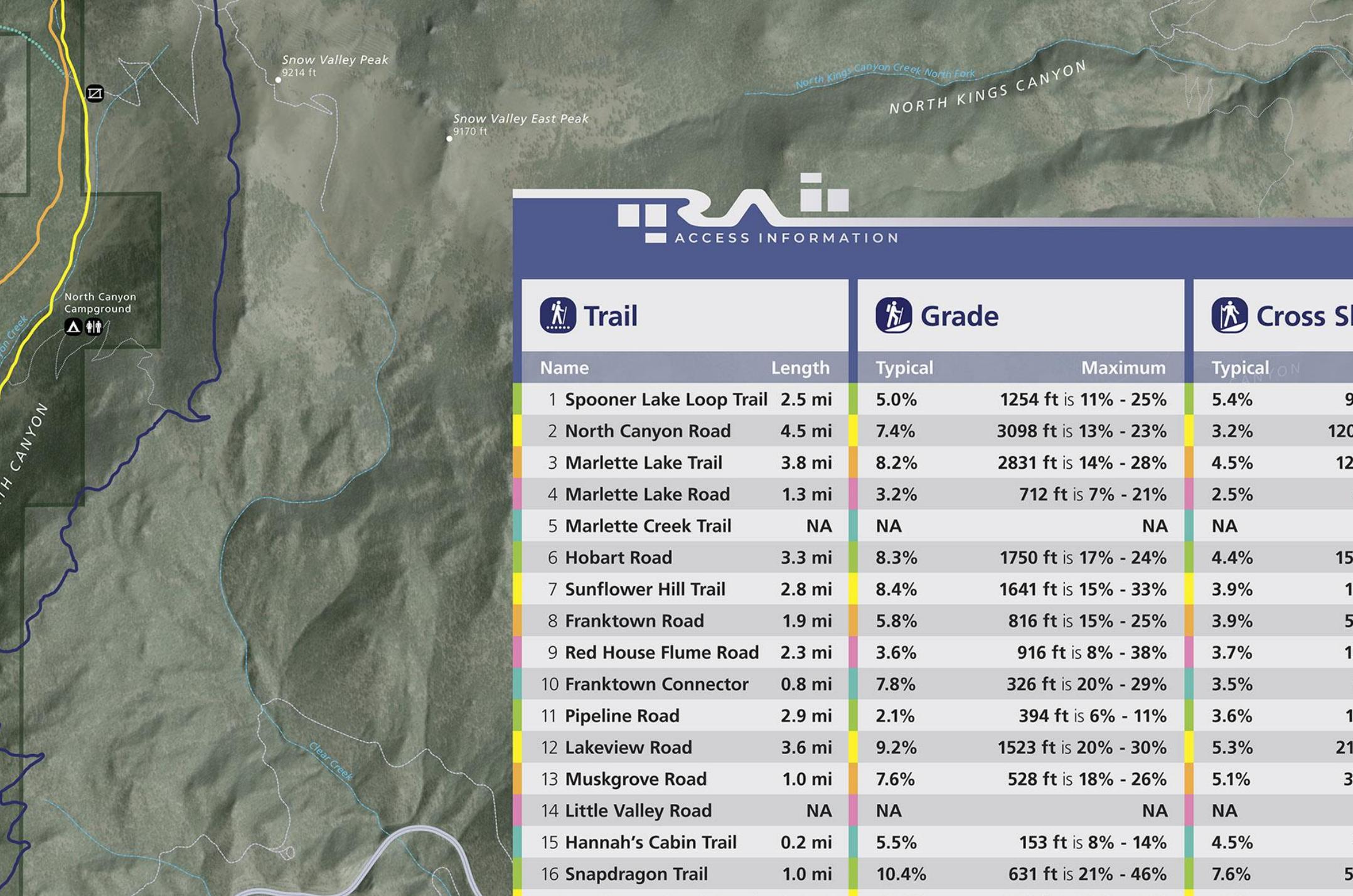
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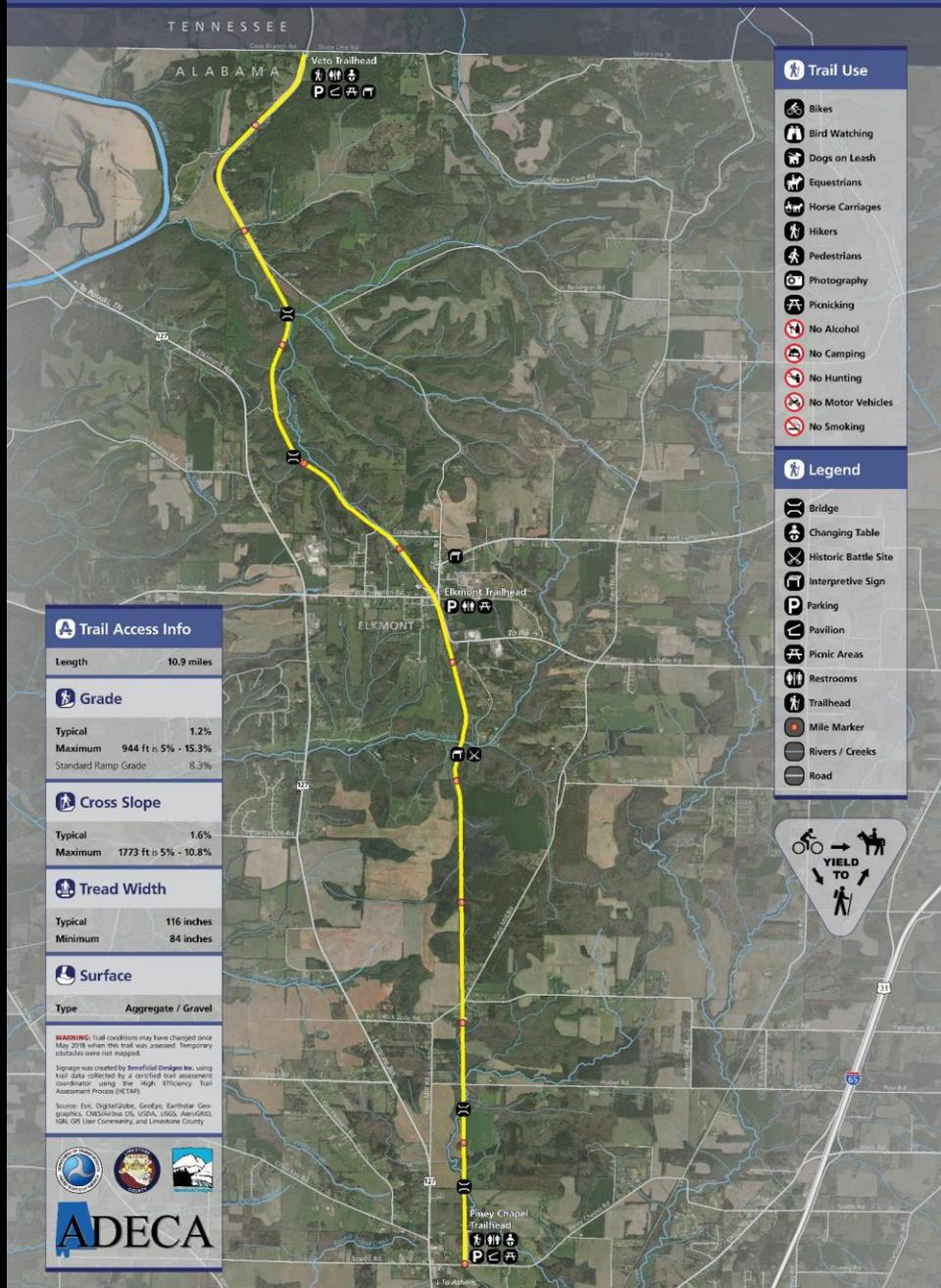



ACCESS INFORMATION

Trail		Grade		Cross S
Name	Length	Typical	Maximum	Typical
1 Spooner Lake Loop Trail	2.5 mi	5.0%	1254 ft is 11% - 25%	5.4%
2 North Canyon Road	4.5 mi	7.4%	3098 ft is 13% - 23%	3.2%
3 Marlette Lake Trail	3.8 mi	8.2%	2831 ft is 14% - 28%	4.5%
4 Marlette Lake Road	1.3 mi	3.2%	712 ft is 7% - 21%	2.5%
5 Marlette Creek Trail	NA	NA	NA	NA
6 Hobart Road	3.3 mi	8.3%	1750 ft is 17% - 24%	4.4%
7 Sunflower Hill Trail	2.8 mi	8.4%	1641 ft is 15% - 33%	3.9%
8 Franktown Road	1.9 mi	5.8%	816 ft is 15% - 25%	3.9%
9 Red House Flume Road	2.3 mi	3.6%	916 ft is 8% - 38%	3.7%
10 Franktown Connector	0.8 mi	7.8%	326 ft is 20% - 29%	3.5%
11 Pipeline Road	2.9 mi	2.1%	394 ft is 6% - 11%	3.6%
12 Lakeview Road	3.6 mi	9.2%	1523 ft is 20% - 30%	5.3%
13 Muskgrove Road	1.0 mi	7.6%	528 ft is 18% - 26%	5.1%
14 Little Valley Road	NA	NA	NA	NA
15 Hannah's Cabin Trail	0.2 mi	5.5%	153 ft is 8% - 14%	4.5%
16 Snapdragon Trail	1.0 mi	10.4%	631 ft is 21% - 46%	7.6%

# Richard Martin Trail

0 1.0 km  
0 1.0 mi



### Trail Access Info

**Length** 10.9 miles

### Grade

Typical 1.2%  
Maximum 944 ft is 5% - 15.3%  
Standard Ramp Grade 8.3%

### Cross Slope

Typical 1.6%  
Maximum 1773 ft is 5% - 10.8%

### Tread Width

Typical 116 inches  
Minimum 84 inches

### Surface

Type Aggregate / Gravel

**WARNING:** Trail conditions may have changed since May 2018 when this trail was assessed. Temporary obstacles were not mapped.

Signage was created by Beneficial Designs Inc. using trail data collected by a certified trail assessment coordinator using the High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAAP).

Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGN User Community, and Limestone County

# ADECA

### Trail Use

- Bikes
- Bird Watching
- Dogs on Leash
- Equestrians
- Horse Carriages
- Hikers
- Pedestrians
- Photography
- Picnicking
- No Alcohol
- No Camping
- No Hunting
- No Motor Vehicles
- No Smoking

### Legend

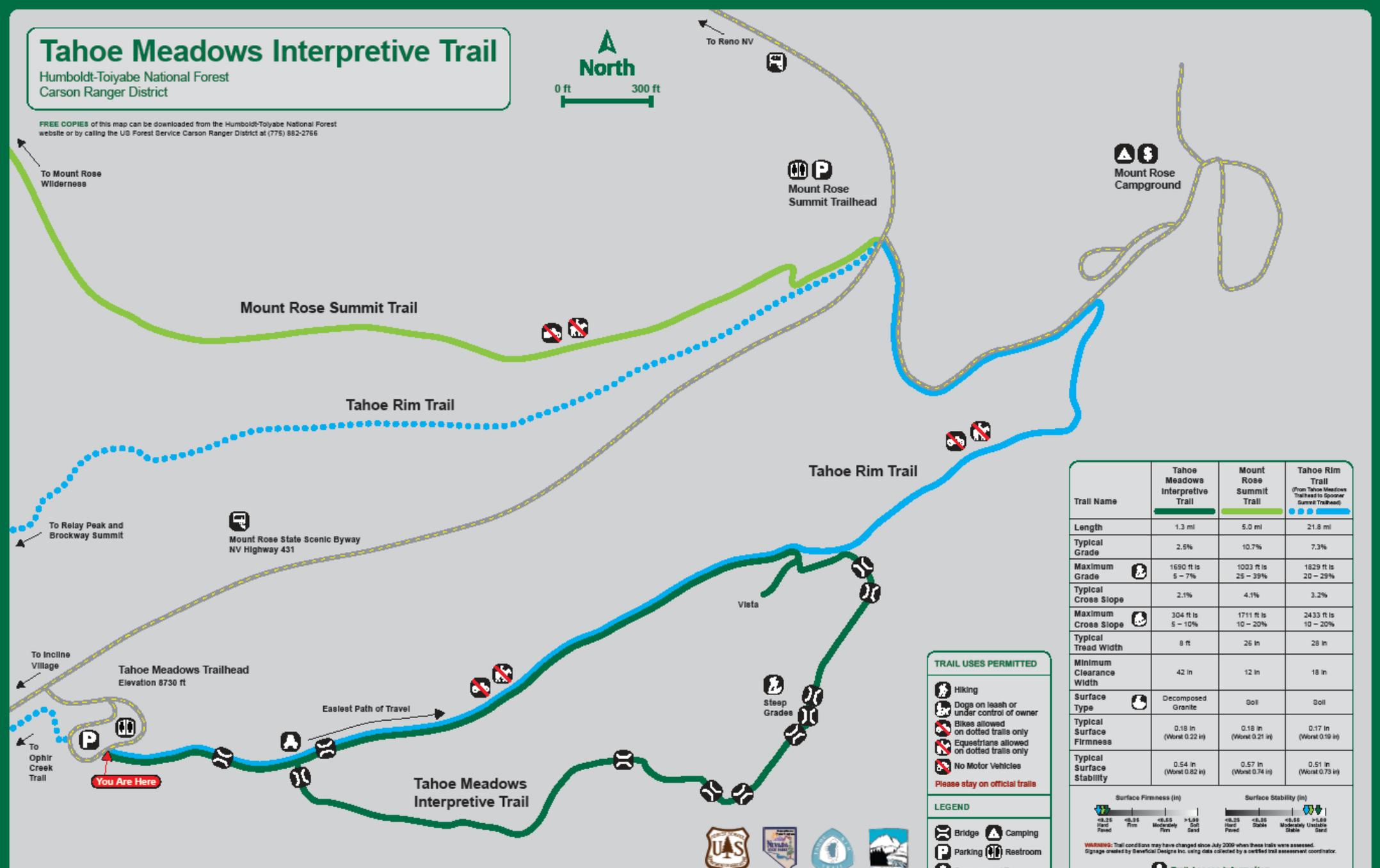
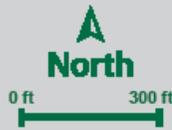
- Bridge
- Changing Table
- Historic Battle Site
- Interpretive Sign
- Parking
- Pavilion
- Picnic Areas
- Restrooms
- Trailhead
- Mile Marker
- Rivers / Creeks
- Road



# Tahoe Meadows Interpretive Trail

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Carson Ranger District

FREE COPIES of this map can be downloaded from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest website or by calling the US Forest Service Carson Ranger District at (775) 862-2766



- TRAIL USES PERMITTED**
- Hiking
  - Dogs on leash or under control of owner
  - Bikes allowed on dotted trails only
  - Equestrians allowed on dotted trails only
  - No Motor Vehicles
- Please stay on official trails**

- LEGEND**
- Bridge
  - Camping
  - Parking
  - Restroom
  - Campground Fee

Trail Name	Tahoe Meadows Interpretive Trail	Mount Rose Summit Trail	Tahoe Rim Trail <small>(From Tahoe Meadows Trailhead to Spooner Summit Trailhead)</small>
Length	1.3 mi	5.0 mi	21.8 mi
Typical Grade	2.5%	10.7%	7.3%
Maximum Grade	1690 ft is 5 - 7%	1003 ft is 25 - 39%	1629 ft is 20 - 25%
Typical Cross Slope	2.1%	4.1%	3.2%
Maximum Cross Slope	304 ft is 5 - 10%	1711 ft is 10 - 20%	2433 ft is 10 - 20%
Typical Tread Width	8 ft	26 in	28 in
Minimum Clearance Width	42 in	12 in	18 in
Surface Type	Decomposed Granite	Soil	Soil
Typical Surface Firmness	0.18 in (Worst 0.22 in)	0.18 in (Worst 0.21 in)	0.17 in (Worst 0.19 in)
Typical Surface Stability	0.54 in (Worst 0.62 in)	0.57 in (Worst 0.74 in)	0.51 in (Worst 0.75 in)



**WARNING:** Trail conditions may have changed since July 2009 when these trails were assessed. ©Map created by Beneficial Designs Inc. using data collected by a certified trail assessment coordinator.

**Trail Access Information**



Funded by the Nevada Recreational Trails Program

# Developed Outdoor Recreation Assessment Process



# Outdoor constructed features

bench

camp shelter

cooking surface/grill

fire ring, wood  
stove/fireplace

outdoor rinsing  
shower

parking area

picnic table

pit toilet

tent pad/platform

toilet building

trash/recycling receptacle

utility/sewage connection

viewing area at overlooks

viewing scope

water spout

# Picnic table clearance space



COVER SHEET

Agency

Park Name

Campground / Trail Name / Picnic Area / Etc.

Are you using an external sensor box?

N Y

Sensor ID (3 digits)

Segment ID (3 letters)

Funding

Phase I & II funding for the Developed Outdoor

Parking Space

(click to add subforms)



Pit Toilet / Outhouse

(click to add subforms)



RV Parking or Pull Up Space

(click to add subforms)



Table

(click to add subforms)



Tent Area

(click to add subforms)



**ABA/FSORAG**

What type of assessment?

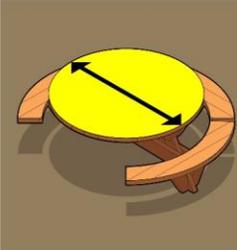
ABA  FSO

---

**REQUIRED SPACES**

Is the table Circular?

Table Diameter



Measure the height from the to the table top




Measure the height from the ground to the table top

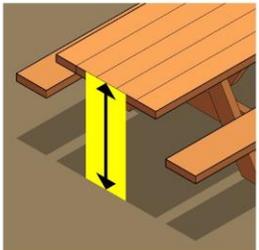


Table surface height ( min 28 in - max 34 in)

**Compliant**

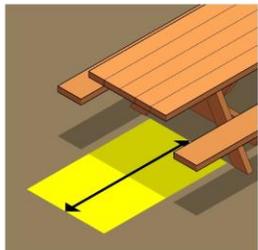
---

**CLEAR SPACE**

Does one full unobstructed side clear ground space around the table adjacent or overlap an OBAP trail

**WHEELCHAIR CLEAR SPACE**

Measure the Wheelchair clear space length. The length may extend a maximum of 25 inches beneath the table.



WC Clear space length (min 48 in)

**Not compliant**

Measure the Wheelchair clear

Suggested maintenance

---

Notes

---

Optional photos




---

**MANUFACTURER INFO**

Manufacturer and Model

If available, enter the model and manufacturer of the feature.

---

Manufacturer

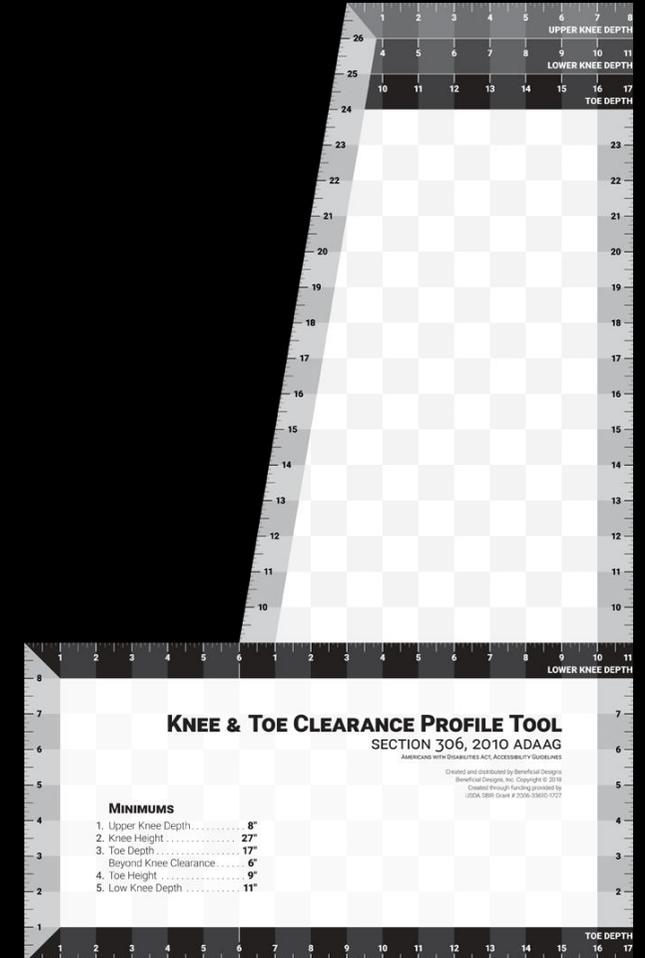
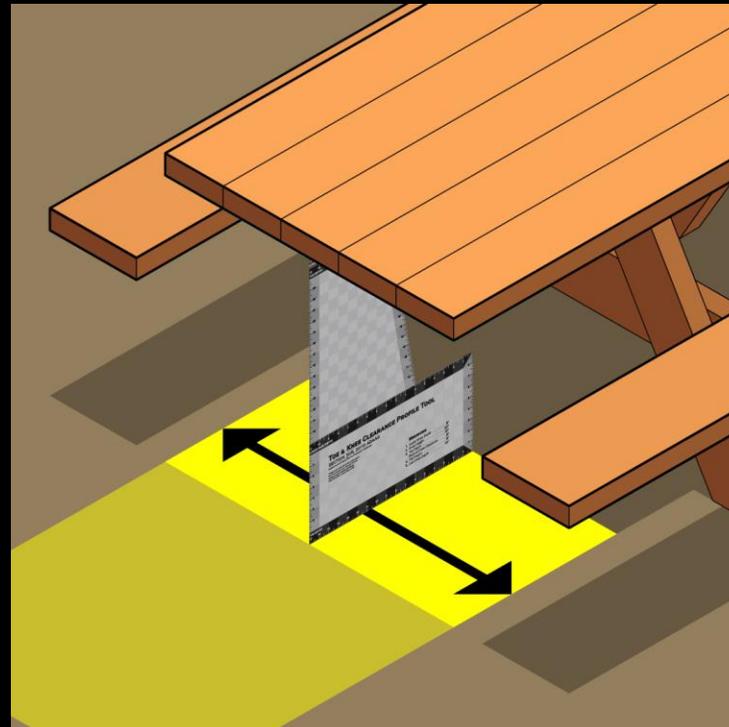
---

Model

---

# Knee & Toe Clearance Profile Tool

unobstructed knee & toe space



# Adjustable height cooking grill



# Water pump

With closed-fist operation



# Water pump

Actuation force



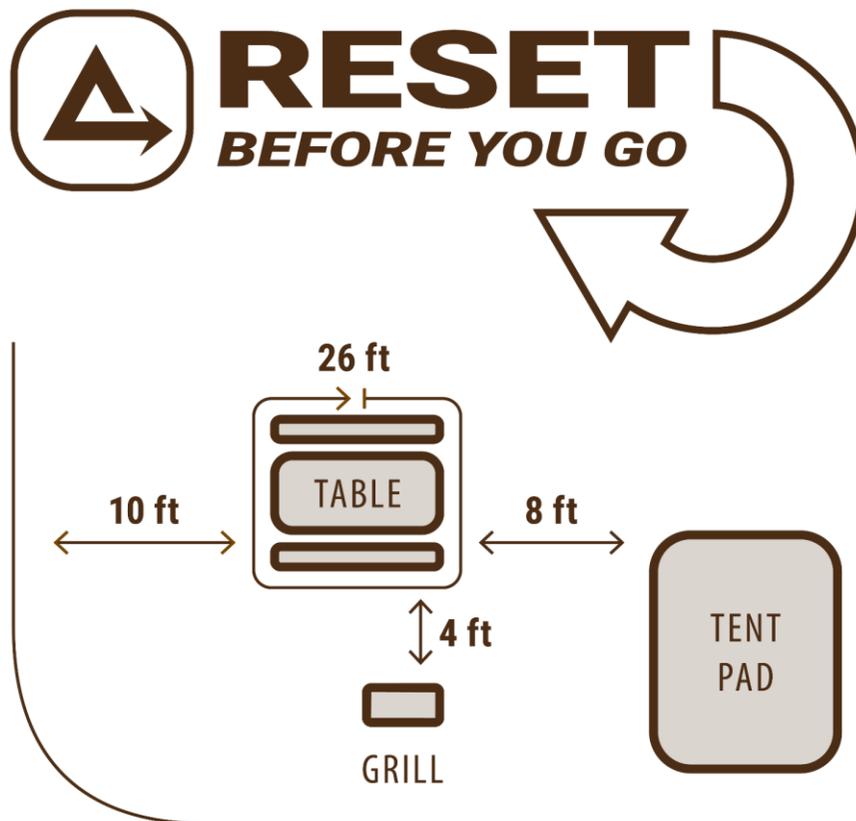
# Water pump

## Height measurement



# Campsite

## Access Information



Please return elements so that this campsite remains **accessible**

If you do not require access and mobility features, please do not use this site between **11AM and 6PM**



## Site 18

Single Site

### PRIORITY USAGE

If you **DO NOT** require access and mobility features, please **DO NOT** use this site between:

**11 AM**  **6 PM**

### Accessible Elements

#### Tent Pad

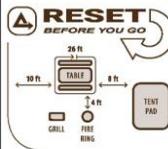
Size 11.6 ft x 16.0 ft  
Accommodates 4 Persons

#### Table

#### Pivot Grill

#### Fire Ring

#### Hydrant



Please return elements so this campsite remains **accessible**

**WARNING:** Campsite conditions may have changed since March 2011 when this campsite was assessed. Temporary obstructions were not recorded.

Funded in part by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management through the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Small Business Innovation Research Program (Grant number: 2013-3340-21051)

**CAMPSITE**  
ACCESS INFORMATION

Mappage created by Beneficial Design Inc. using data collected by a user of the campsite assessment tool, BenMAP.



# Site 18

Single Site



## PRIORITY USAGE

If you **DO NOT** require access and mobility features, please **DO NOT** use this site between:

**11AM**



**6PM**



## Accessible Elements



## Tent Pad

Size 11.6 ft x 16.0 ft

Accommodates 4 Persons



## Table



## Pivot Grill



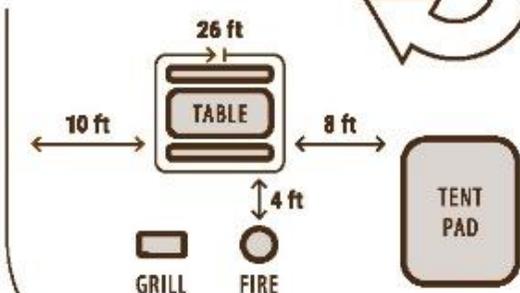
## Fire Ring



## Hydrant



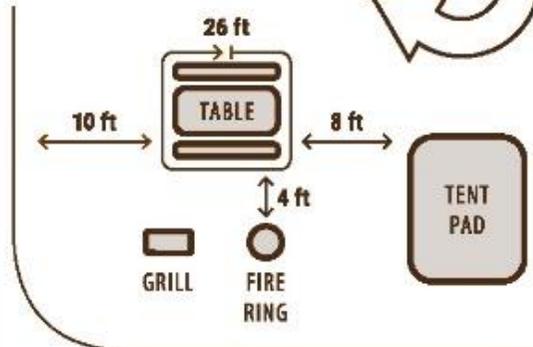
## RESET BEFORE YOU GO



## Hydrant



## RESET BEFORE YOU GO



Please return elements so this campsite remains **accessible**

**WARNING:** Campsite conditions may have changed since March 2011 when this campsite was assessed. Temporary obstructions were not recorded.

Phase I & II funding for the Developed Outdoor Recreation Assessment Process is provided by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** through the Small Business Innovation and Research Program Grant number 2013-33610-21051



Signage created by **Beneficial Designs Inc.** using data collected by a certified campsite assessment coordinator

Develop standards for

# Trail and sidewalk design

Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)

Outdoor Recreation Access Guidelines

Public Rights of Way Access Guidelines  
(PROWAG)







BRIGHT TRANSITIONS

Project #: 216-2

Date: 4/27/09

Street Name: OLVA WEST Segment Name: \* Distance: 233'9"

\* N COUNTY ROAD TO MICKLAND

N

N

S

S

E

E

W

W

9/16" 0.56

# Sidewalk assessment

Public Rights-of-Way Assessment Process (PROWAP)



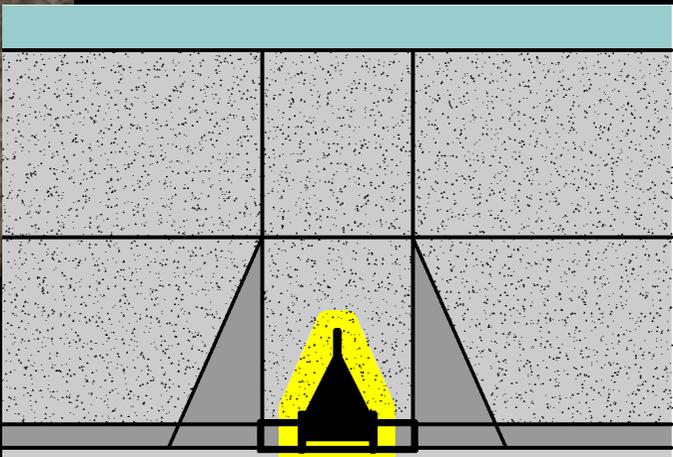


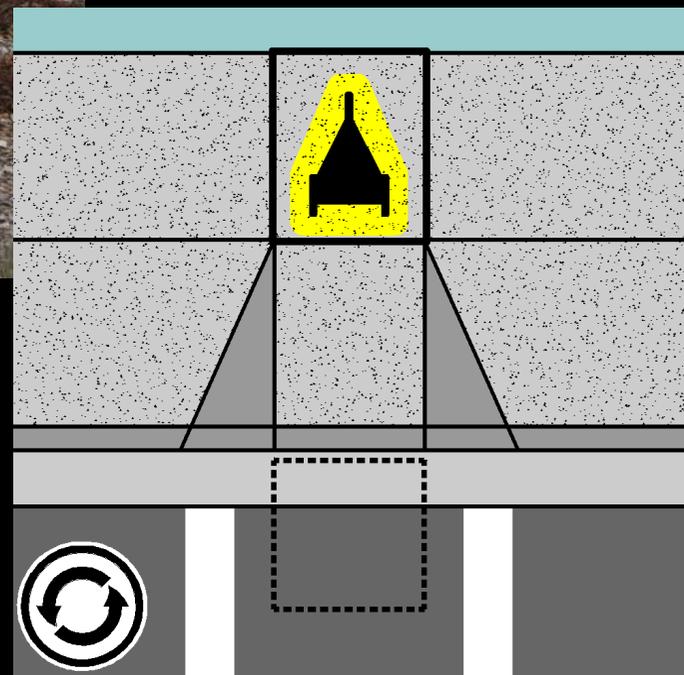
# Digital Measuring Wheel (DMS)

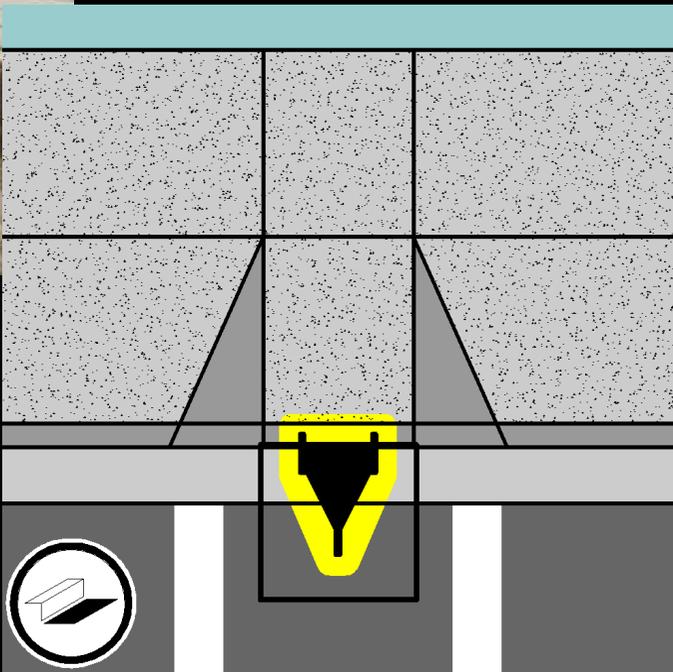


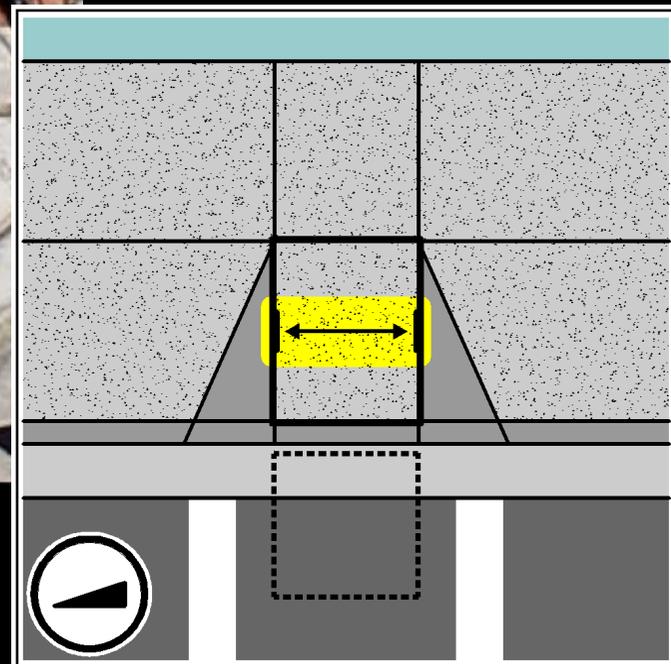
# Digital Height Measuring Device

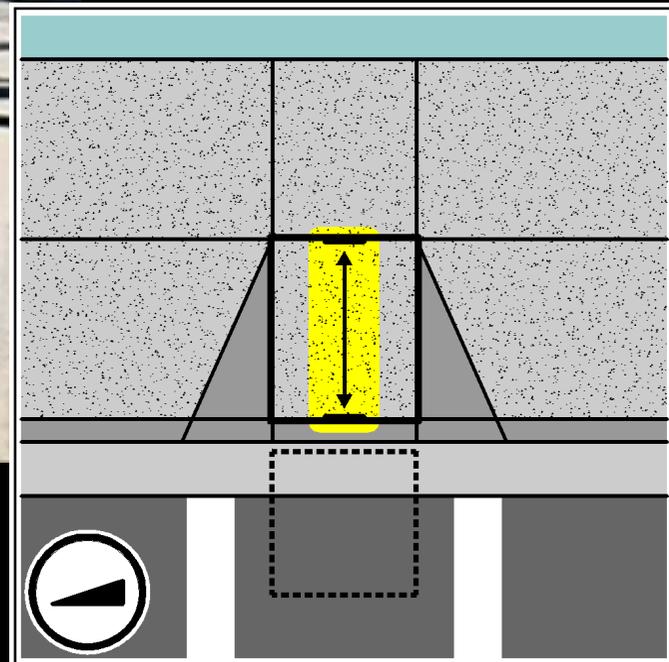












# NDOT

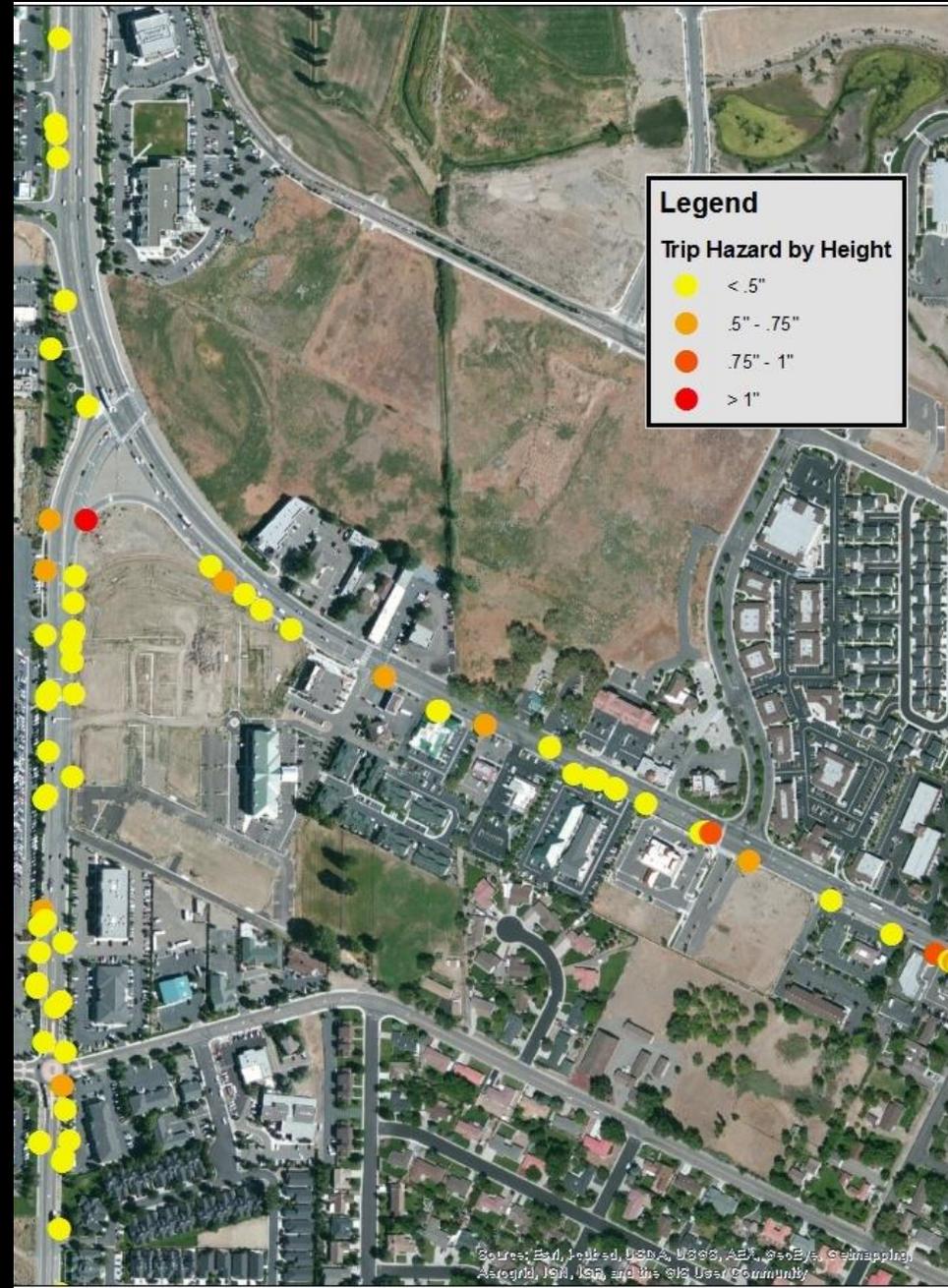
Tread width





# NDOT

## Tripping hazard height



# Universal design standards

for products

# Universal Design of Fitness Equipment (UDFE) Standards



# Low step-up height design





# Finding the Weight Adjustment Pin





LifeFitness

UT OR PRESS QUICK START

Calories Distance Time Incline Speed Heart Rate

1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9  
Clear 0 Enter

Manual Fat Burn Cardio Zone Training + Enter Weight  
Random Hill Personal Trainer Fit Test Speed Interval

Quick Start Pause Cool Down

**WARNING**

**CAUTION:** Consider an exercise before using this equipment. Stop exercising if you feel any pain, dizziness or shortness of breath.

**ATTENTION:** Consider an exercise every 15 minutes for optimal results. Use the equipment only for the intended purpose. Do not use for any other purpose.

**CAUTION: RISK OF INJURY TO PERSONS - TO AVOID INJURY STAND ON THE SIDEWALKS BEFORE STARTING THE WALKER. READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING.**

**When in doubt, stop using the equipment. Use the equipment only for the intended purpose. Do not use for any other purpose.**

**POLAR**

color contrast

LifeFitness

UT OR PRESS QUICK START

Calories Distance Time Incline Speed Heart Rate

1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9  
Clear 0 Enter

Manual Fat Burn Cardio Zone Training + Enter Weight  
Random Hill Personal Trainer Fit Test Speed Interval

Quick Start Pause Cool Down

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**When in doubt, stop using the equipment. Use the equipment only for the intended purpose. Do not use for any other purpose.**

**POLAR**

value contrast



**color contrast**



**value contrast**

# Universal design standards

For amusement park rides









2013. 12. 23 13:43







# **New area of focus on air travel**

One focus area is

**Air Travel Assistive Technologies Standards**

ISSUE

# **Steep jetway slopes**

Typically steeper than standard ramp

Dangerous for mobility device users

Exempt from ADA guidelines





6°



6°

# Boarding devices



# Assessment of Traditional aircraft boarding devices

Stability



# Lateral Tipping Angle



Common Boarding Device 1

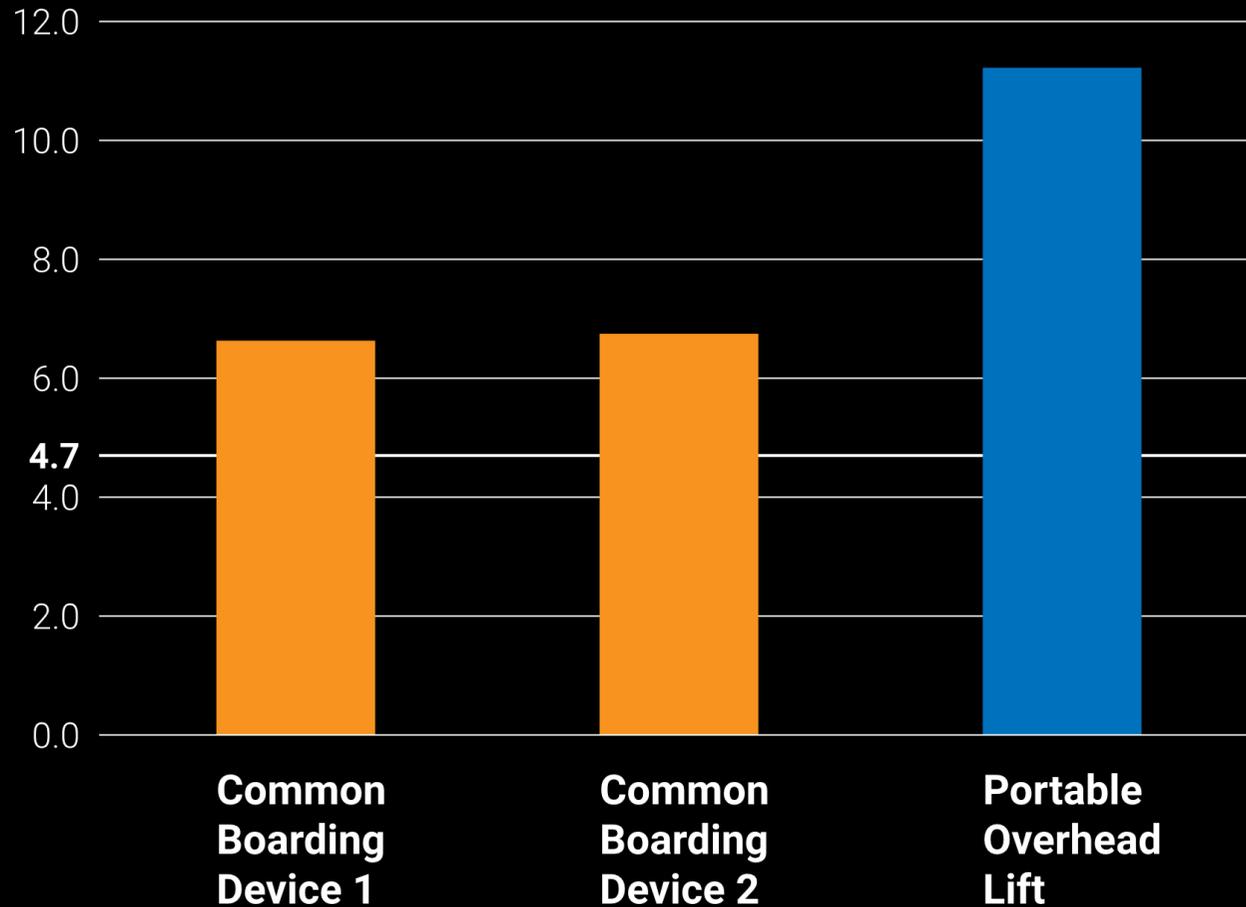


Common Boarding Device  
2



Portable Overhead Lift

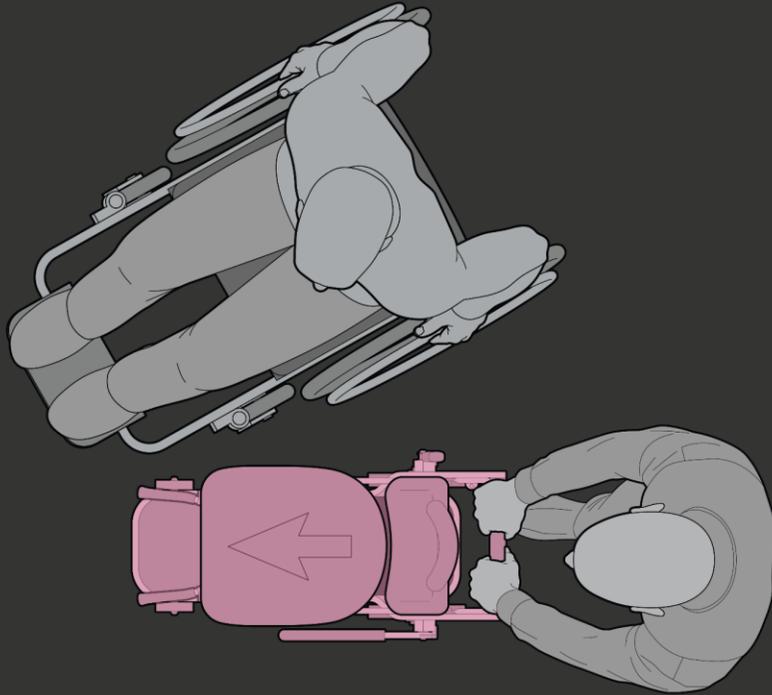
# Lateral Tipping Angles



boarding bridge



uphill



downhill



aircraft door

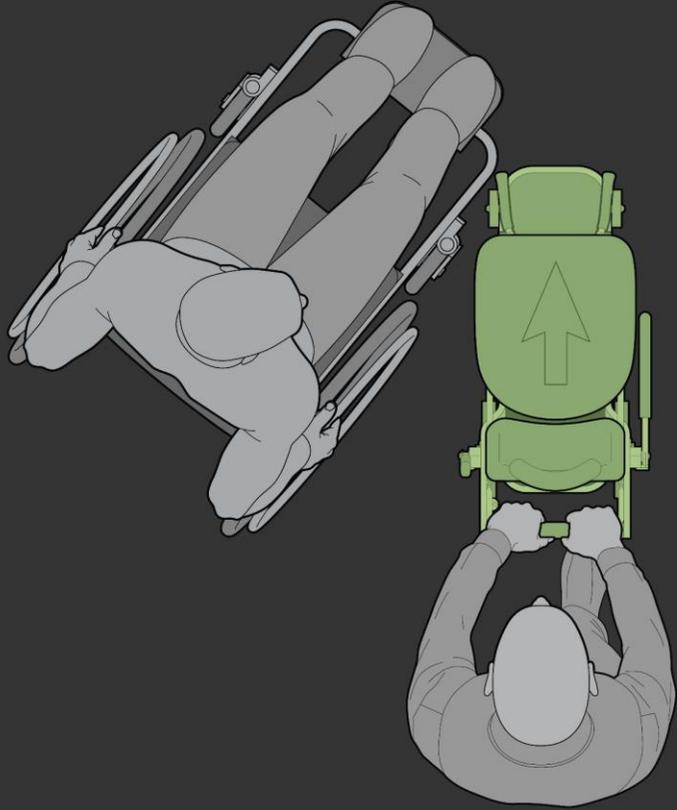






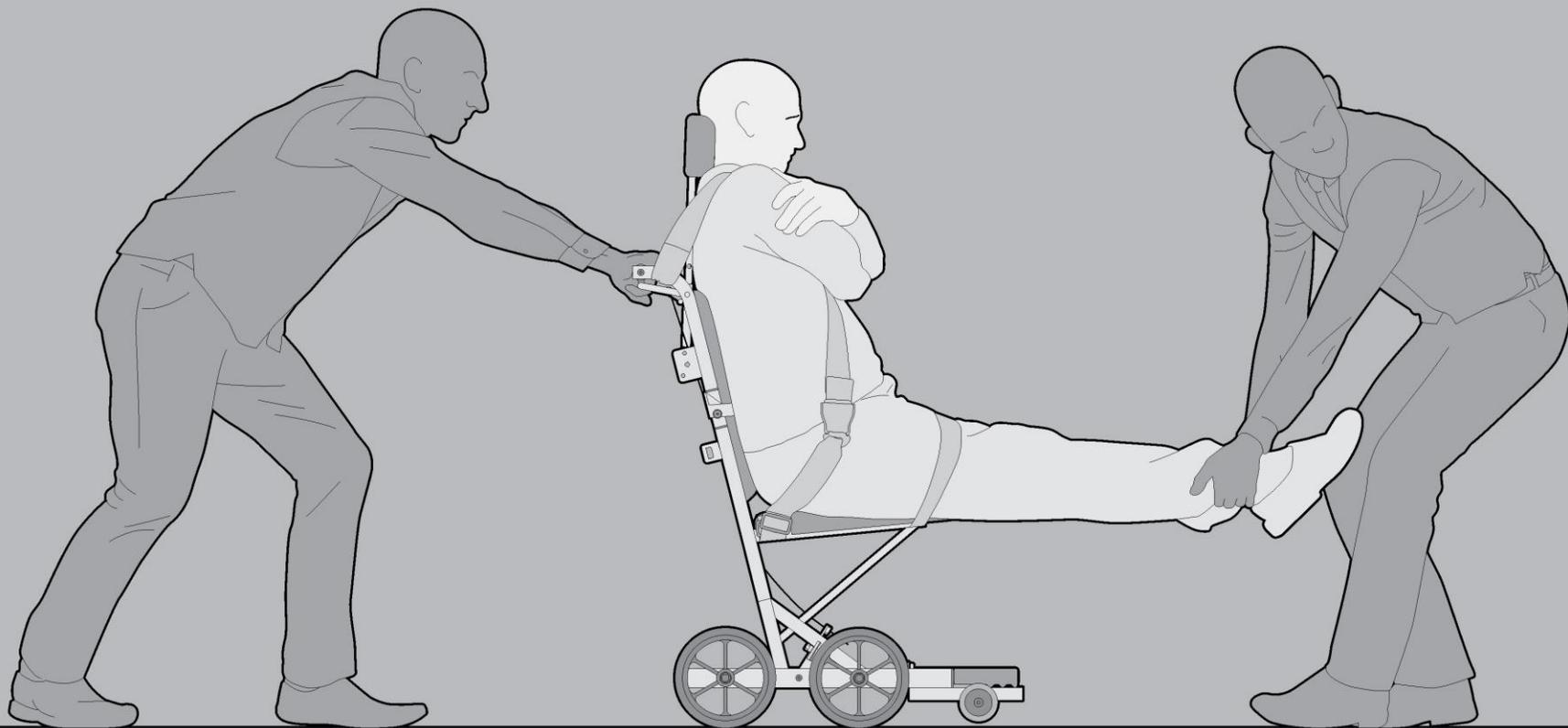
boarding bridge

▲  
uphill

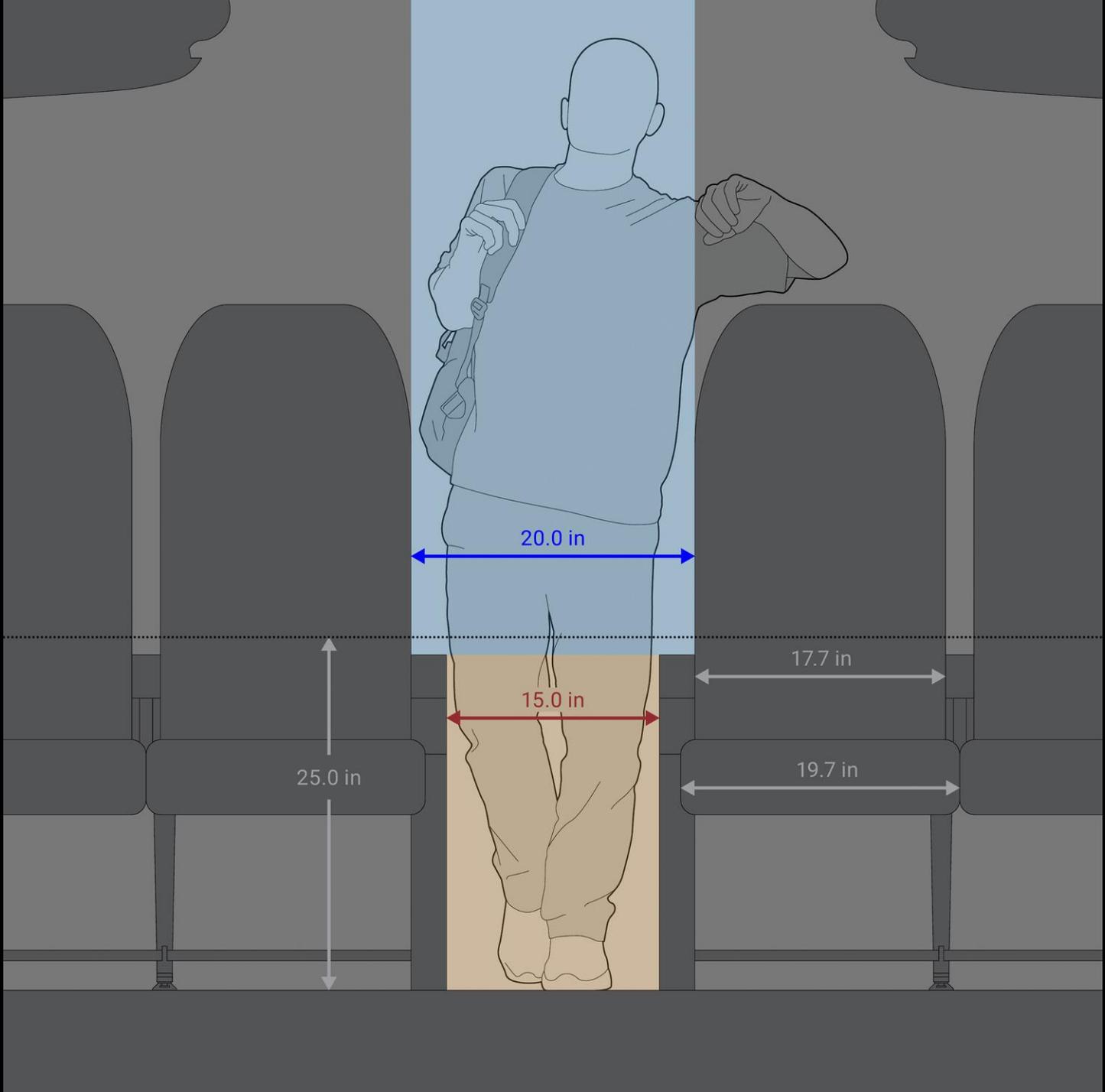


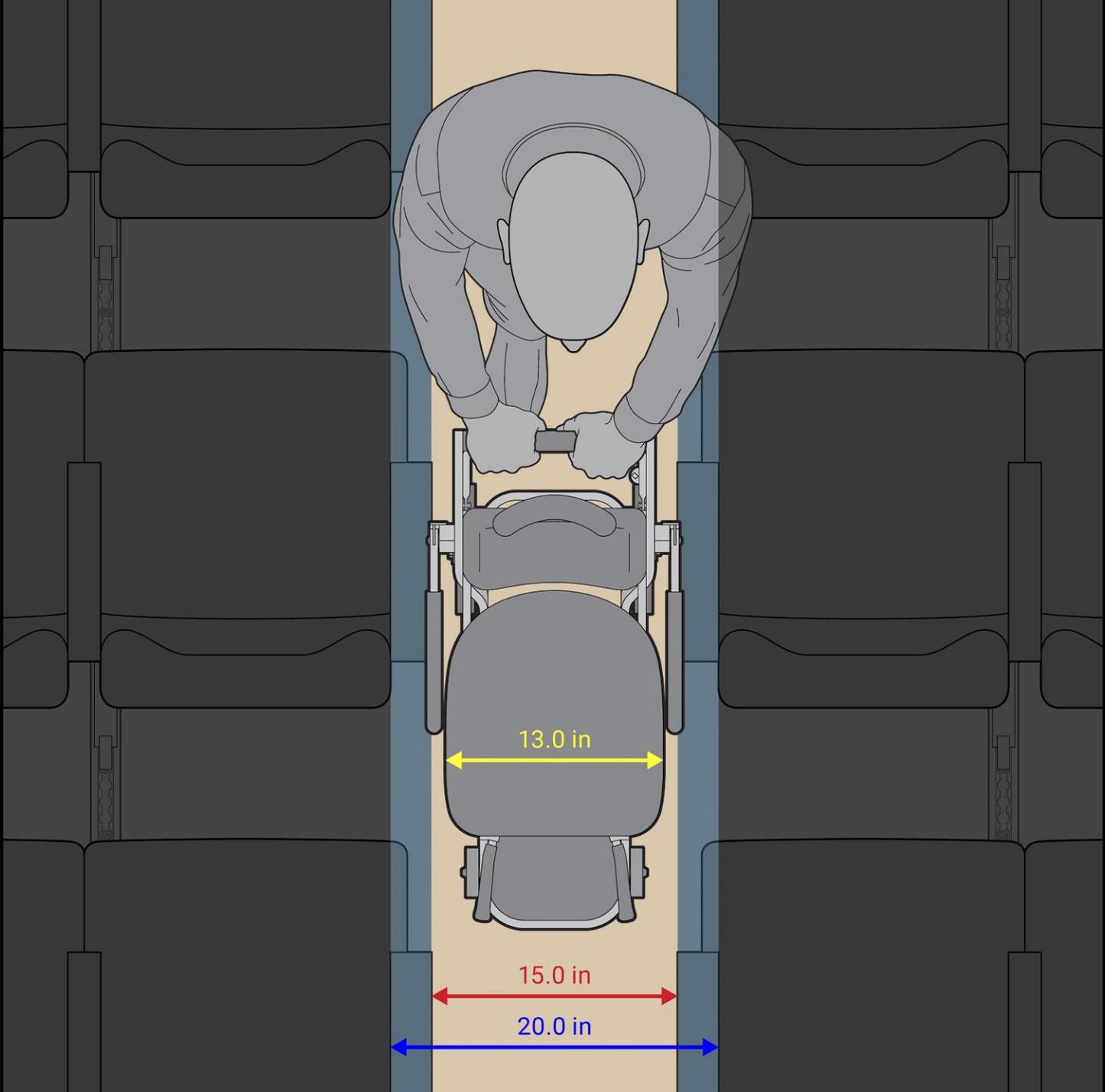
▼  
downhill

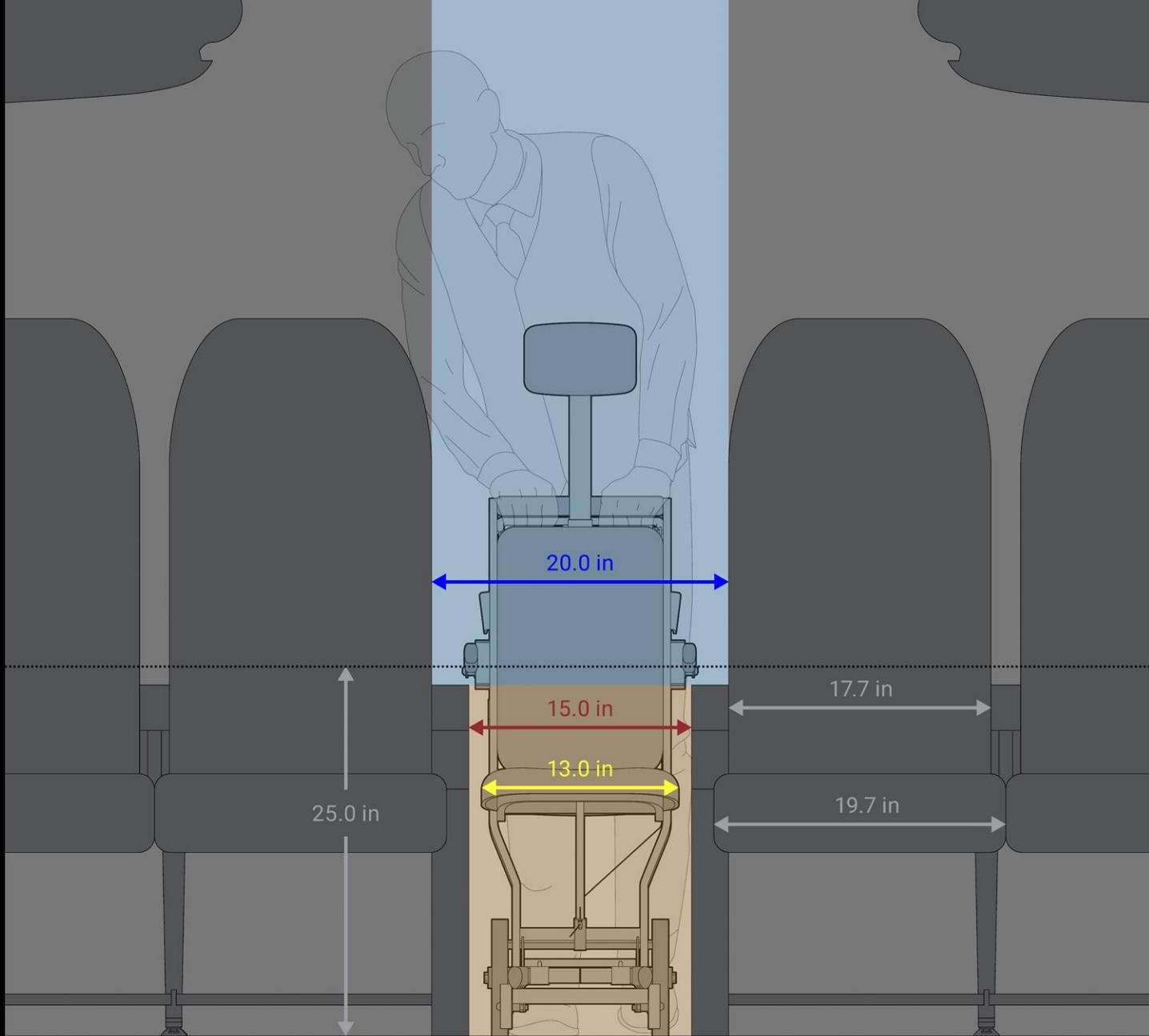
aircraft door

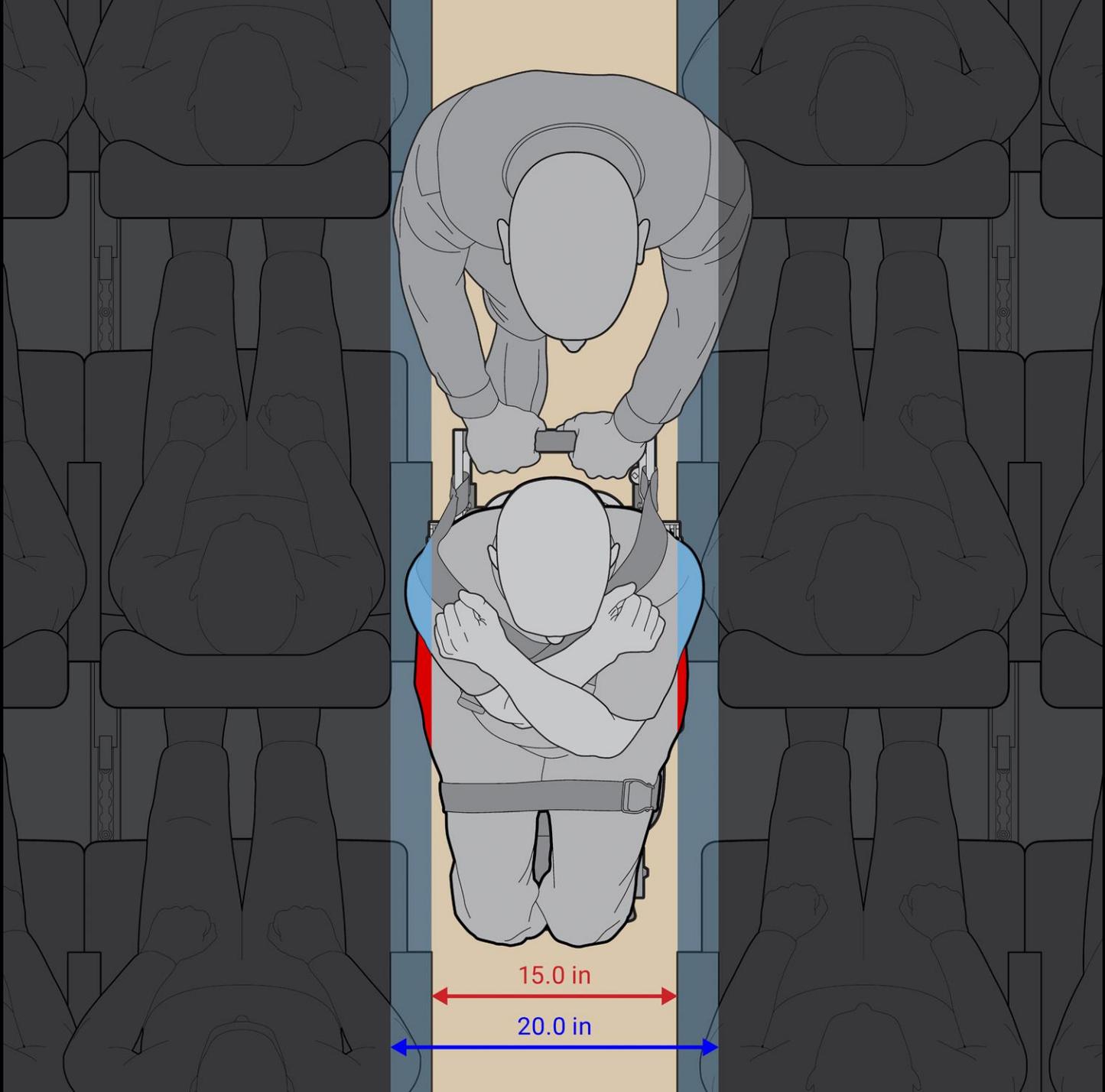










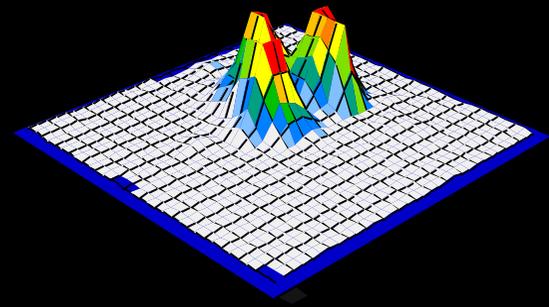
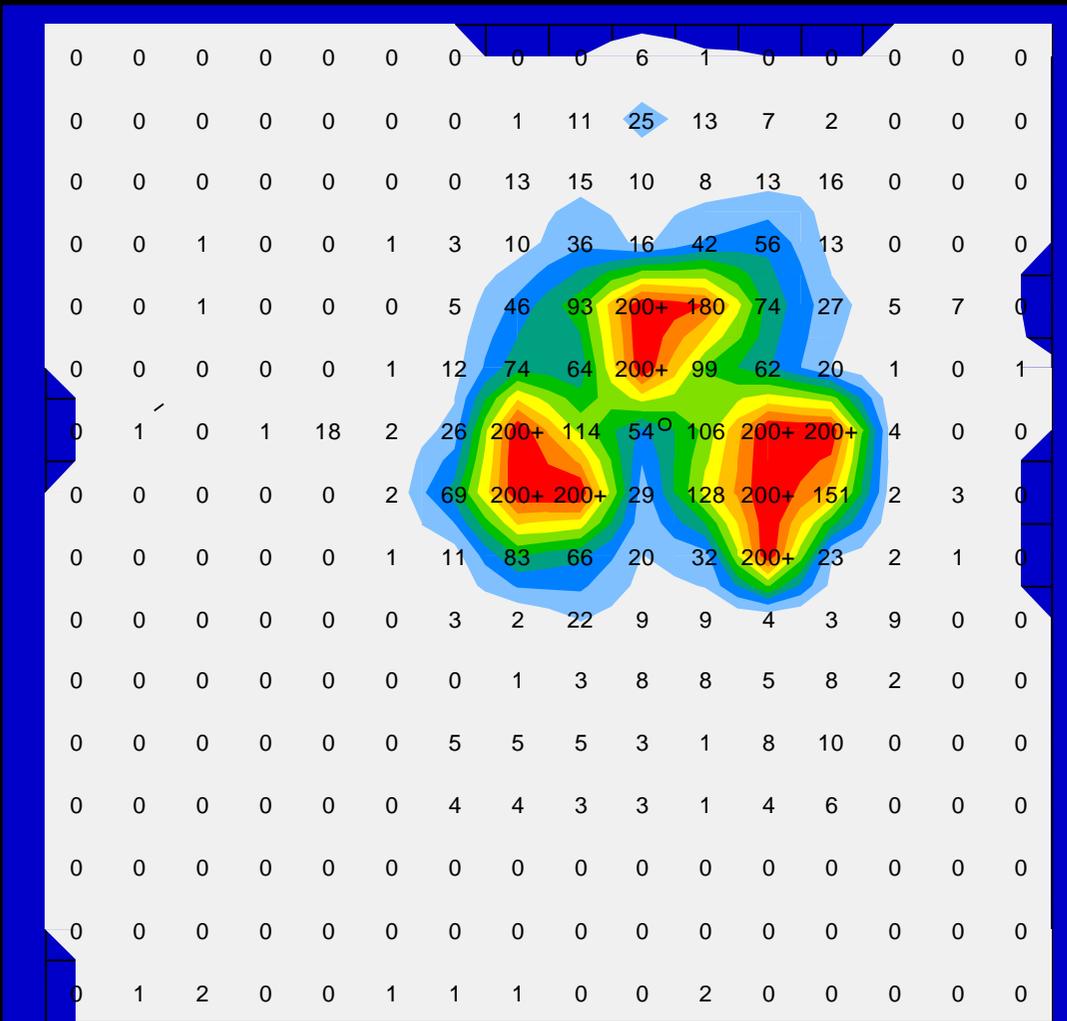


15.0 in

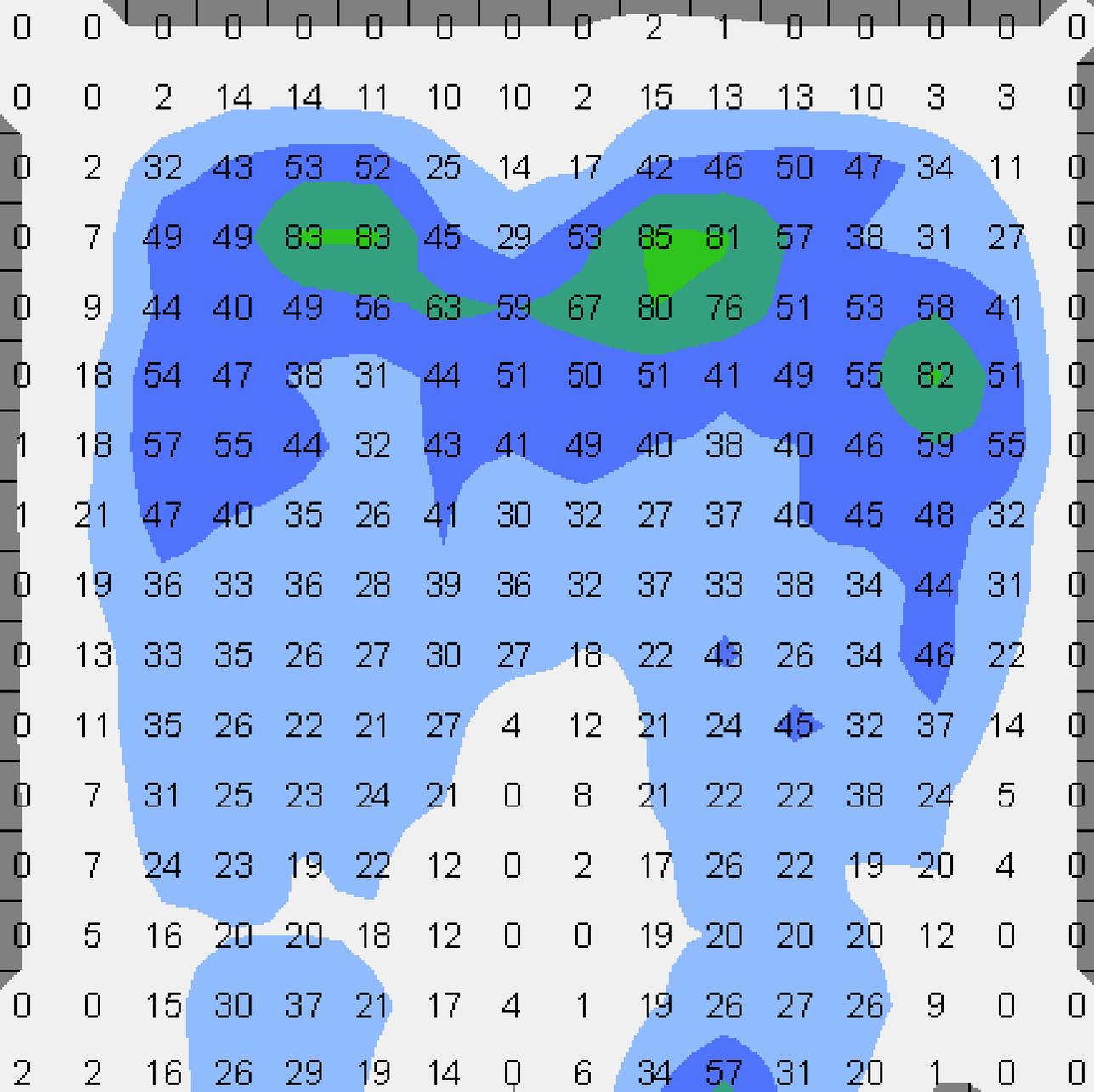
20.0 in

Sitting on an

# S boarding device without cushion



Minimum (mmHg)	0.00
Maximum (mmHg)	200.00
Average (mmHg)	15.64
Variance (mmHg <sup>2</sup> )	1823.88
Standard deviation (mmHg)	42.71
Coefficient of variation (%)	272.99
Horizontal center (in)	10.47
Vertical center (in)	10.20
Sensing area (in <sup>2</sup> )	289.27
Regional distribution (%)	100.00



Aircraft boarding using

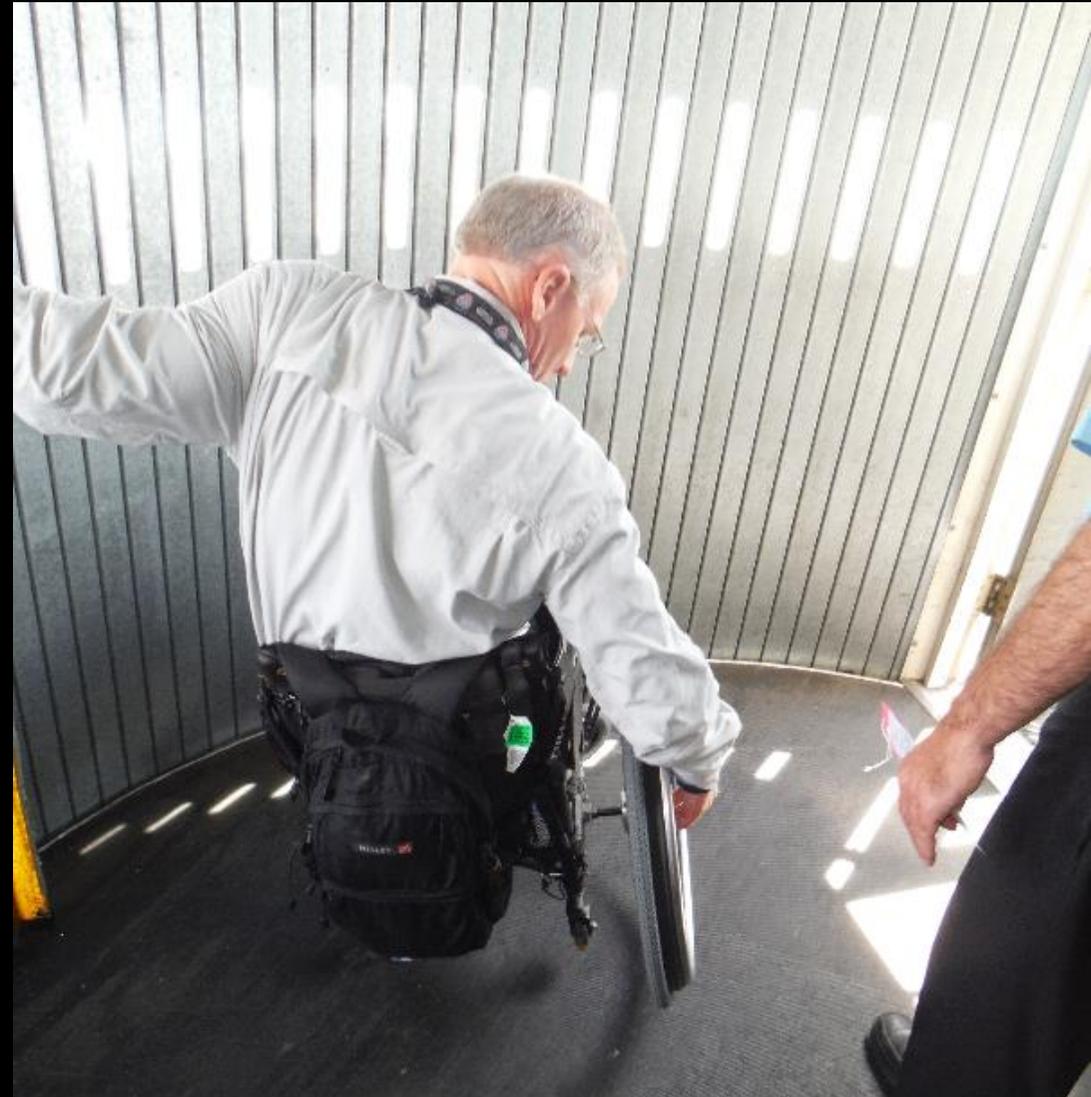
# A personal aisle chair

Removable  
wheels



Aircraft boarding using a wheelchair with  
**Narrow accessory wheels**

Fewer transfers



# Aircraft-compatible wheelchair



# Transfer assist technology











# Aircraft seating with **Pressure relief cushion from wheelchair**

Legs hanging  
Shoulders forward  
Neck extended  
Arm not supported



Aircraft seating with  
**Pressure relief cushion and “accessories”**

Foot support

Lumbar and spine support

Neck/head support

Arm Support



# Aircraft seating with **Pressure relief cushion and “accessories”**

Feet supported  
lumbar and  
Spine supported  
Neck/head support  
Arm supported











# Potential solution

Educate travelers without sensation to use pressure relief seating accessories when sitting in aircraft

Allow for wheelchairs to be secured in aircraft like they are in buses

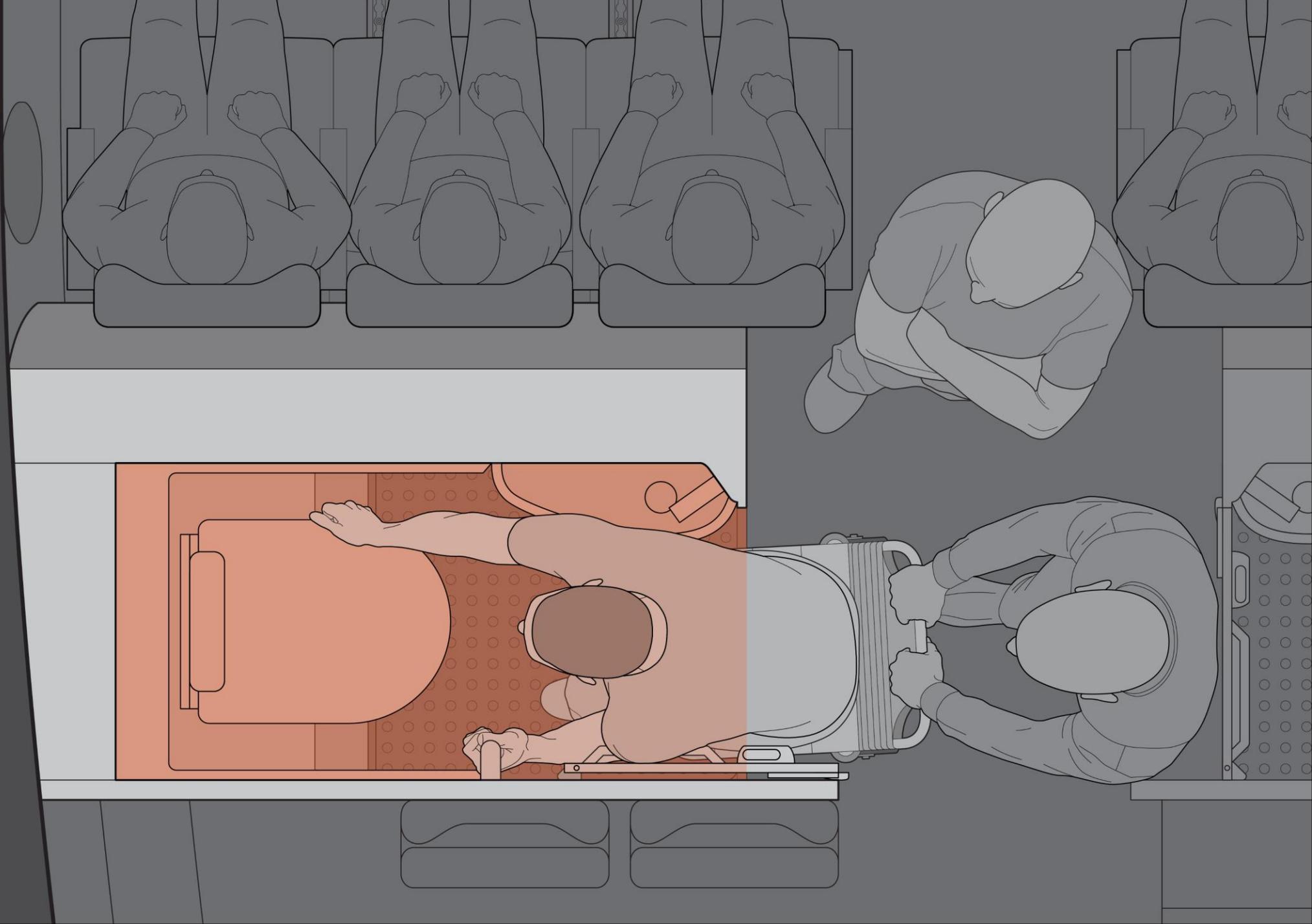
## ISSUE

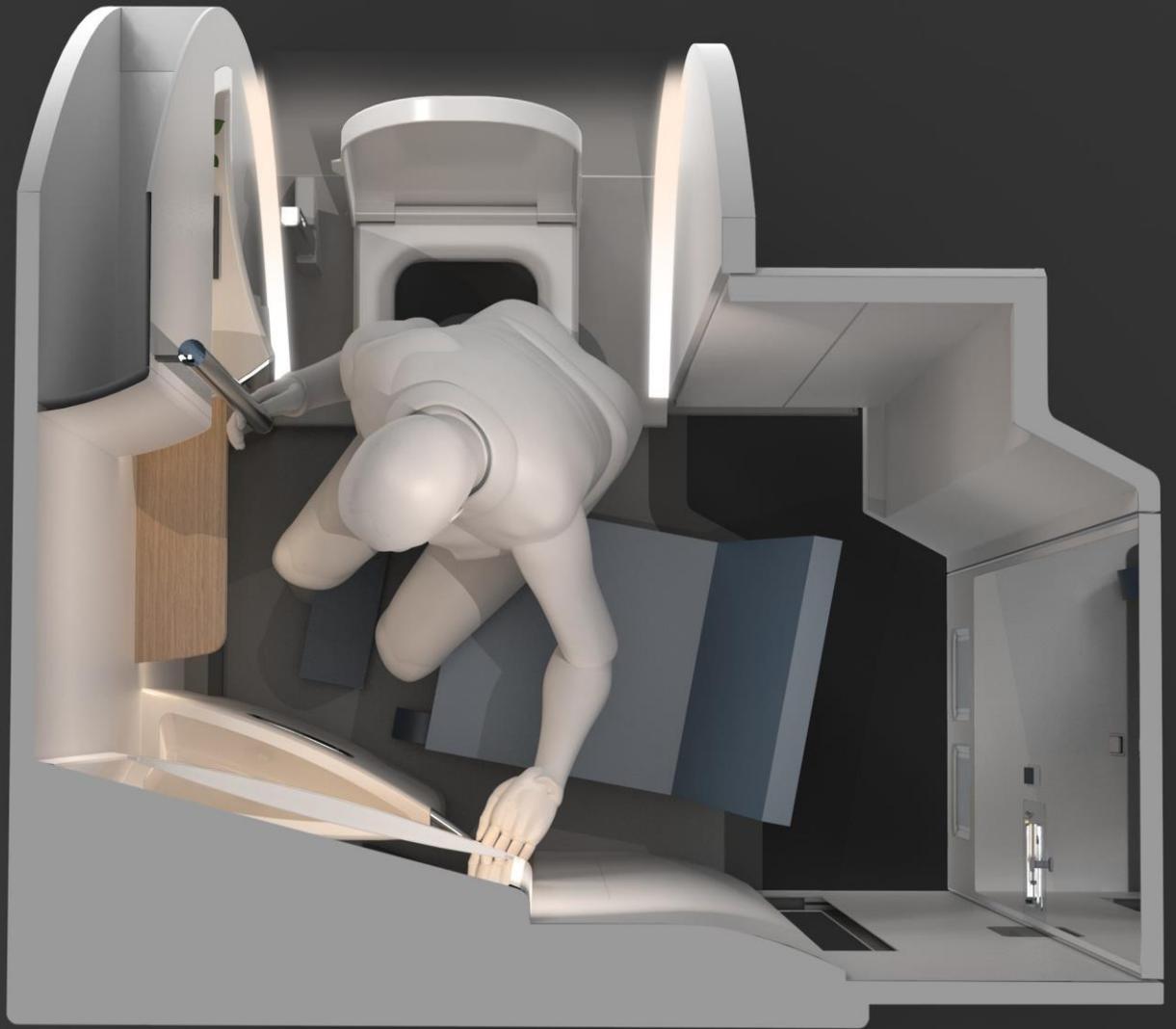
# Lack of accessible lavatories

Passengers needing a personal caregiver are not accommodated by the current size of lavatories

Including infants and older adults and non-ambulatory passengers that must use an on-board aisle wheelchair

Would only fly 2-3 hours without lavatory access

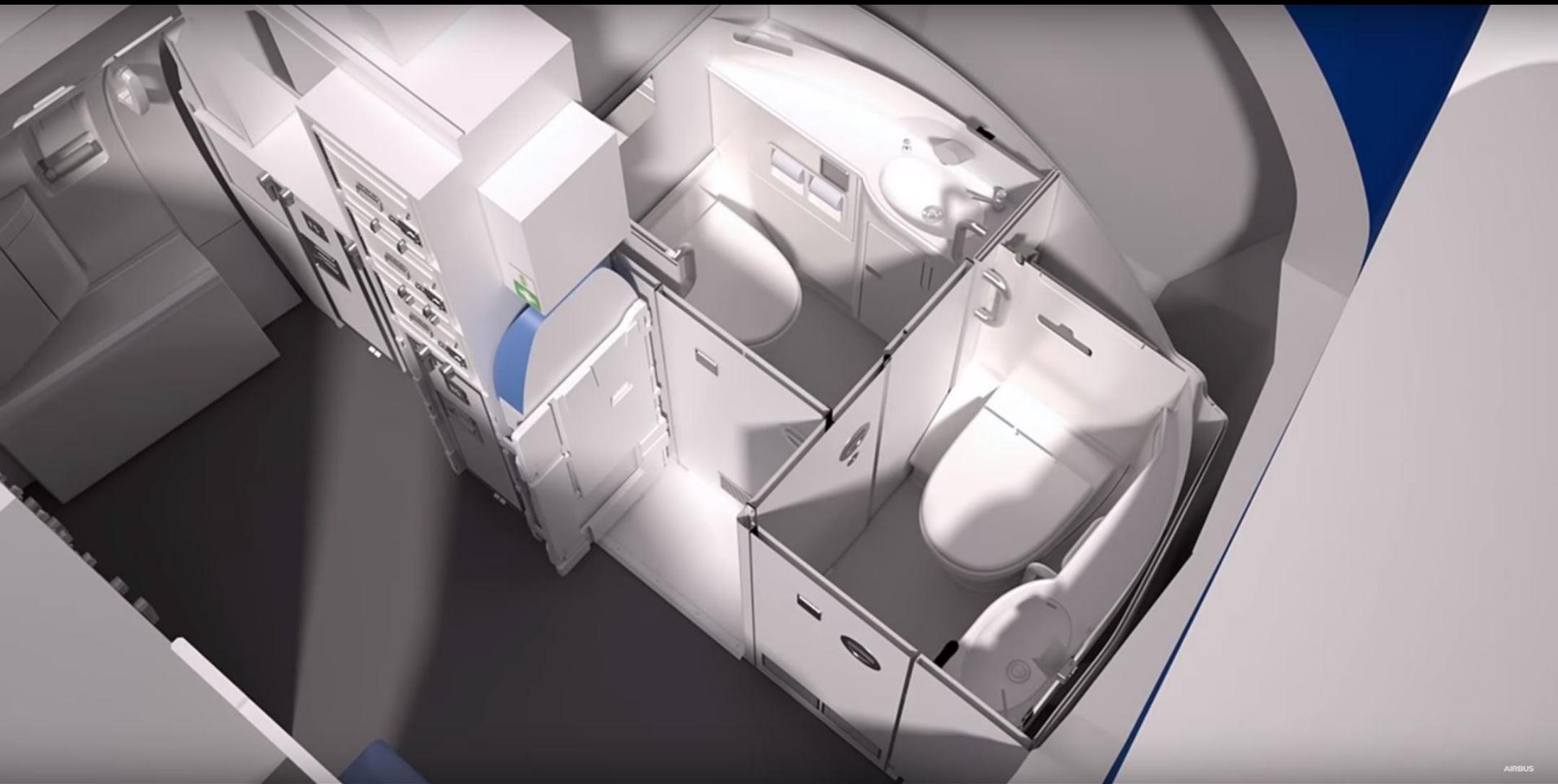




## ACCESS

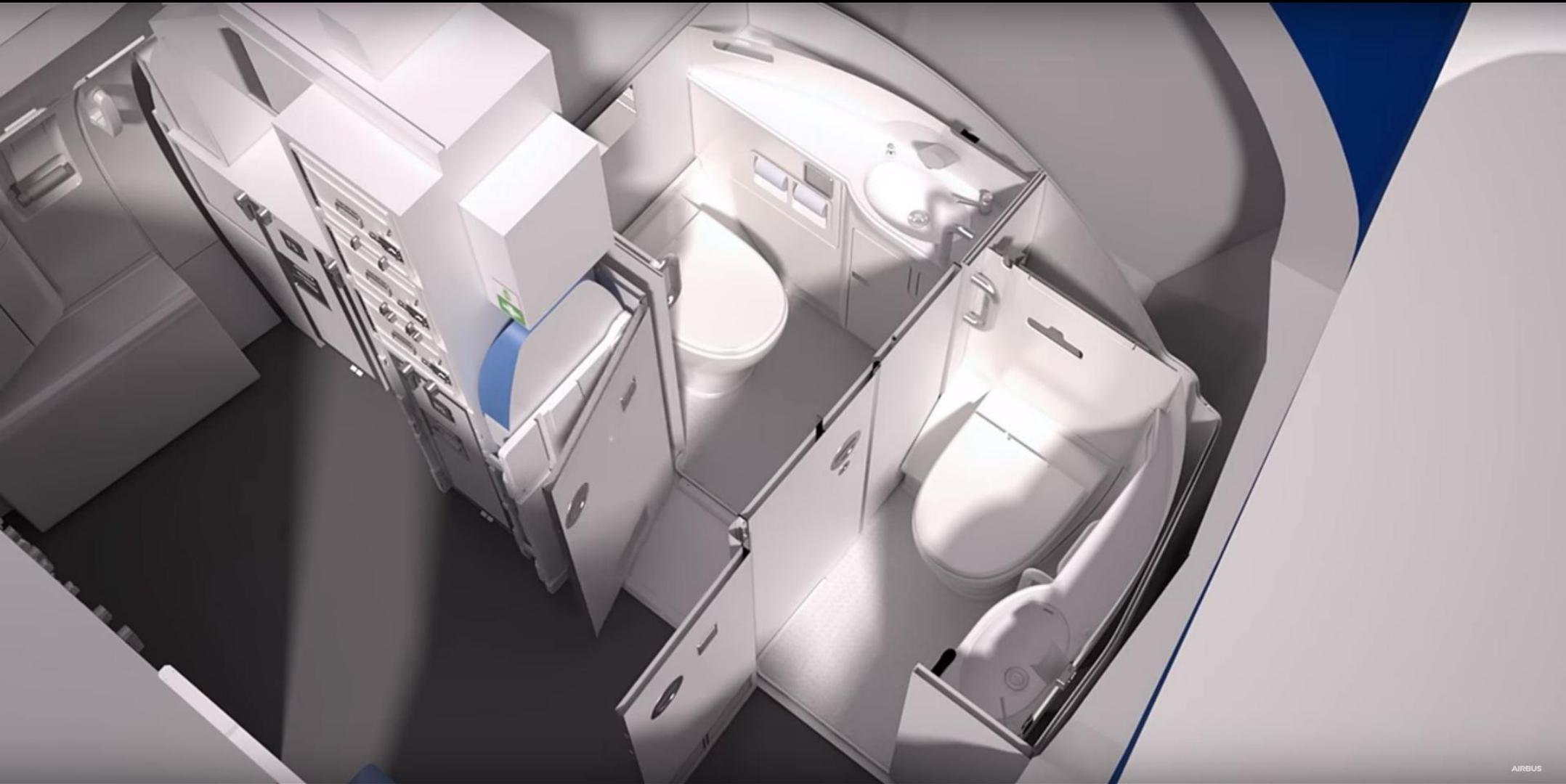
Acumen Design Associates  
ST Engineering

apex  
<https://apex.aero/2020/02/12/access-aircraft-lavatory-design>



# Airbus 320 Space Flex

Airbus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Any6R1dGnrM>



**Airbus 320 Space Flex**

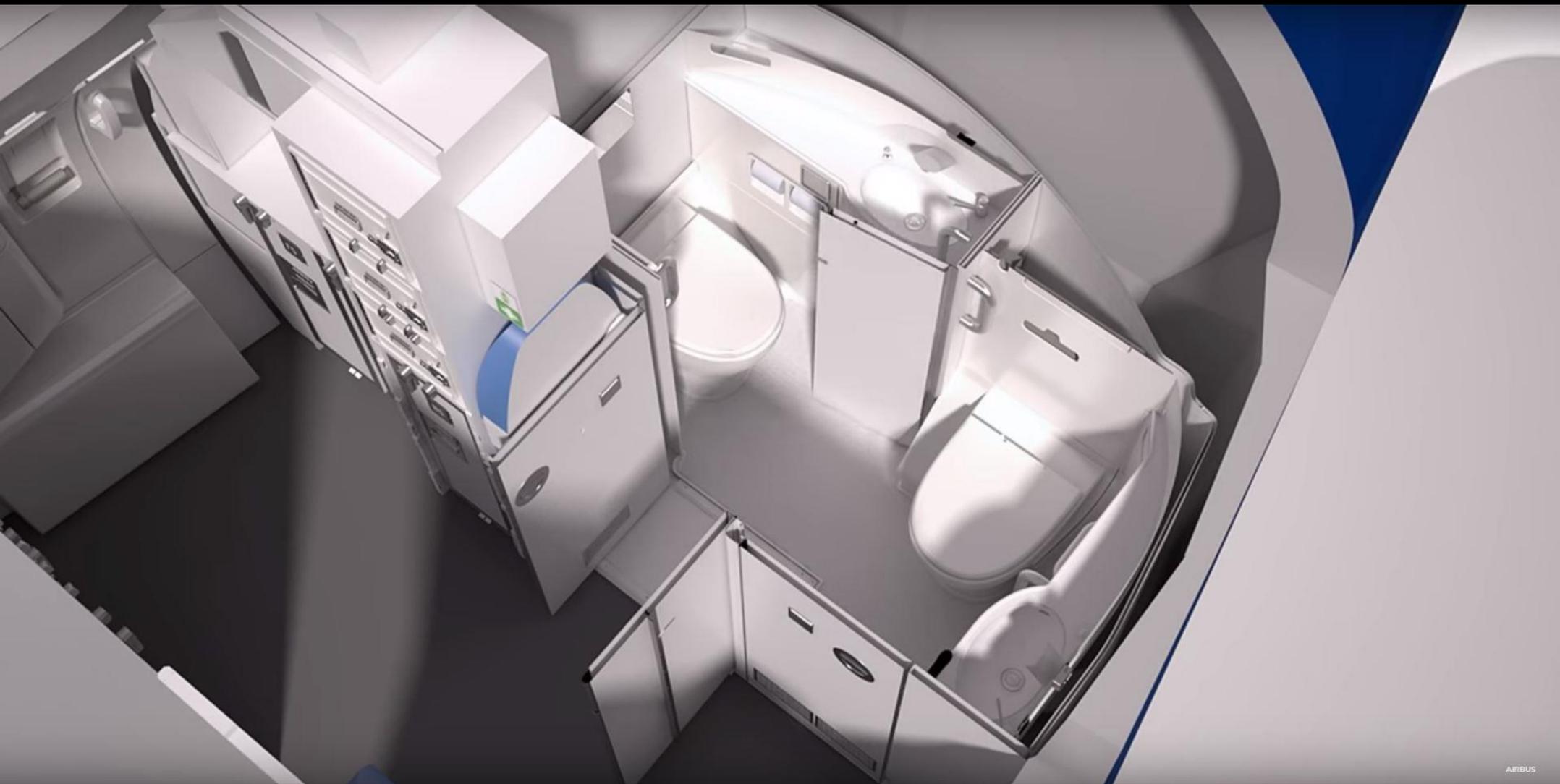
Airbus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Any6R1dGnrM>



AIRBUS

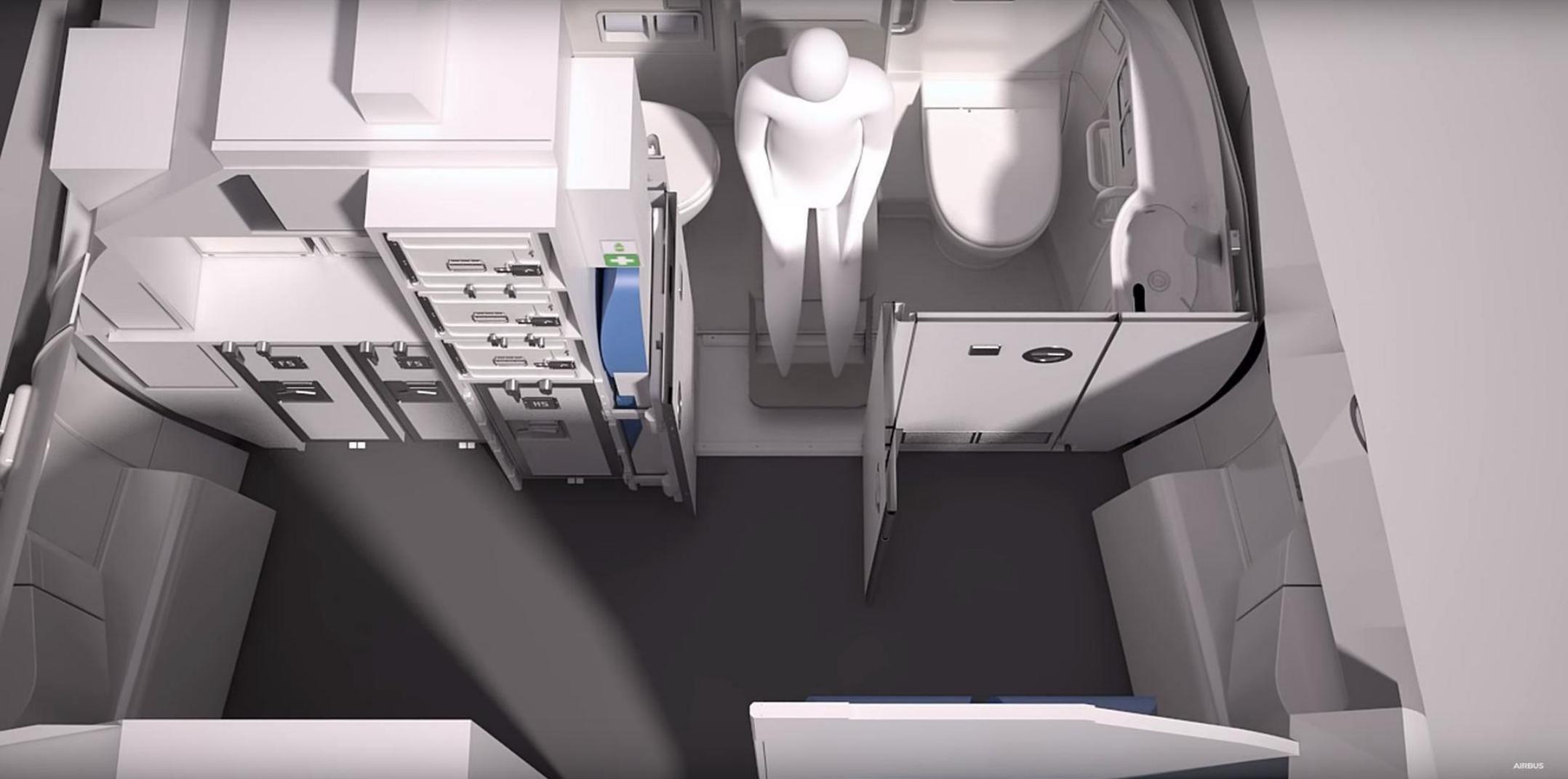
**Airbus 320 Space Flex**

Airbus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Any6R1dGnrM>



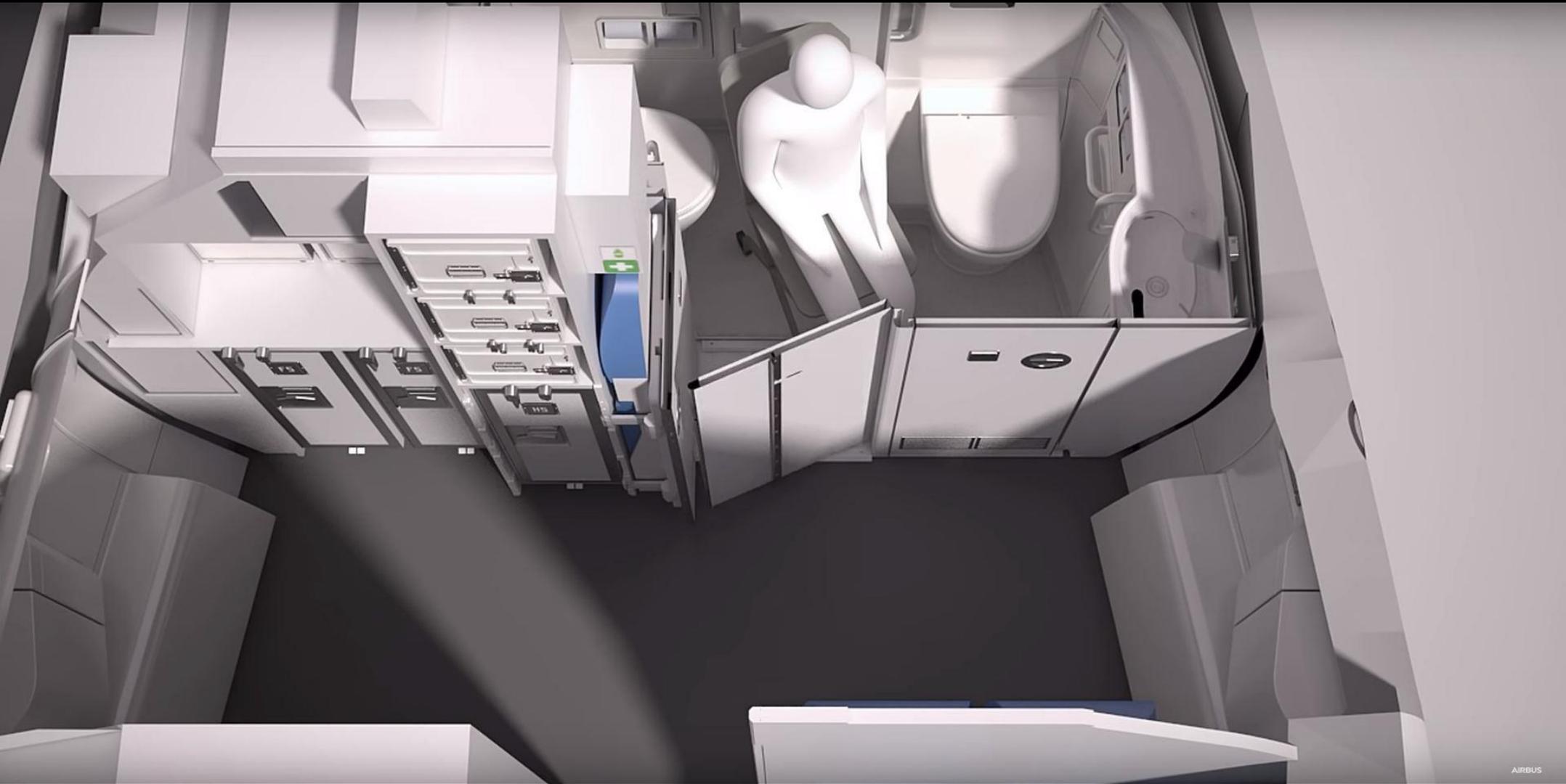
**Airbus 320 Space Flex**

Airbus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Any6R1dGnrM>



# Airbus 320 Space Flex

Airbus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Any6R1dGnrM>



AIRBUS

**Airbus 320 Space Flex**

Airbus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Any6R1dGnrM>





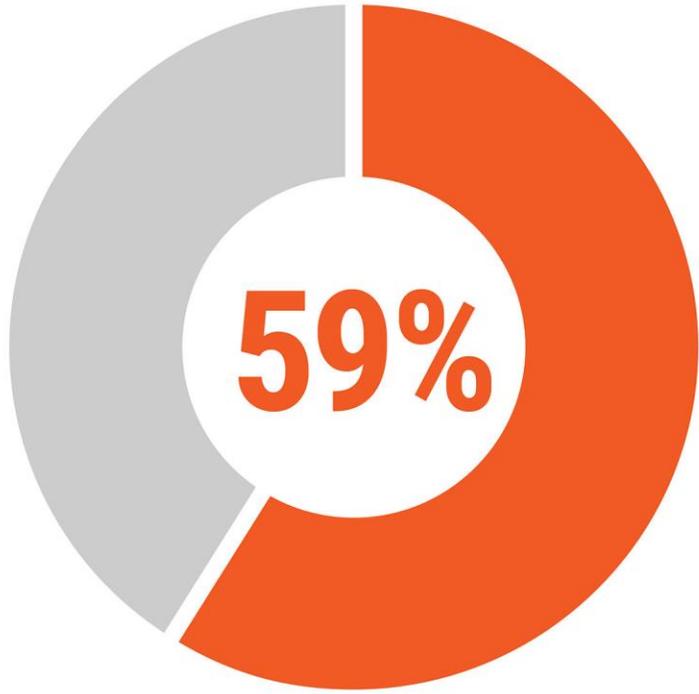




# Damage

Damage to drive wheel  
that came off powered  
wheelchair

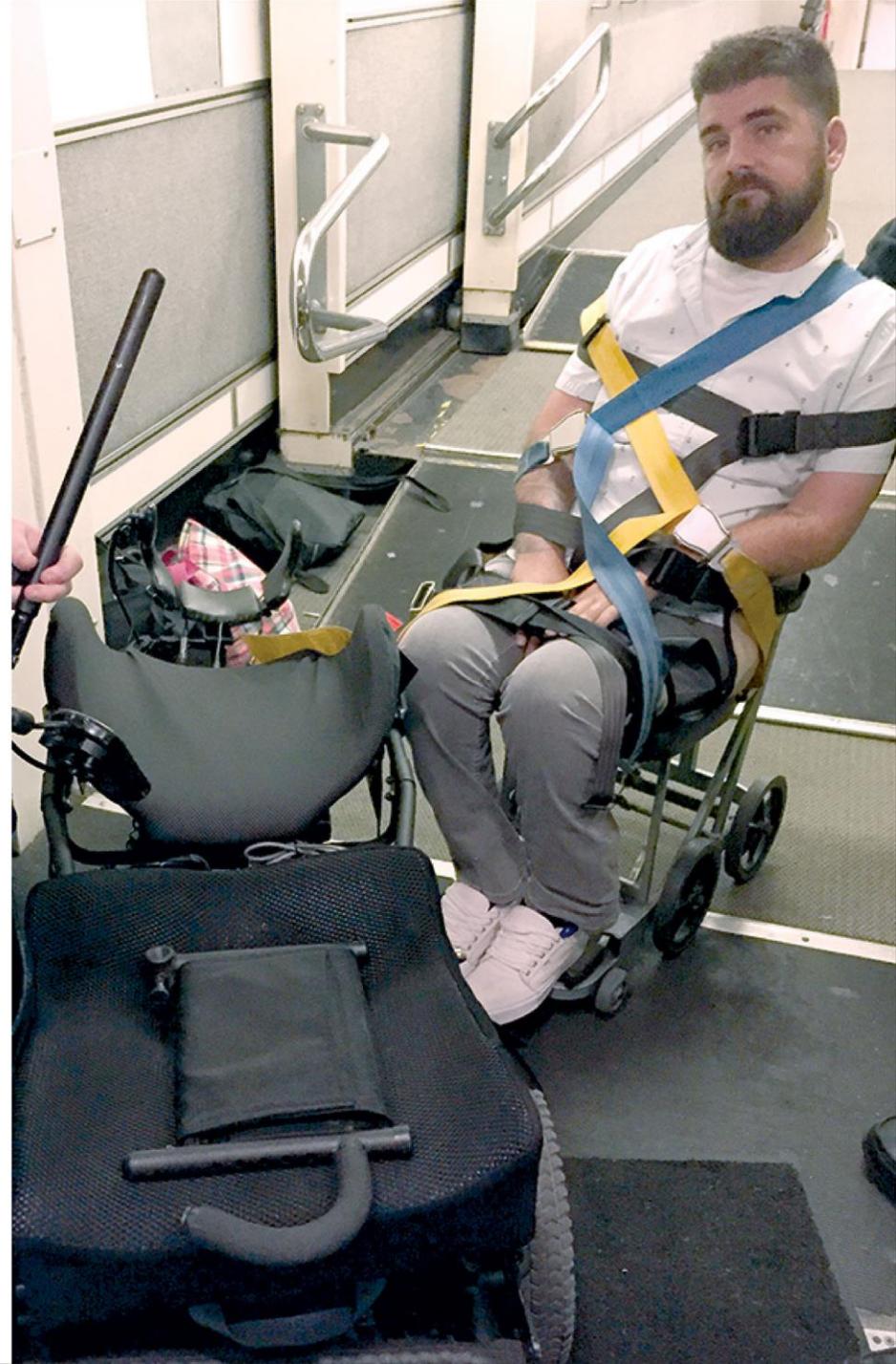




responded that their...

## **mobility devices were damaged after air travel**

and over 50% still experience device damage when proper procedures are followed by carrier agents.



# Enplaned **Mobility Devices** **Mishandled**

totals for the month of **April**

**737**



**33**



**424**



**April**

2019

2020

2021

Percentage

1.35%

1.13%

1.13%

Total Enplaned

54,637

2,927

37,635

# Enplaned **Mobility Devices** Mishandled

year end totals

10,548

3,464

Year

2019

2020

Percentage

1.54%

1.29%

Total Enplaned

685,792

268,676



# Assistive Technology for Air Travel Standards

Airline carriers and manufacturers

Wheelchair manufacturers

Disability organizations

Government agencies – DOT - FAA

Wheelchair repair companies

Standards for

# **PMDs designed for air transport**

Create specifications for design features that will enable powered mobility devices to be able to withstand the rigors of being loaded and unloaded from aircraft

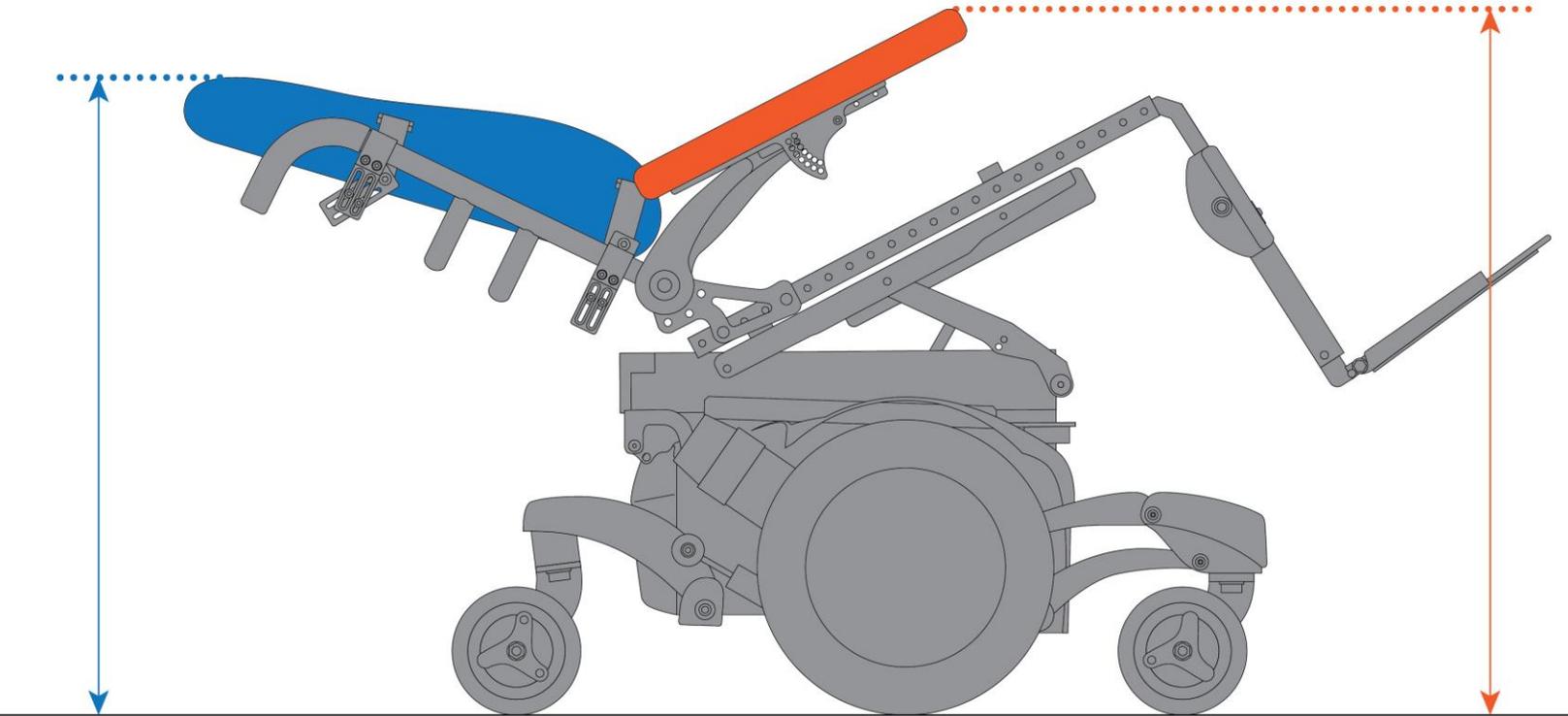


N855VA



HYDRAULIC  
CARGO CONTAINER

33" max



Travel  
**Back**

Travel  
**Arm**



# Drive Disengagement System

**Disengagement of drive mechanism**



**Engagement of drive mechanism**



DWR1235L798 REV C

The label features five icons in a vertical sequence: 1. Two interlocking gears. 2. A person on a slope with a red prohibition sign over it. 3. A warning triangle with an exclamation mark. 4. A person on a slope with a red prohibition sign over it. 5. Two interlocking gears with a diagonal slash over them.





SUNRISE  
MEDICAL  
P/N: 25001... 001A001  
TANK: 25001... 001A001  
Motor: DC 24V... 100W  
Gear Ratio: 28:1...  
Power: 240W...  
Rev. #...  
CE



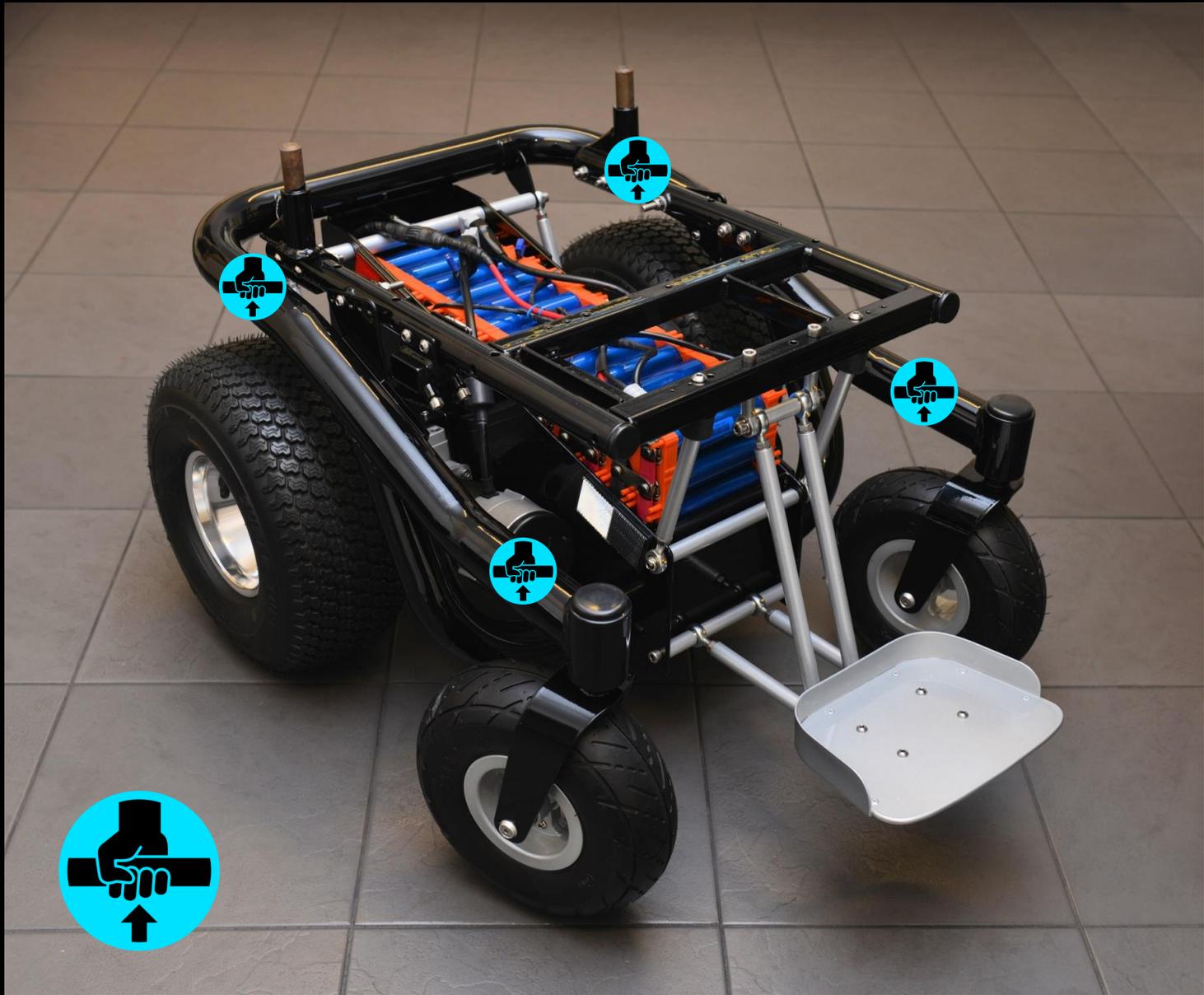




C400

R0934

R0934

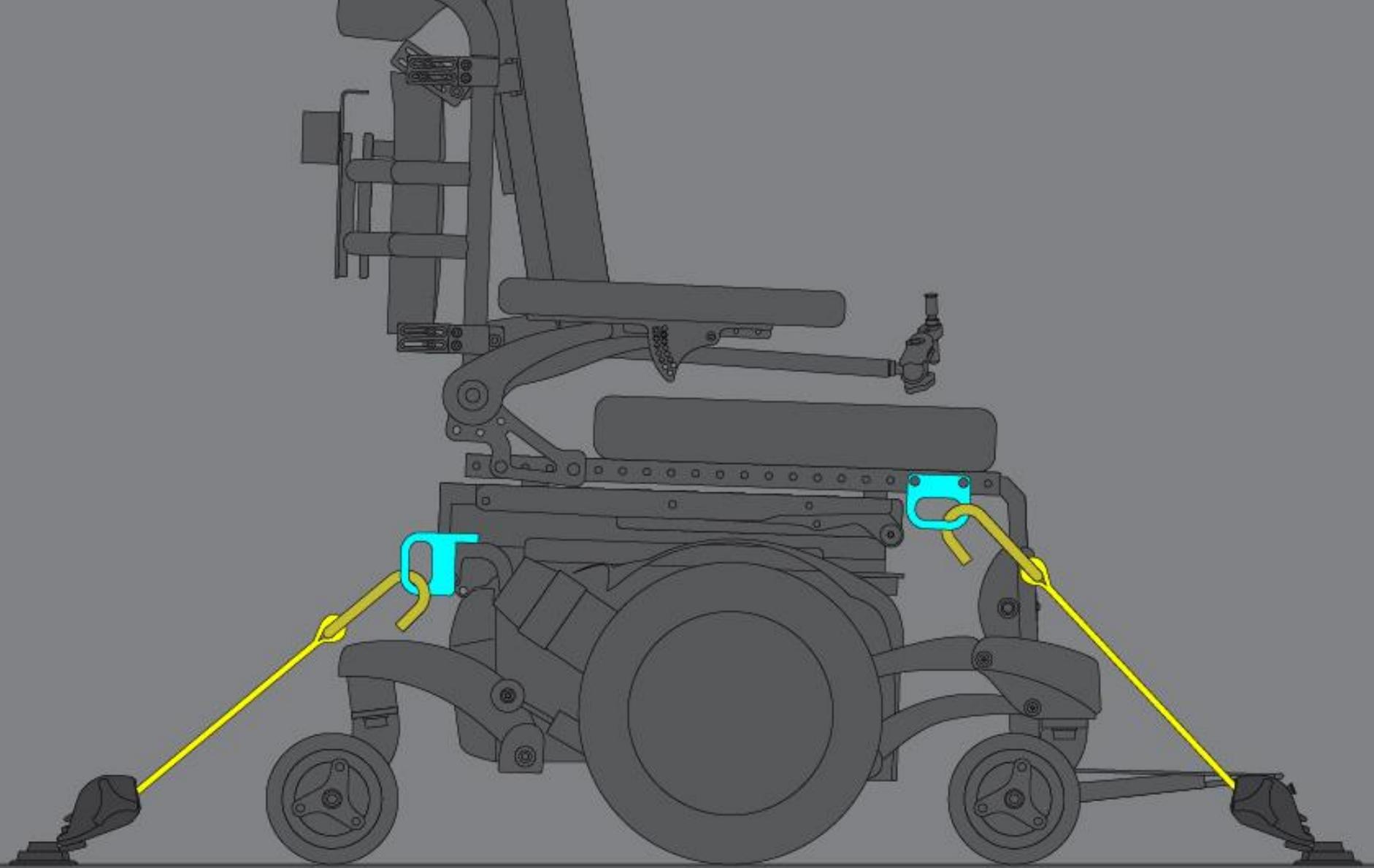


# PMD with transit option





<https://www.qstraint.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/qrt-360-gallery-3.jpg>





# Attachment Points for Securement

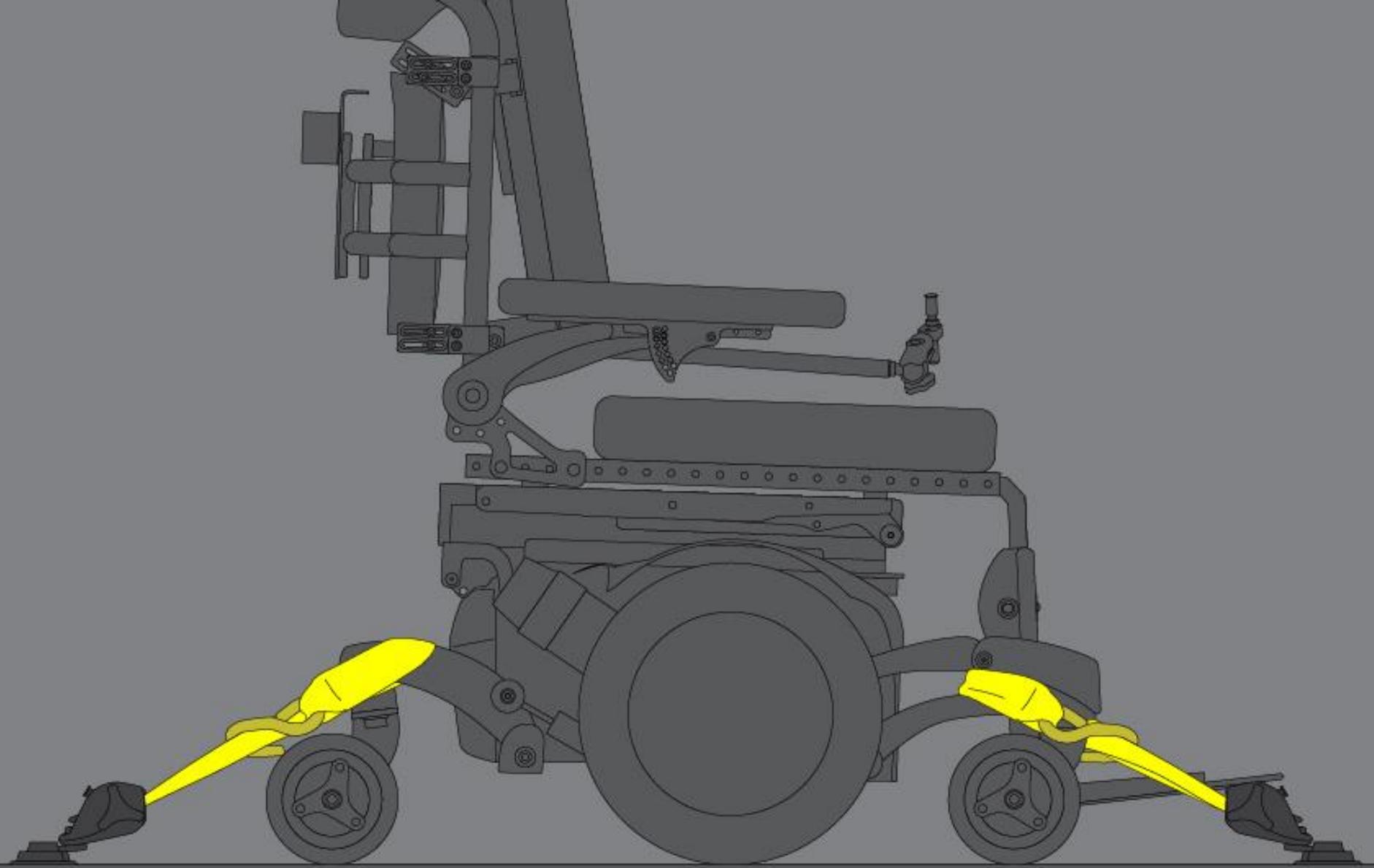
**Securement Sling securement point**

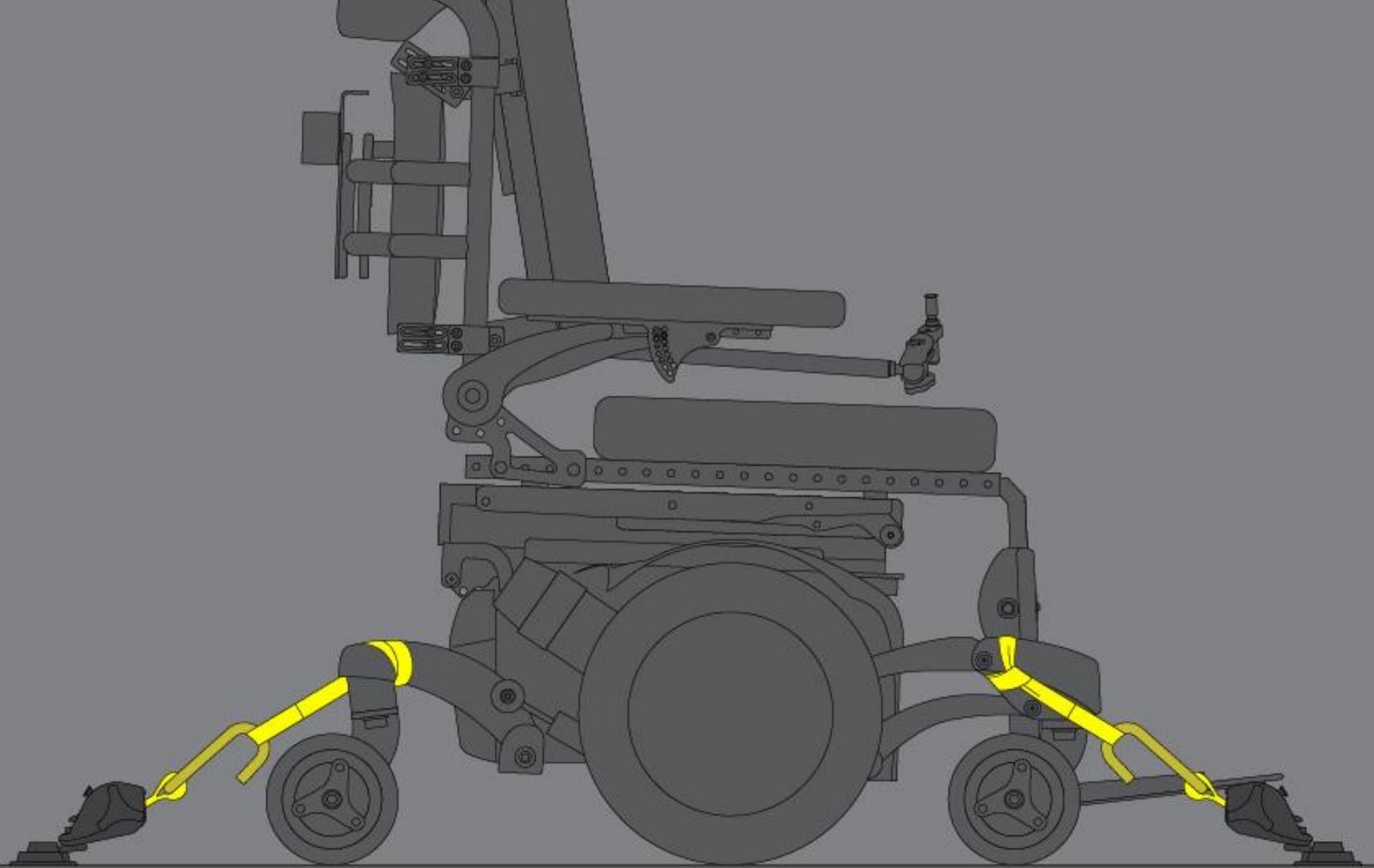


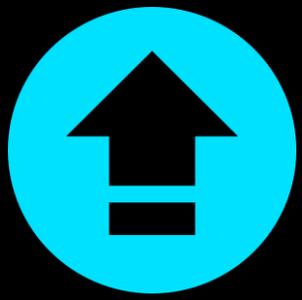
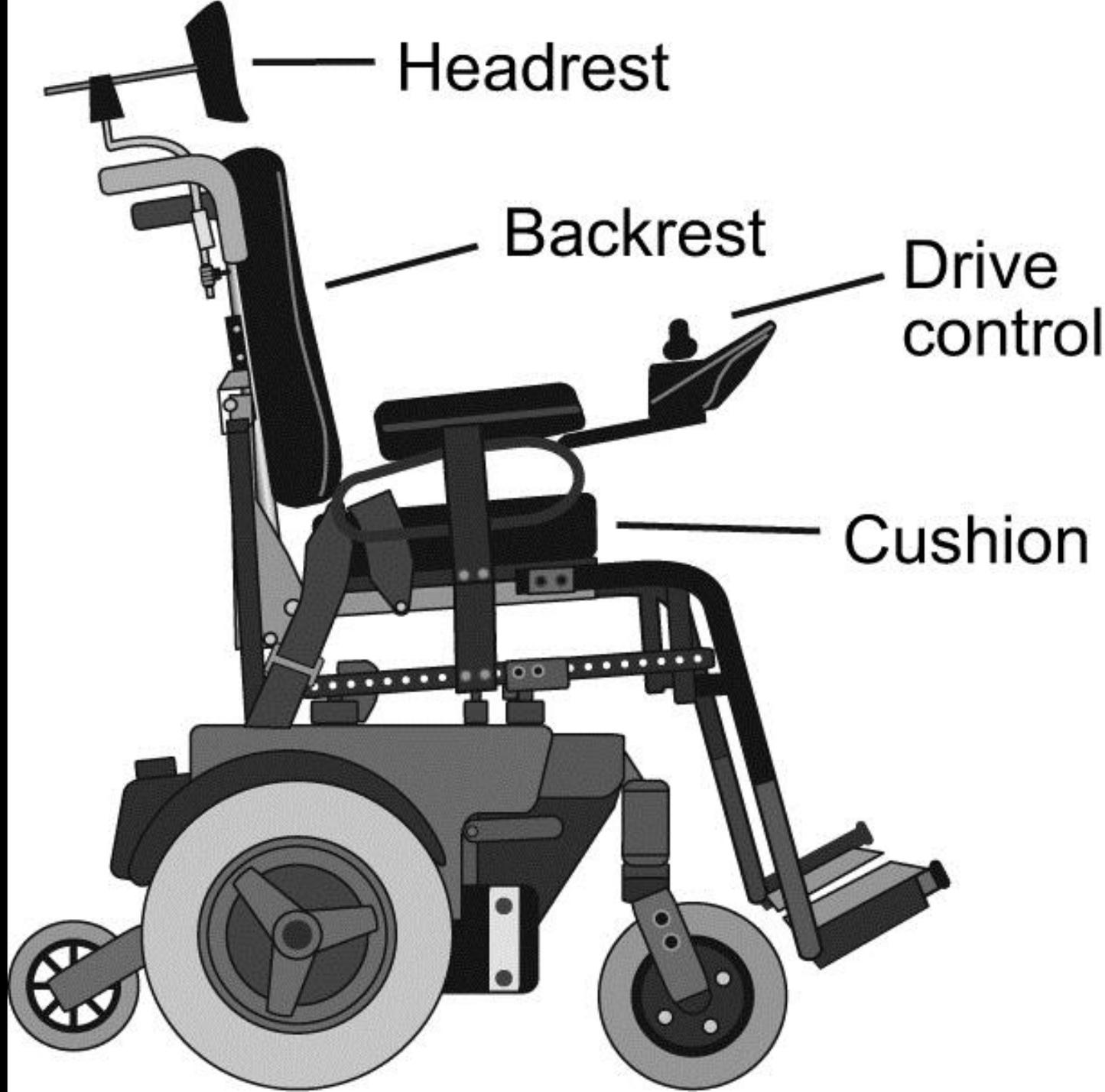
**Cargo strap securement point**



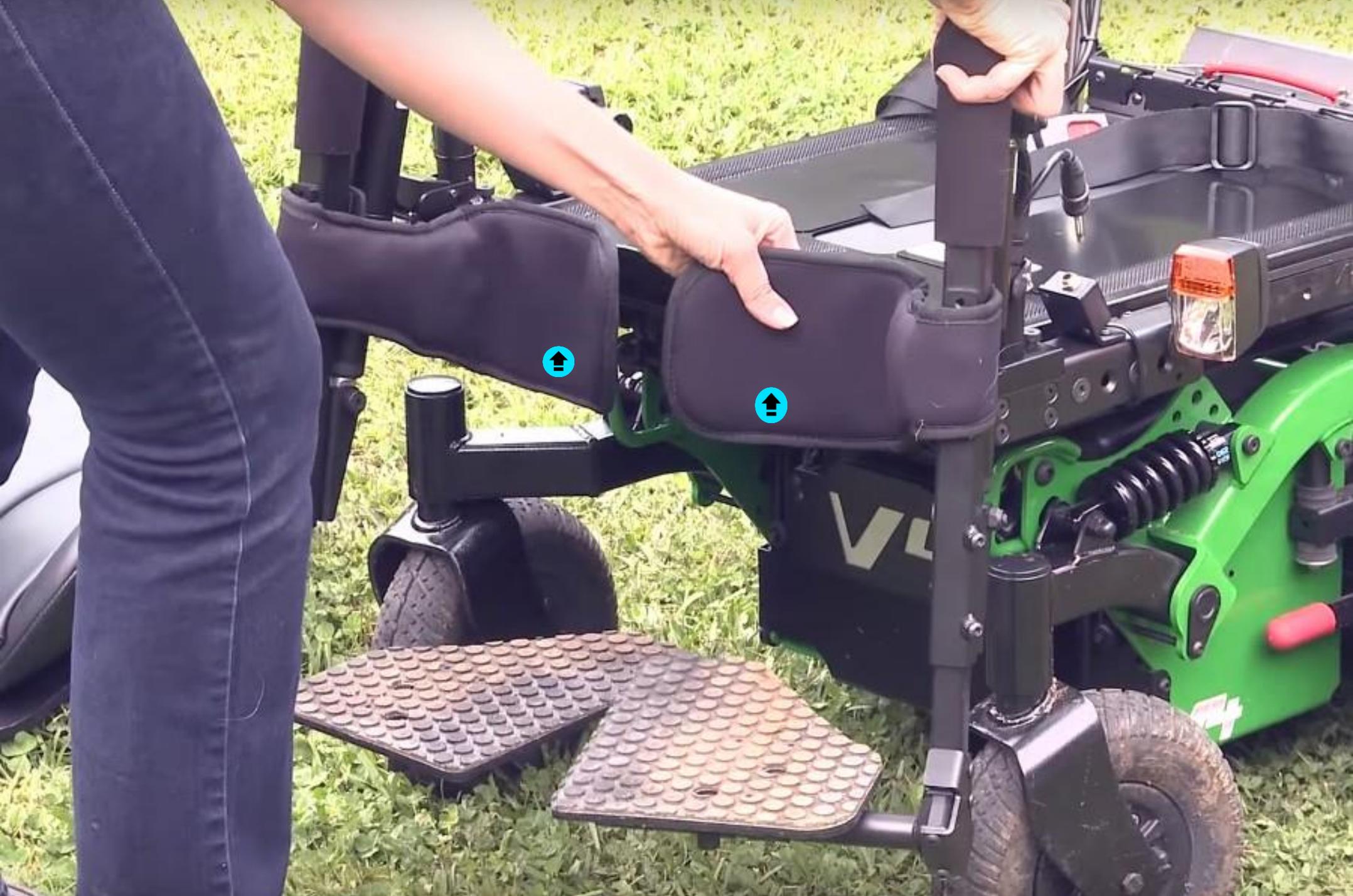














# Wheelchairs with power assist wheels

Power assist wheels shall be clearly labeled as removable or non-removable.



# Wheelchairs with power assist

Power assist devices shall be clearly labeled as removable or non-removable.



## PMD Labeling Guidelines

# Weight



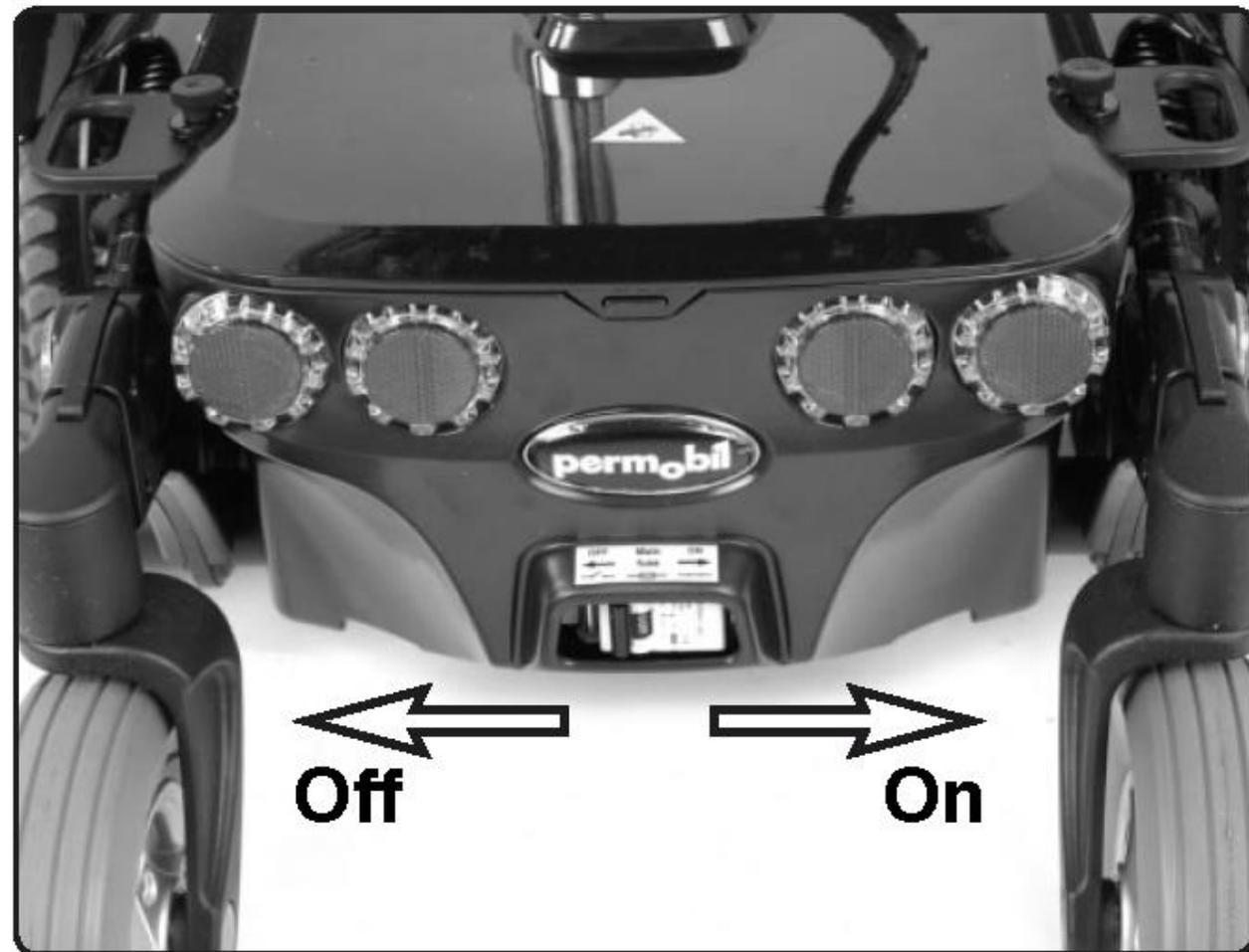
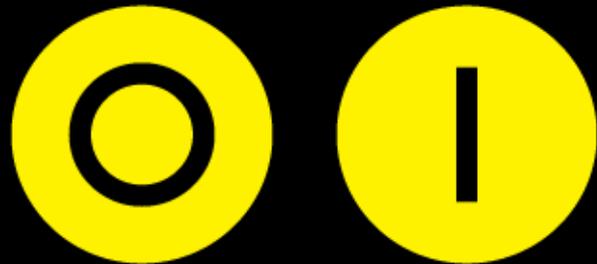
WHEELCHAIR  
WEIGHT

150 kg

330 lb

## PMD Labeling Guidelines

# Location of power disconnect



# For existing devices, create an Air Travel Configuration Card



Manufacturer LOGO

## Air Travel Configuration

v1.2 rev: 2021-06-21

Model

Owner Name: John Doe  
Owner Phone: (775)123-4567  
Owner Email: john.doe@gmail.com  
Chair Serial Number: 7200003

- 1 **Remove seat cushion (User)** 

Remove seat cushion; store in aircraft overhead bin.
- 2 **Remove head support (User)** 

Remove head support to store in aircraft overhead bin.
- 3 **Lower back support to fit into aircraft (User)** 

Remove the back support cushion. It is fixed in place by means of velcro on the rear of the cushion.  
Remove the upper section of the back support by carefully pulling it straight up.  
Using the control panel, tilt the back support forward.  
Store back support in aircraft overhead bin.
- 4 **Remove joystick (User)** 

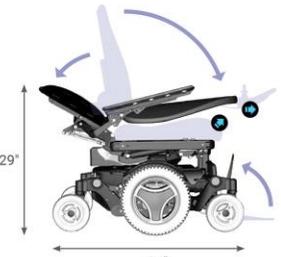
Remove joystick controller; store in aircraft overhead bin.
- 5 **Isolate battery power** 

Switch breaker to off to fully disconnect power.
- 6 **Raise foot supports**

Move foot supports to upright position.
- 7 **Disengage drive system** 

If the joystick controller is not removed, first shut off power using the control panel.  
Rotate the lever on each motor to disengage the motors and release the brakes, enabling the chair to be manually pushed.

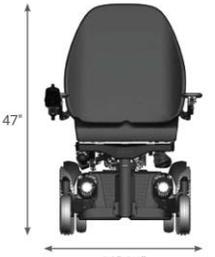
### Air Travel Configuration



29"

34"

### Driving Configuration



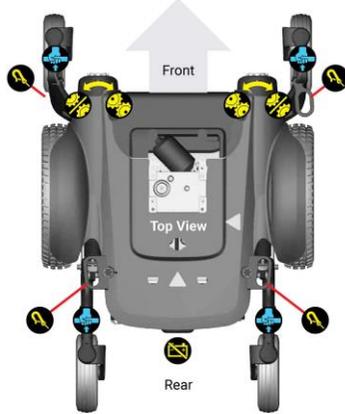
47"

30"-34"

 **Unoccupied Product Weight**  
**150 kg (330 lb)**  
**WARNING:** This product should be lifted using a mechanical lift to avoid injury.

 **Weight of Additional Components**  
(if greater than 10 kg)  
12 kg ( 26.5 lb)

 **Battery Information**  
**WARNING:** Only sealed lead acid group 34 batteries can be installed on this product.  
  
This wheelchair was manufactured with **2 lead acid sealed gel cell non-spillable batteries** conforming to DOT CFR 173.159 (d), IATA Packing Instructions 806, and IATA Provision A67.

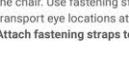


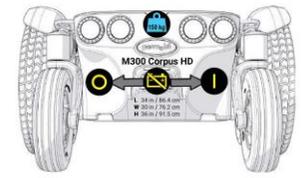
 **Isolate Battery Power**  
The circuit breaker is located in the rear beneath the tail lights. It also acts as a battery isolator and is controlled via the lever located inside the hole at the bottom of the rear battery cover. Switch breaker to off to disconnect power from the battery.

 **Disengage Drive System**  
A manual brake release is located on each drive wheel that can be released to make it possible to move the chair manually. The brake release levers are located at the front of the wheelchair. Move levers outwards to disengage motors which releases the brakes.

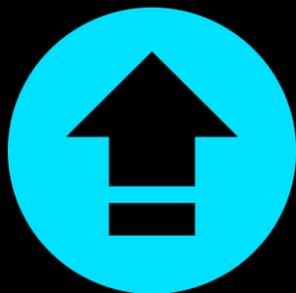
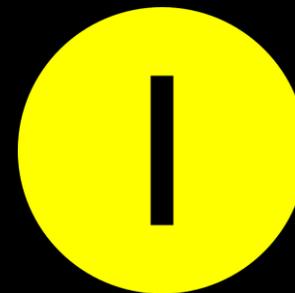
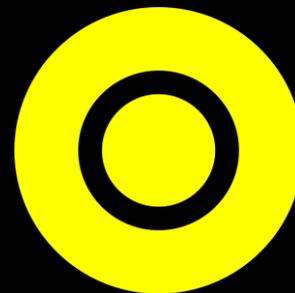
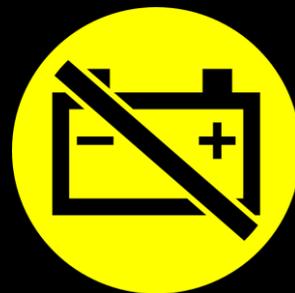
 **Manual Lift Points**  
**WARNING!** This product should be lifted using a mechanical lift to avoid injury. Unoccupied product weight is 450 lbs / 205 kg. The [make and model] unoccupied weight is 450 lbs. Manual lifting requires multiple lifters. Use designated lift points! Manual lift points are located on all four caster arms. When lifting chair with a device, use securement points.

 **Chair Securement**  
When fastening the chair, re-engage the drive system to lock the chair. Use fastening straps attached to the designated transport eye locations at the front and rear of the chair. Attach fastening straps to RESNA WC19 securement points.

 **Operator's Manual Online**  
The wheelchair illustrated in this Air Travel Configuration Card prototype was selected based on the product having a built-in electrical isolation switch to isolate the batteries. Data was obtained from the operator's manual available online. Some values are estimated and may not represent actual product data. The manufacturer of this product has not reviewed or approved this information.



# Symbols







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