

beneficial designs

designing beyond the norm to meet the needs of all people

Stanford University

Peter Axelson
2023-02-23



BRING ME NEAR





The need:

To get back out on the snow















The Mono Ski

Now a Paralympic sport





AMERICAN
EXPRESS

When you ne

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



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



Bill Blythe
it and facility manager



Stephanie Stephens
research assistant – remote from India

Stephen Pieters
wheelchair test lab leader





Ben Hubbard
graphic artist GIS map designer

Debbie Hester
GIS technician





Ria Axelson
office manager and welder

Paul Schnorbus
machinist



Todd Ackerman
sidewalk assessment coordinator



Travis McDonald
assessment technician





Rob Palmer
assessment technician

Colin Greening
assessment technician



Jonathan Miller
assessment technician



Wiu Wiu
test lab assistant



Joshua Wetmore
test lab assistant





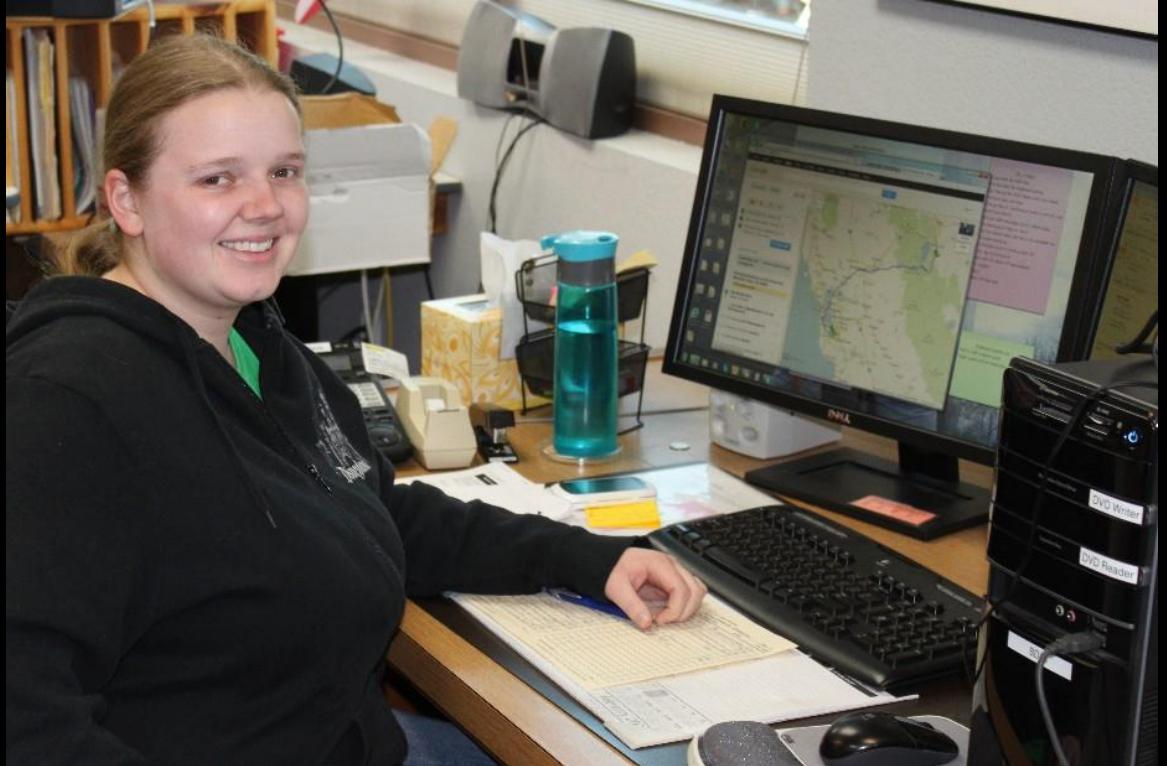
Maegan Elkaraki
bookkeeping and financial



Annabeth Johnson
administrative assistant



Paola Vazquez
office assistant



Sharon Vazquez
office assistant – remote



Julia Woodruff
office assistant

Peter Axelson
Director of R&D



A working space with tools...

to design and create

to build, test and break

with material and stuff to assemble









N-C

681

N-B

N





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?

Wheelchair testing

American RESNA Vol. 1 & 2 test procedures

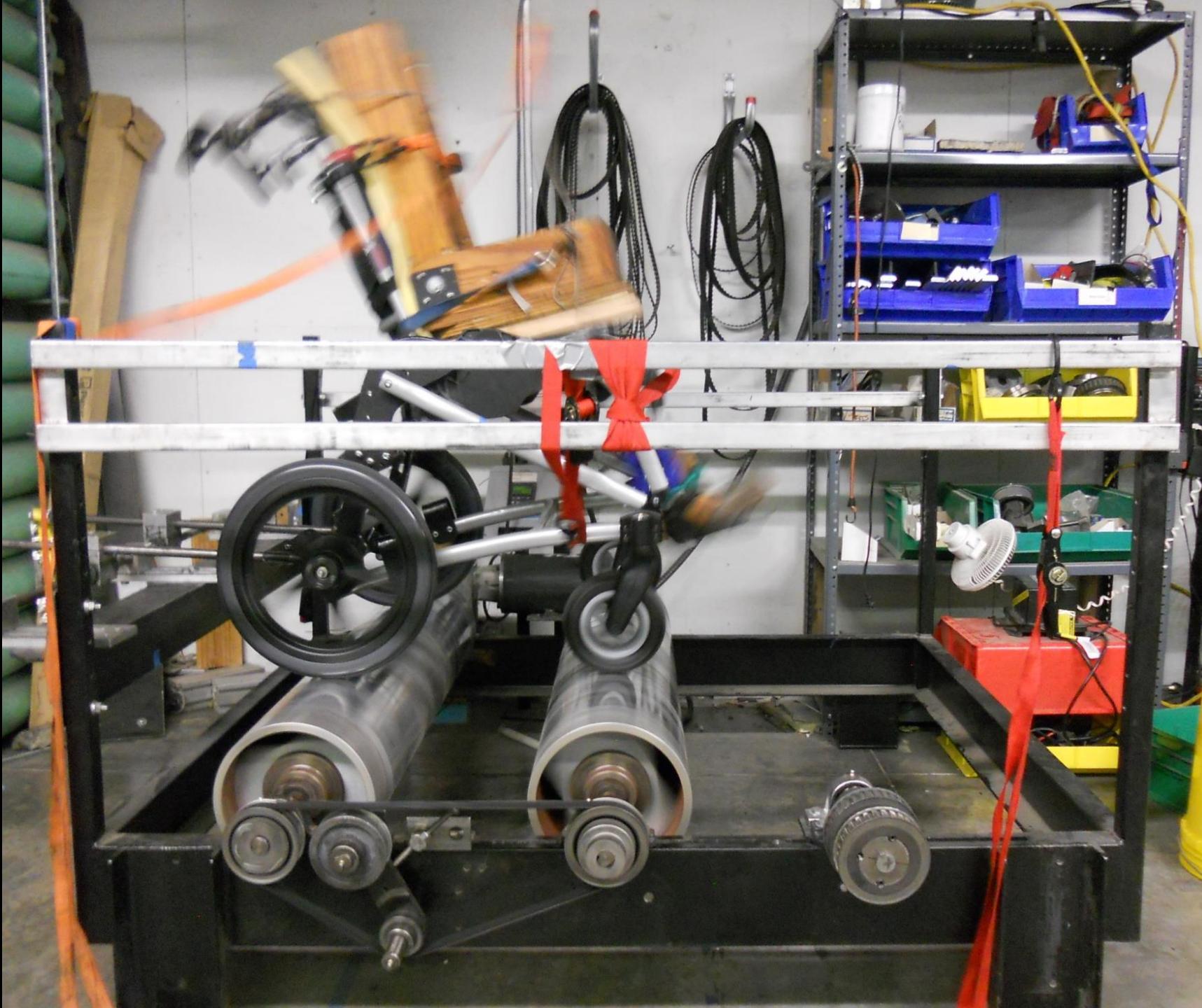
International Standards Organization ISO
testing procedures Sections 1 through 30

European National EN12183 and 12184
testing requirements and test methods















Damage





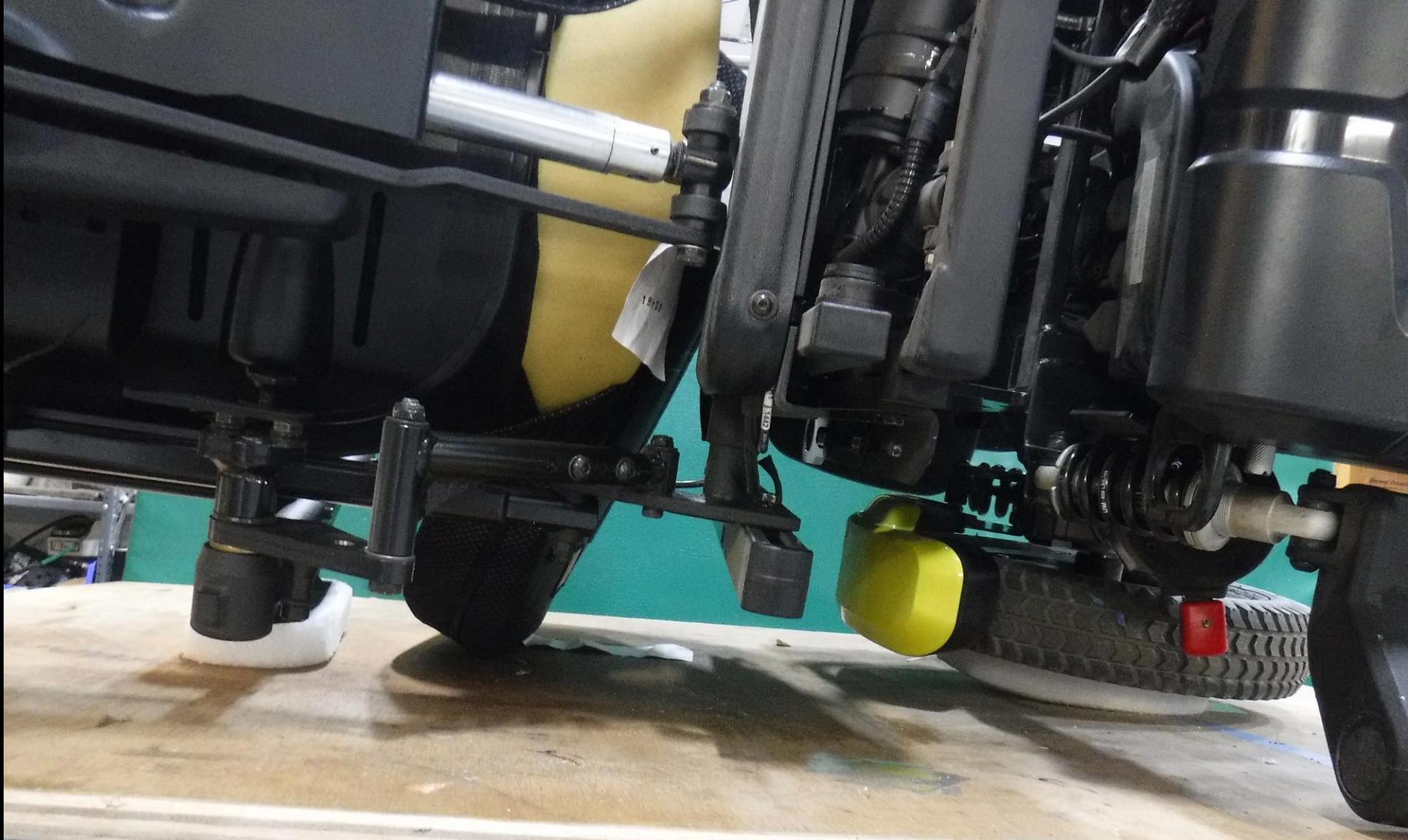
2-3 inch drop



OTRA 55
MODEL: AS100
06/30/2004
DATE CODE:
GBX50









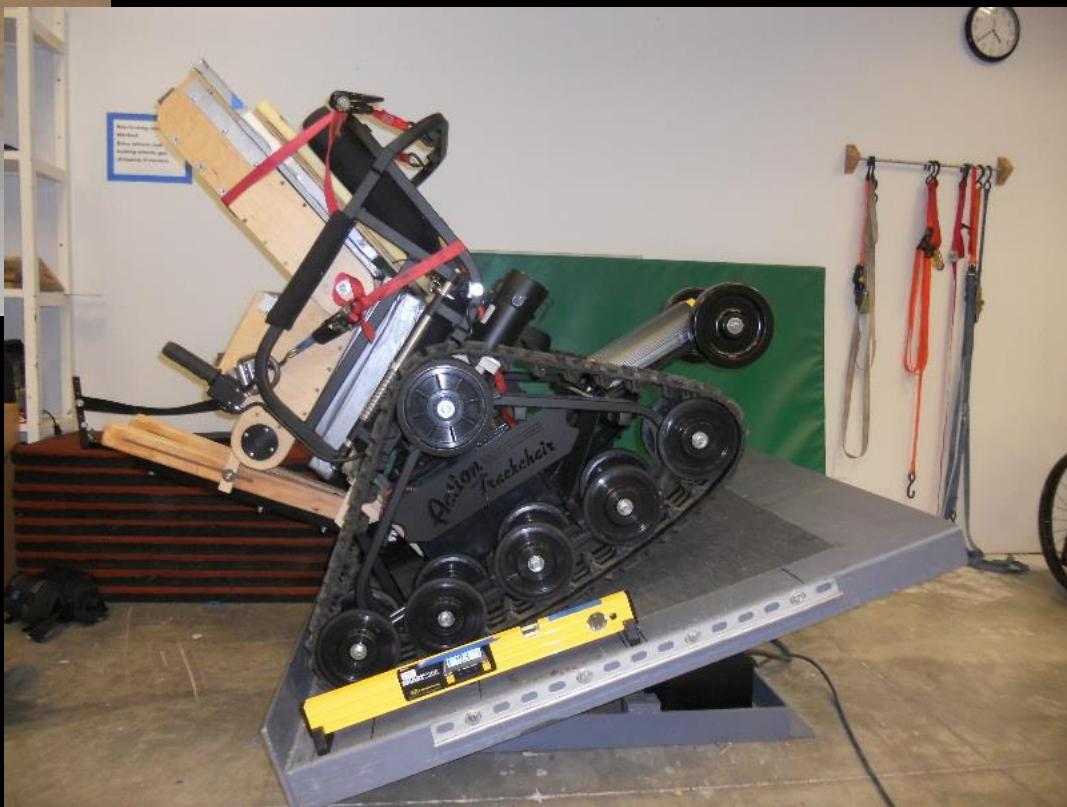
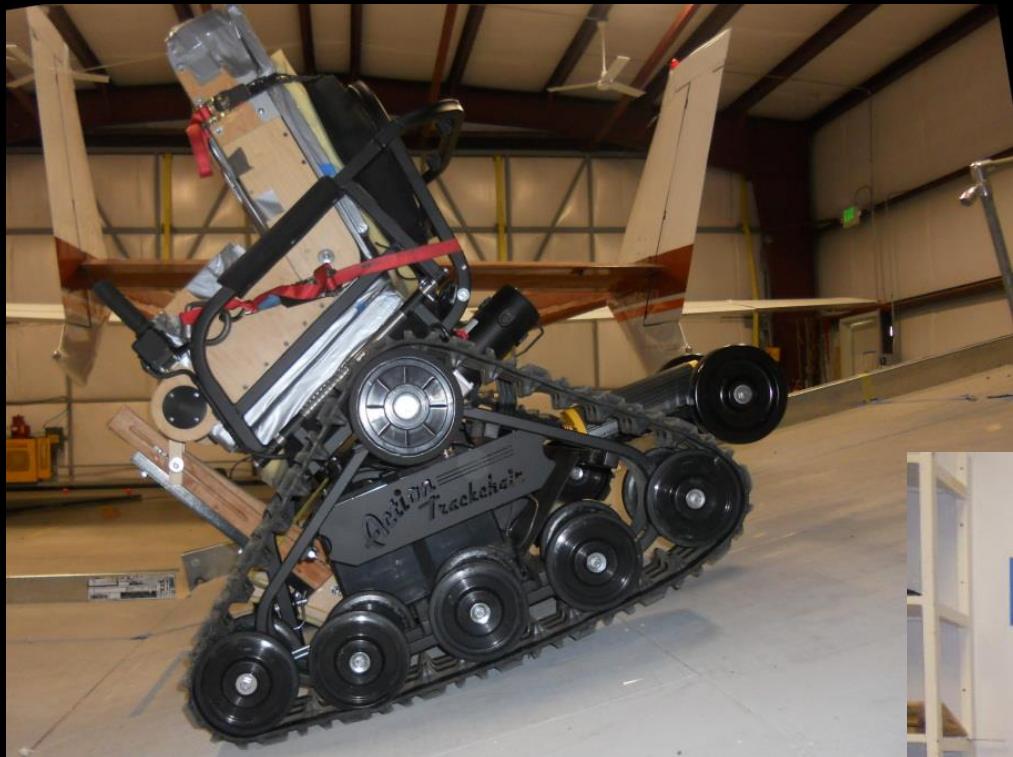






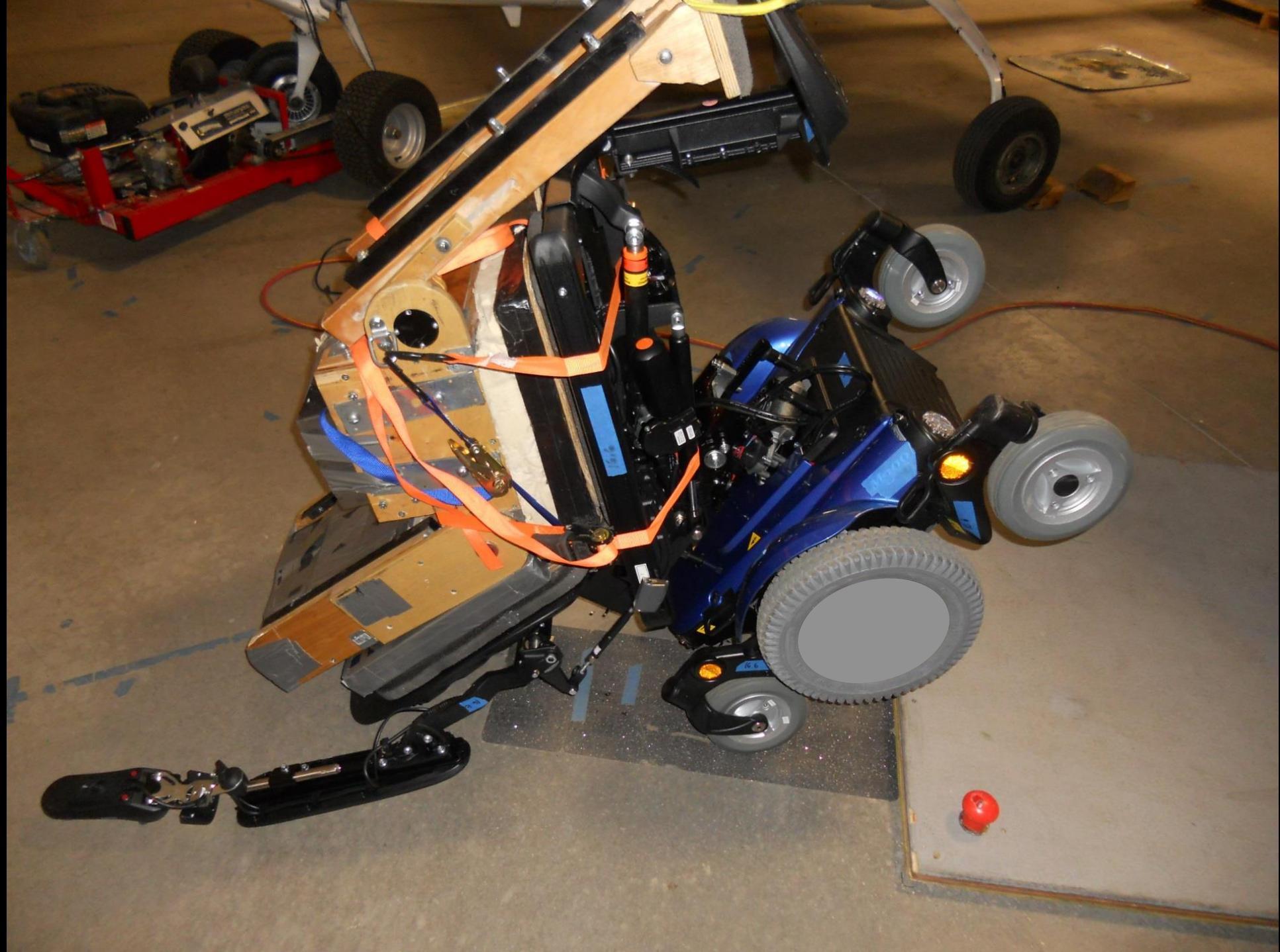


Werkplaatsen
Techniek
Drukwerk
Drukwerk en
Grafische technieken
Grafische technieken











Surface 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?

Firmness and stability testing

ASTM F1951 Playground testing

Instrumented Surface Indenter ISI

Calibration laboratory for ISI













SIZE
1000

Rotational Penetrometer

objective surface measurement device





B
B



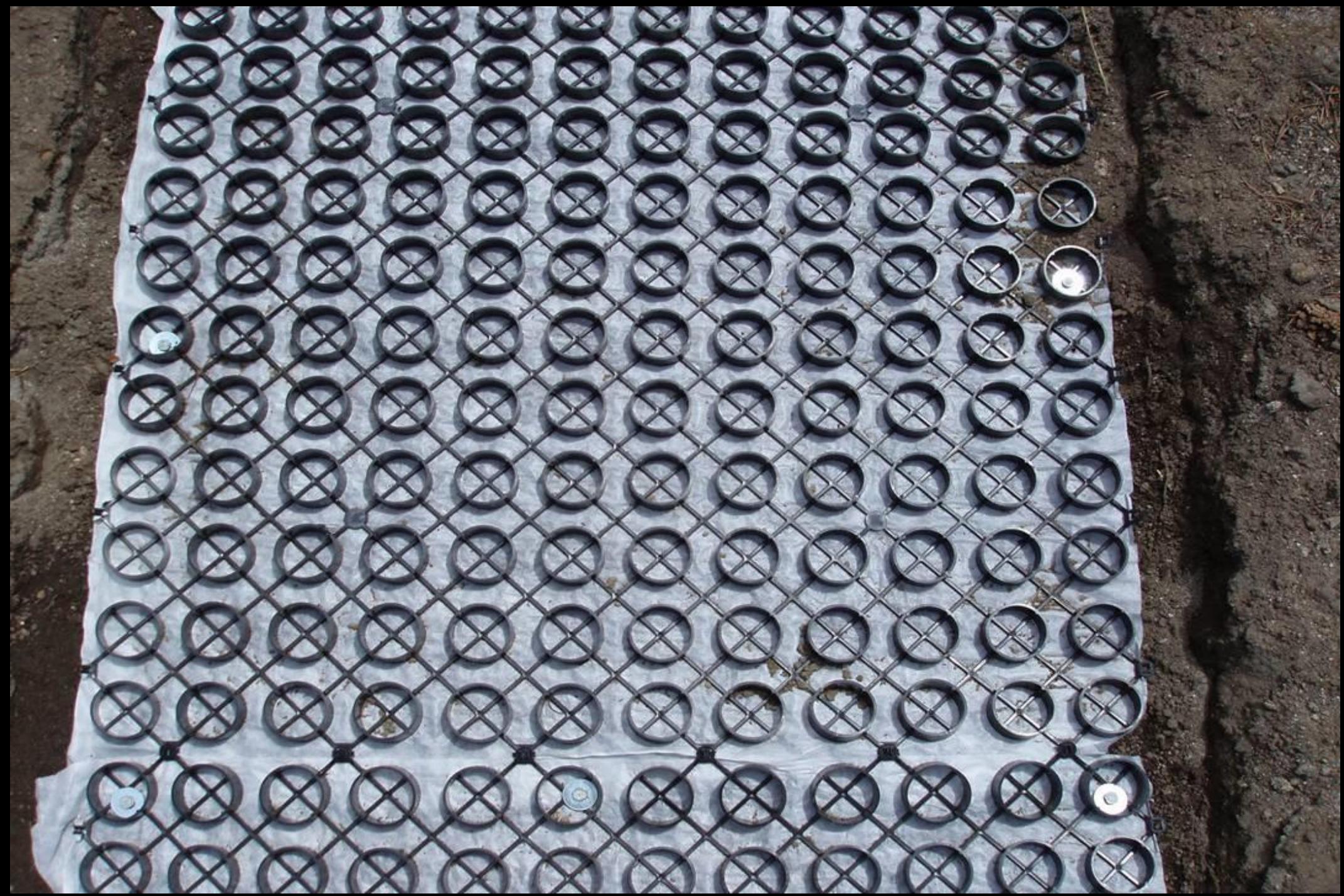


Trail surface

Trail with firm but
unstable sandy
surface

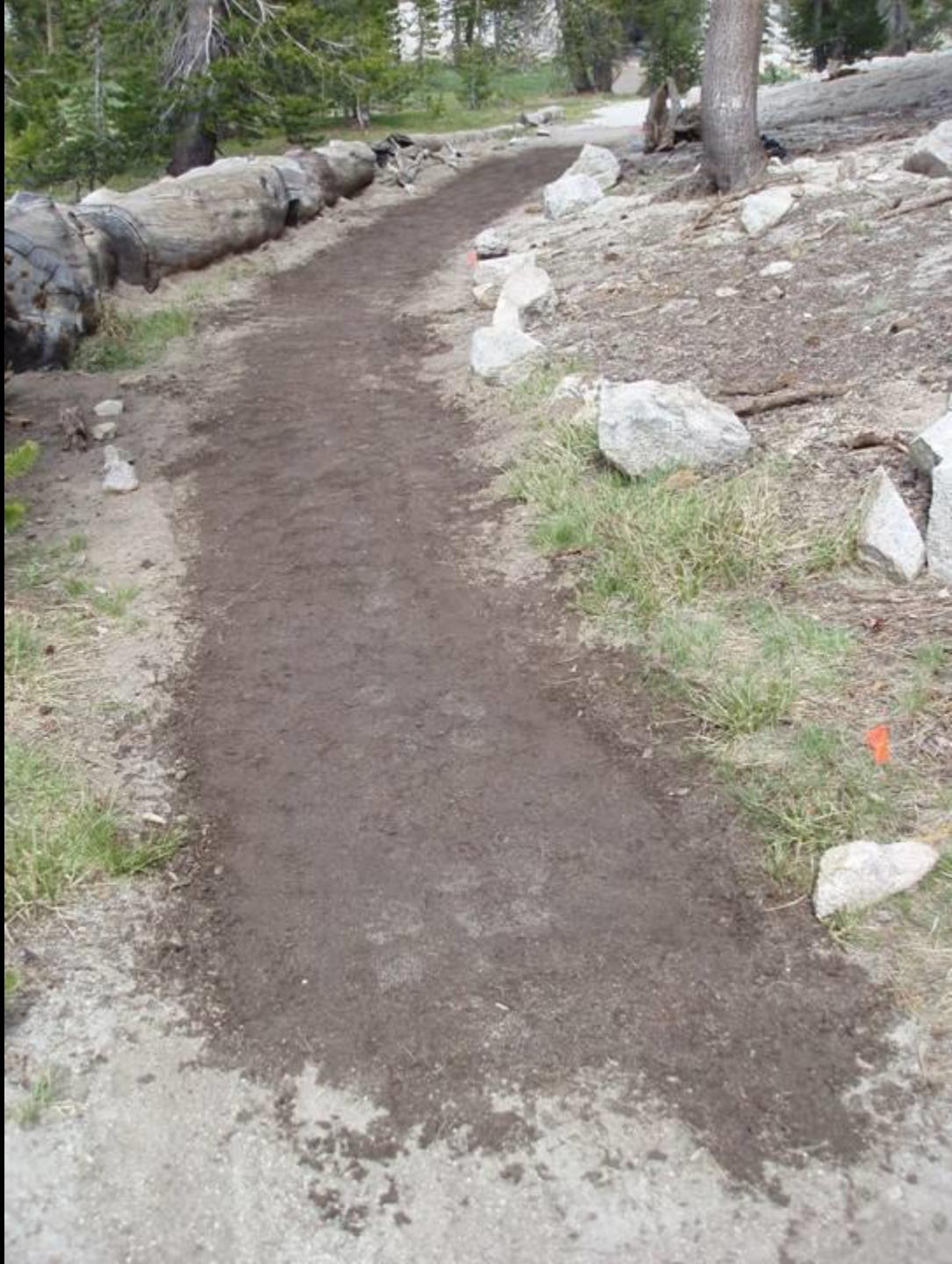






Trail surface

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
<u>0.18</u>	<u>0.79</u>
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
<u>0.18</u>	<u>0.40</u>
0.17	Avg 0.38

Seat cushion testing

People die from pressure sores

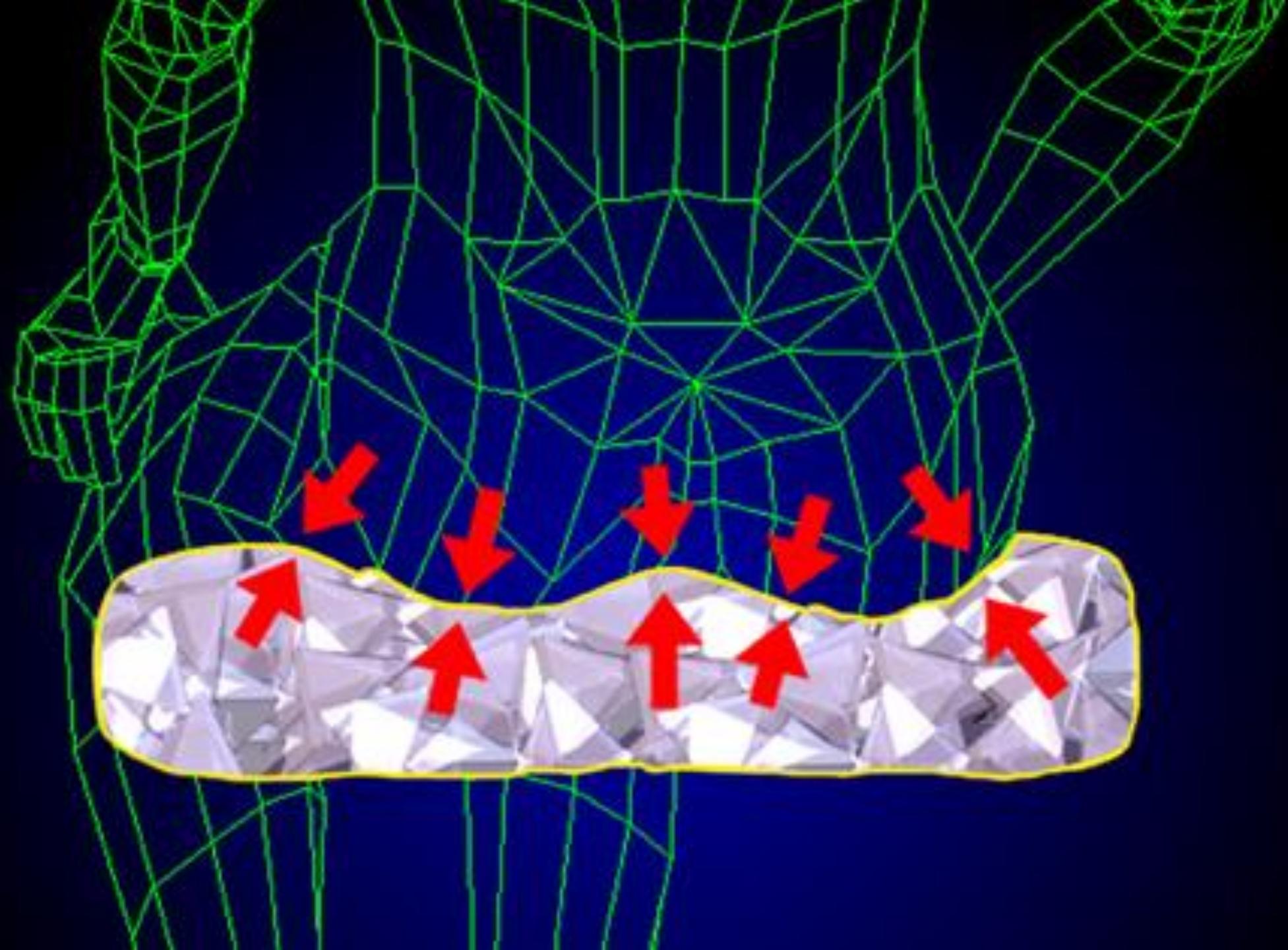
Soft but firm and stable

Making sure the product is safe

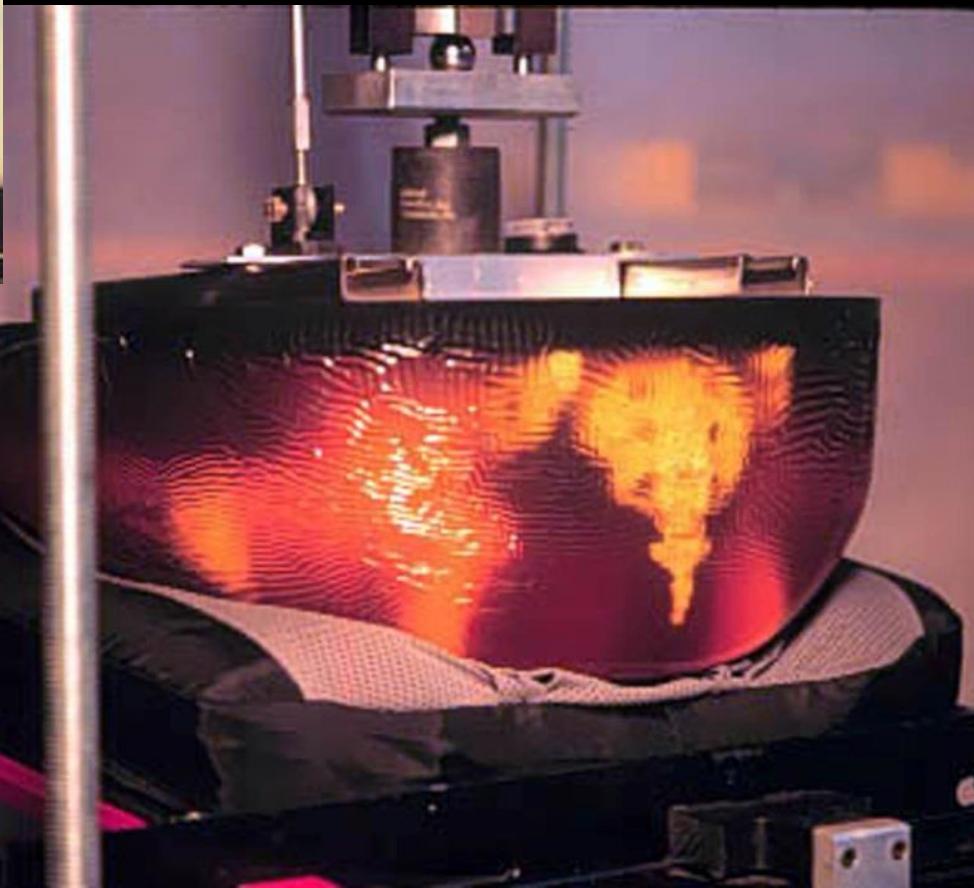
Making sure I don't get a pressure sore

How high are the sitting pressures?

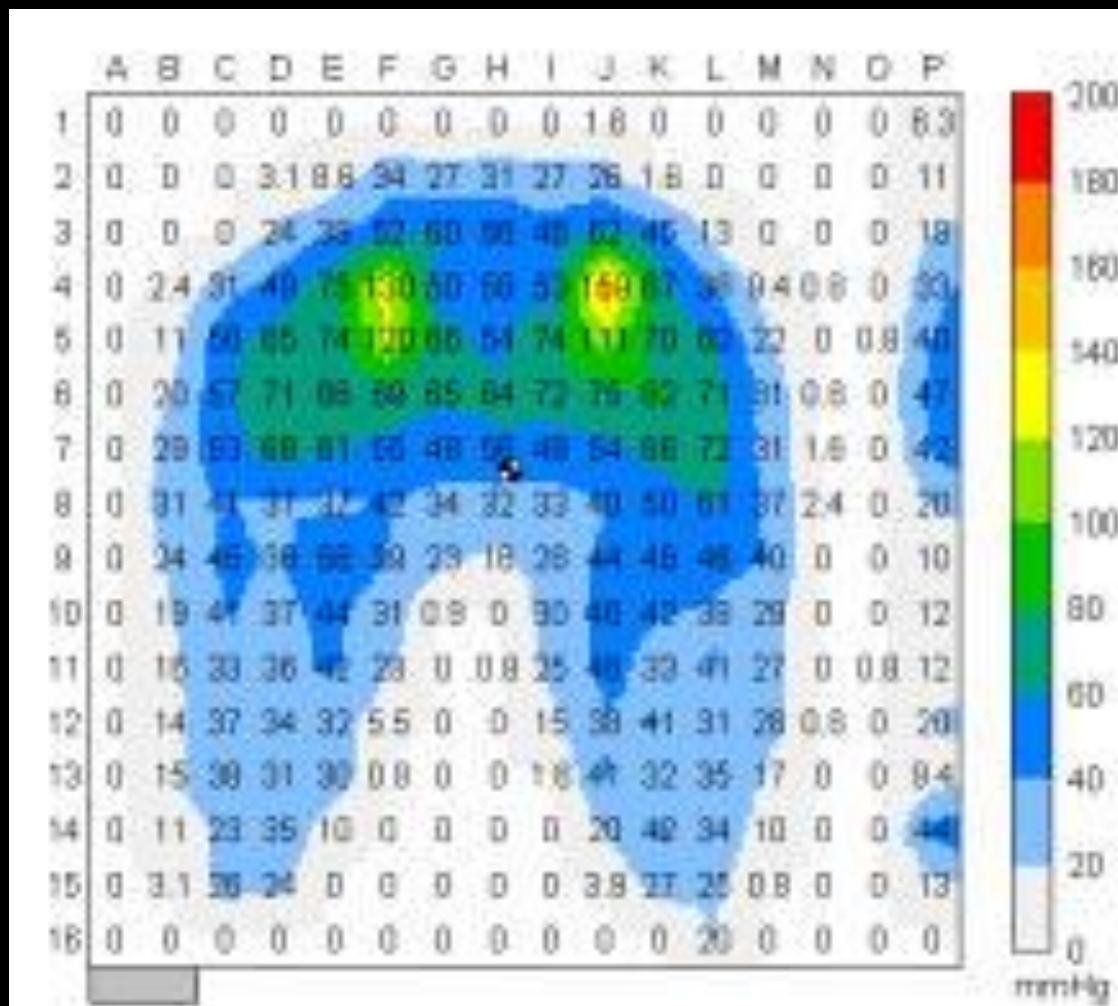
How long can I sit on it?



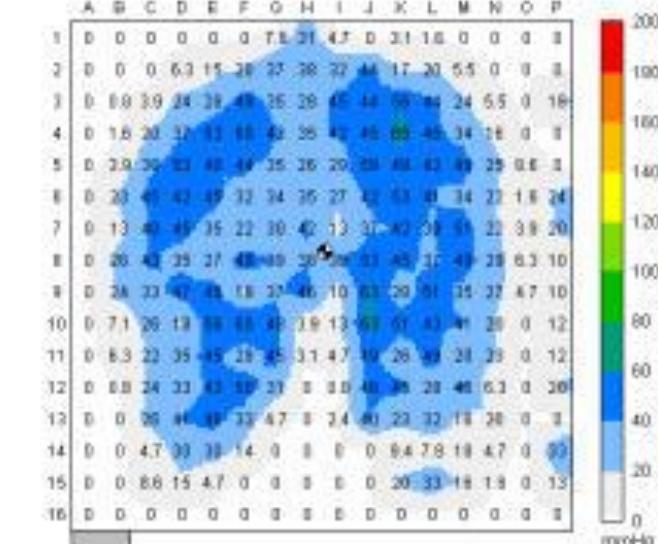
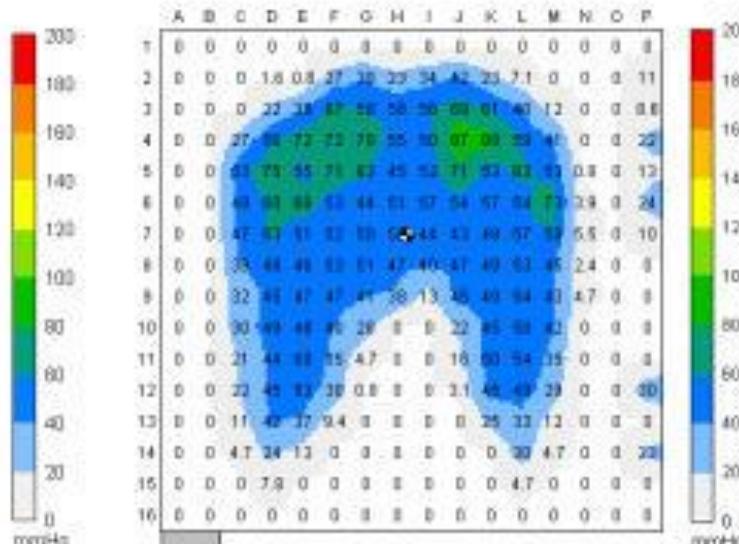
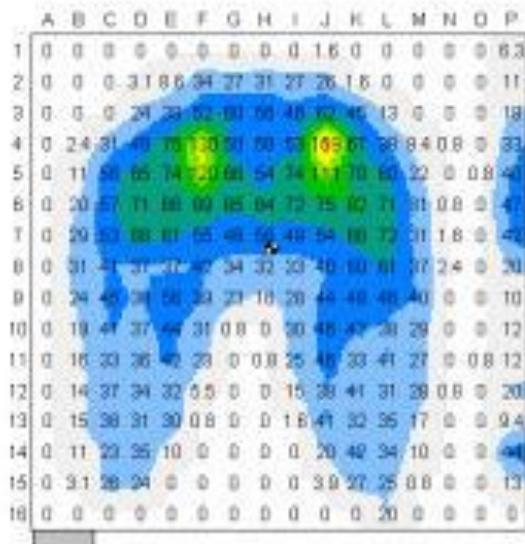
Seat cushion testing



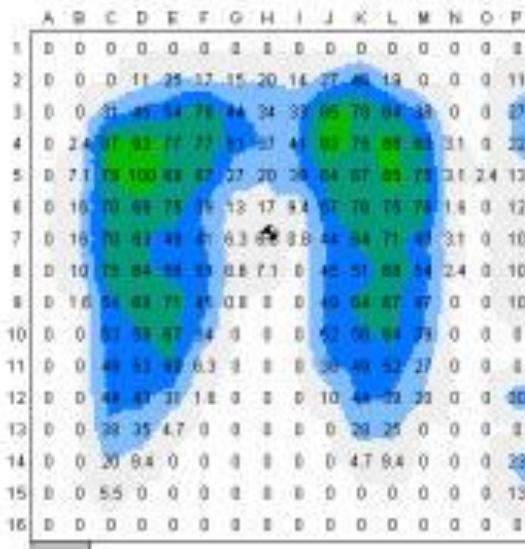
SKELI used on foam



• 2" HR45 Foam Cushion

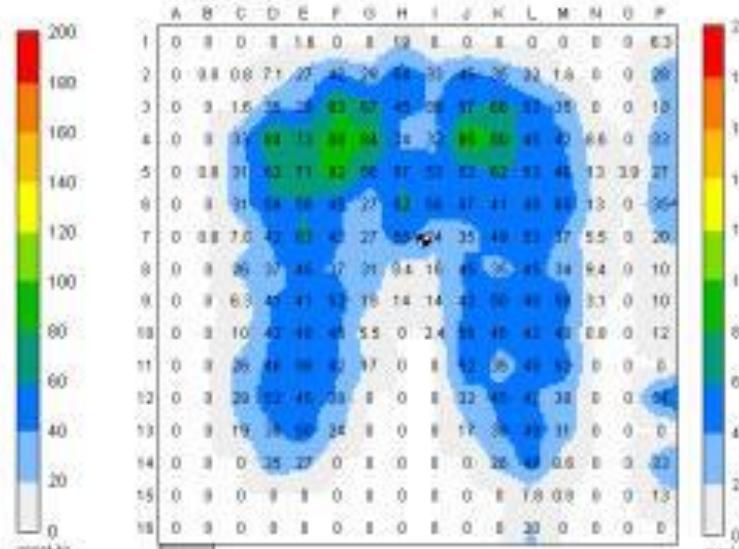


2" HR45 Foam



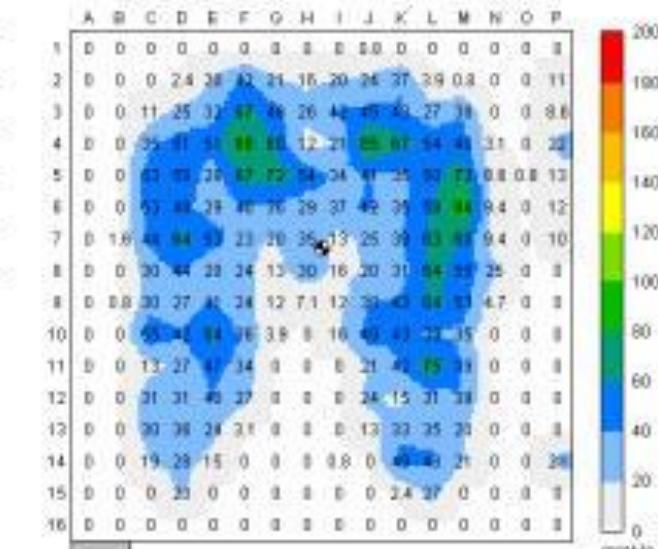
Contoured by Supracor

Jay 2 by Sunrise Medical



Model P by Vicair

ROHO High Profile by ROHO Inc.



Model P Deep Immersion by Vicair

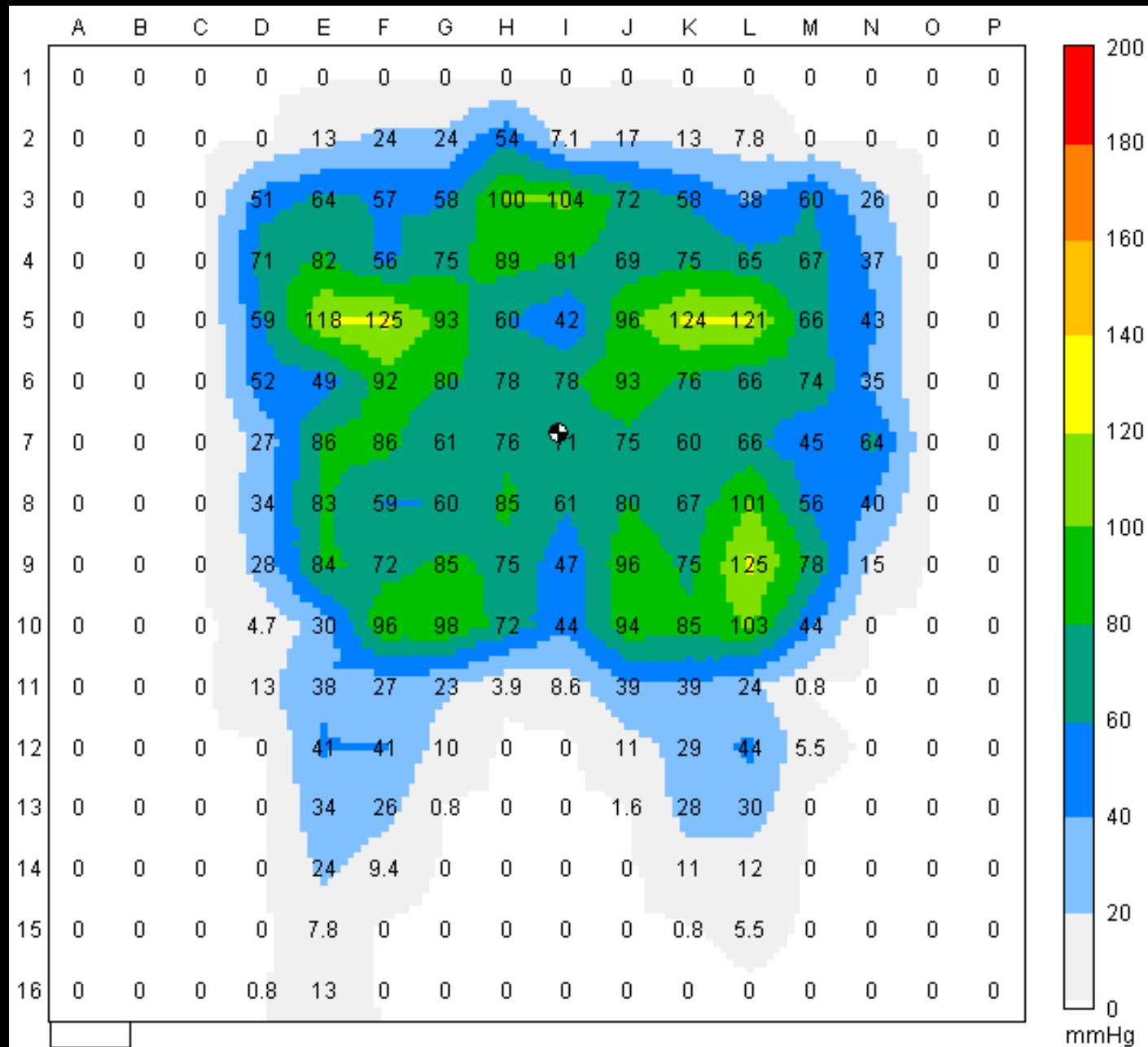
ASLI prototype

became an ISO shape

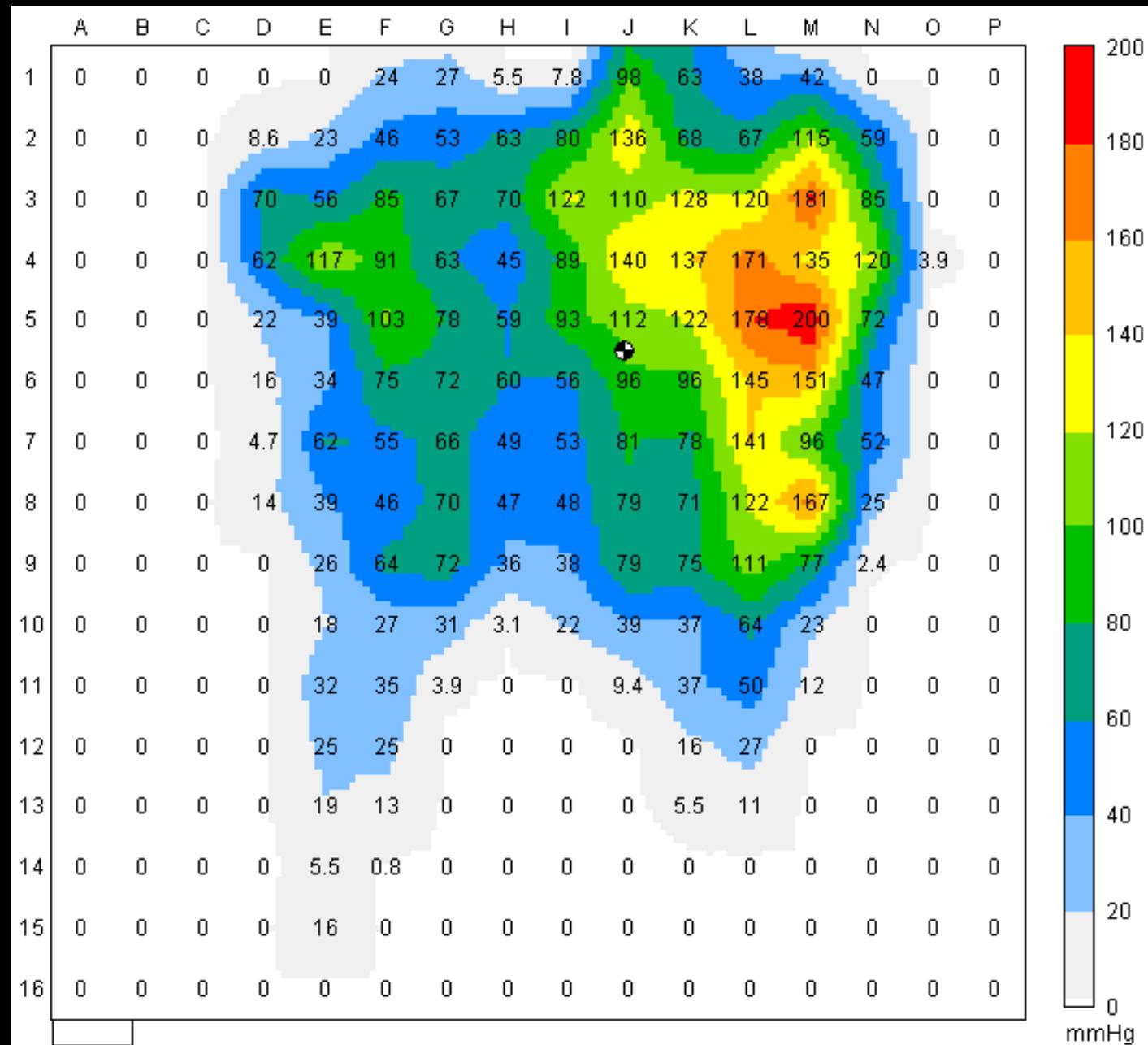


Pressure measurements

symmetric

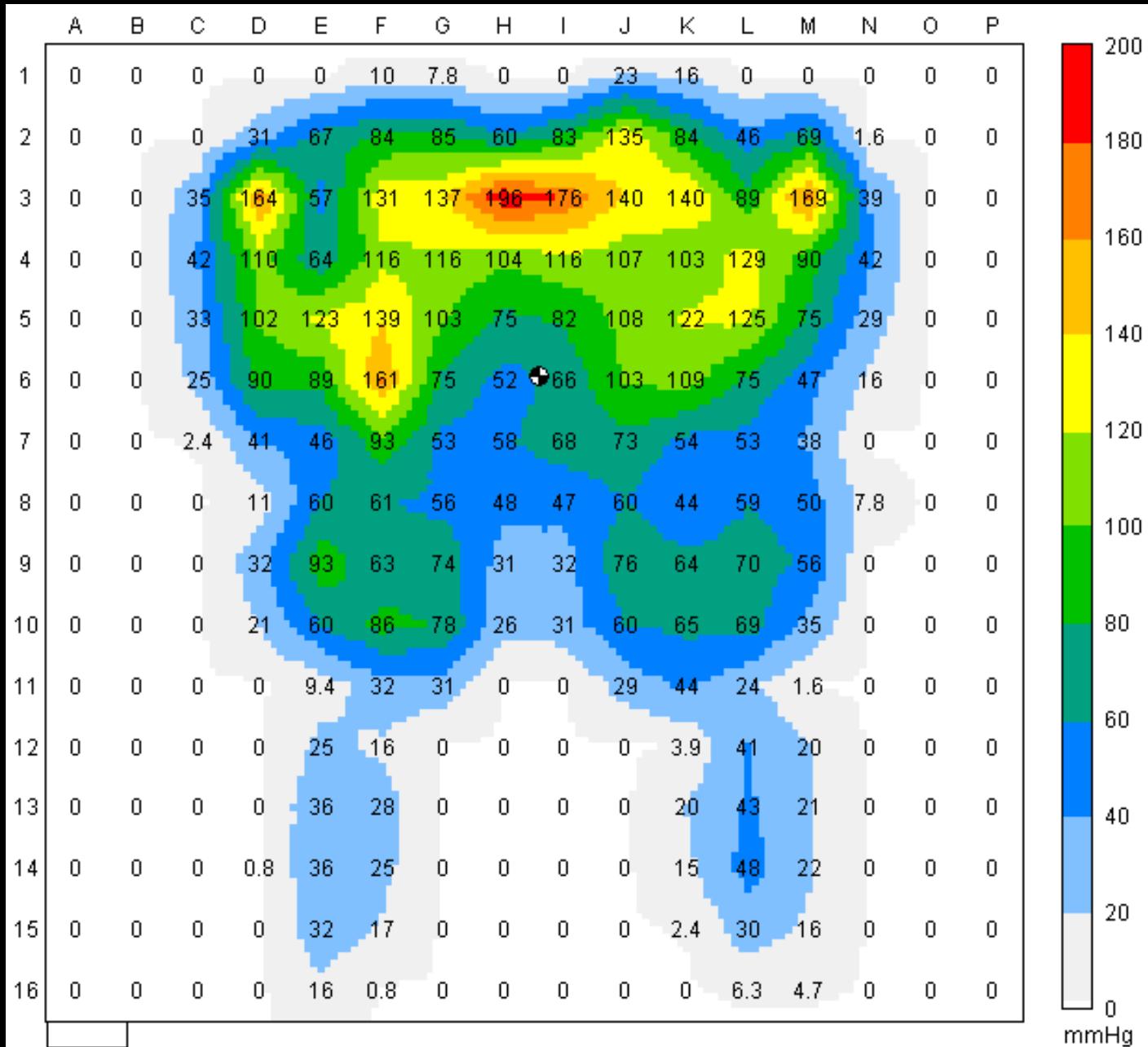


Pressure measurements



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

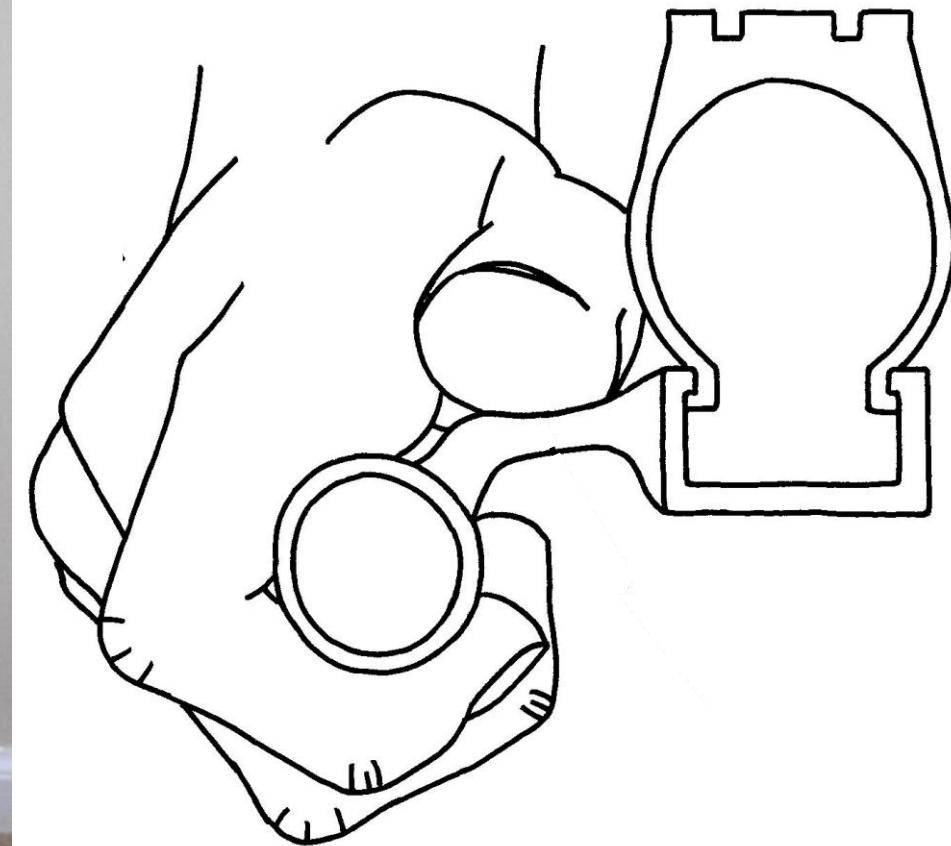


The need:

A better grip



Solution: an ergonomic pushrim



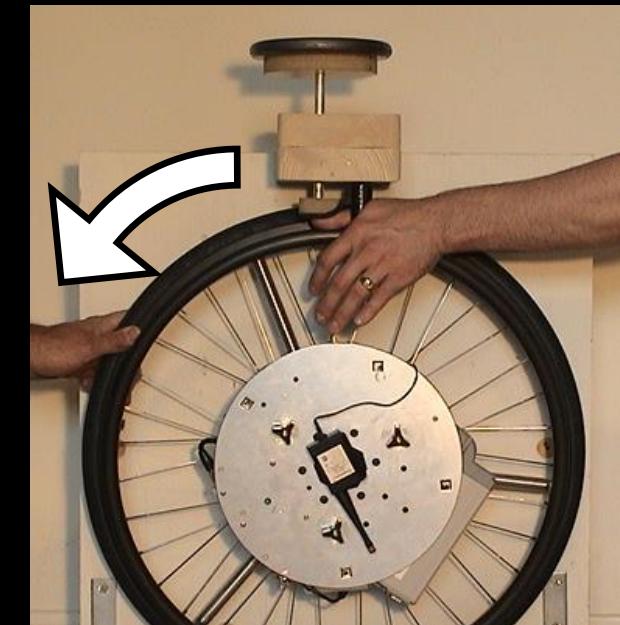
FlexRim

Combining the discrete compliant fasteners into one



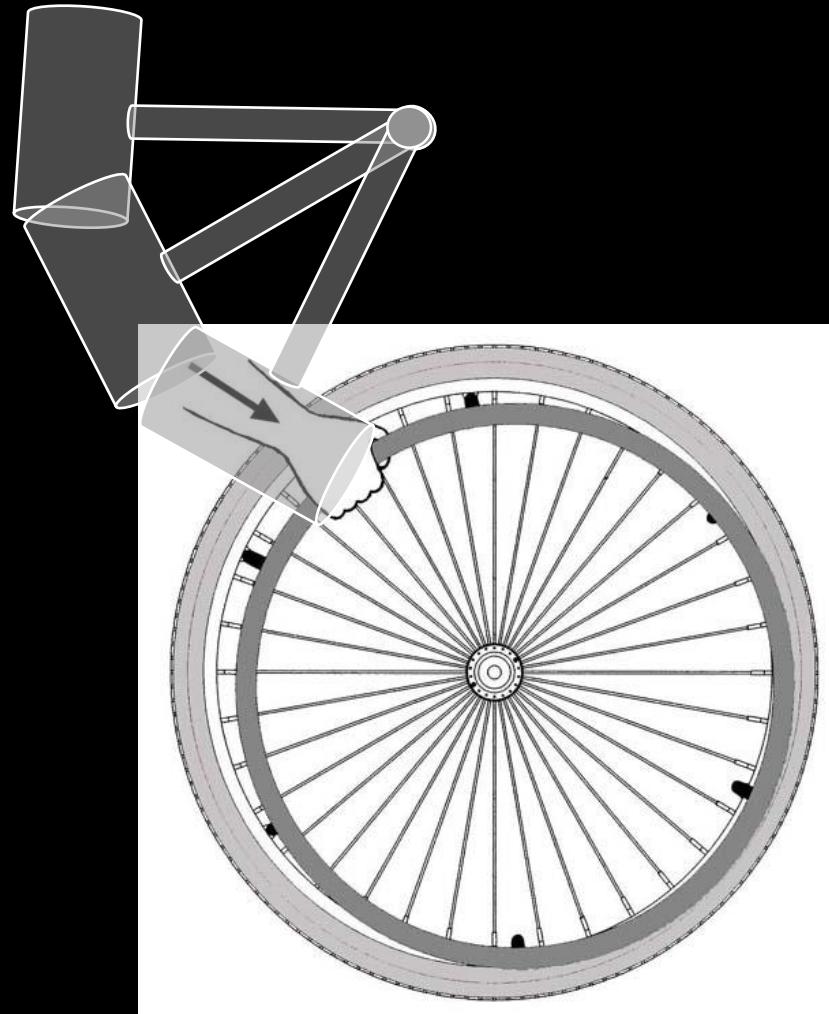
Frictional improvements

To reduce the grip force required to push



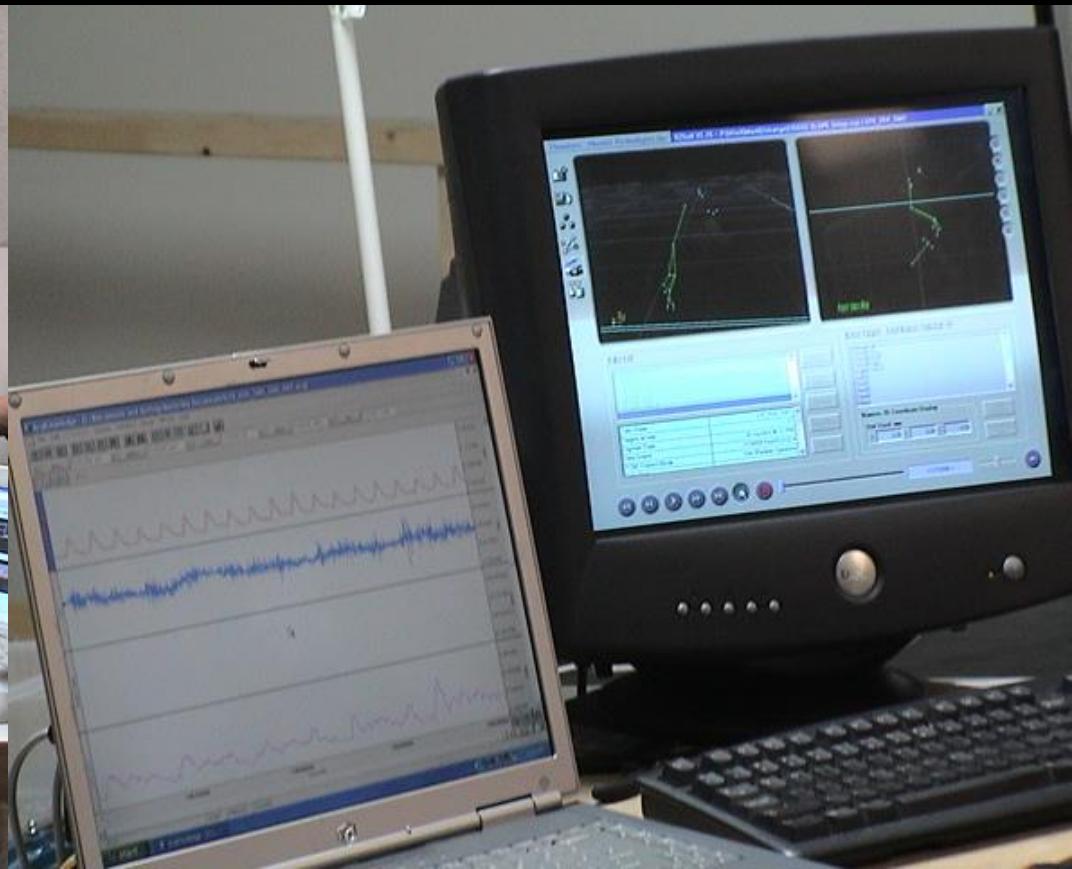
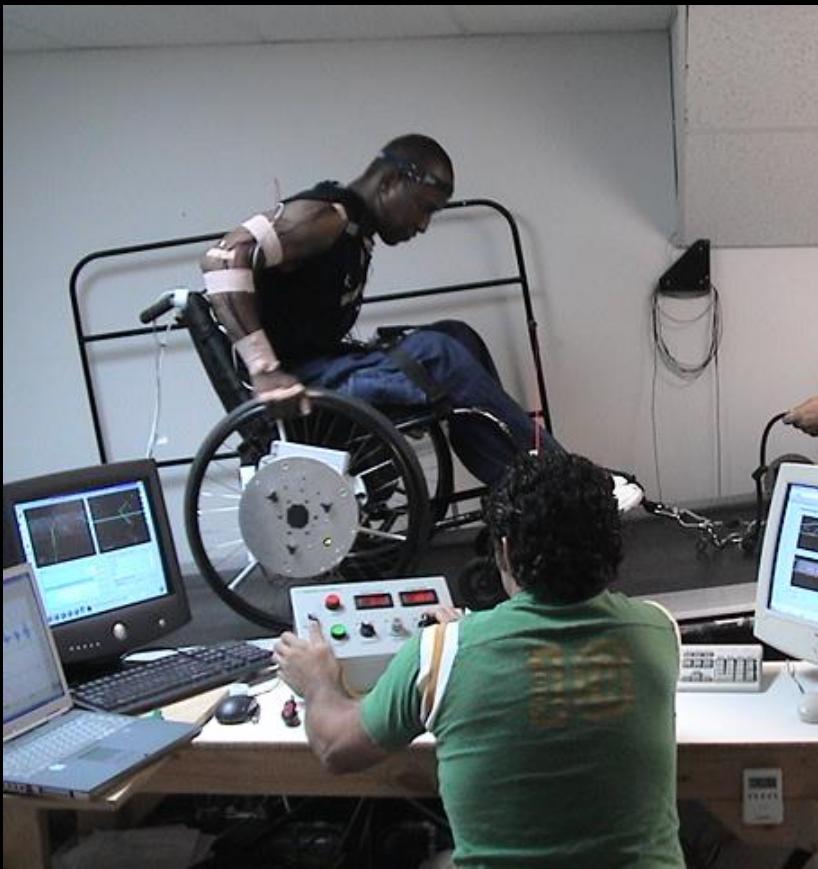
Impact absorption

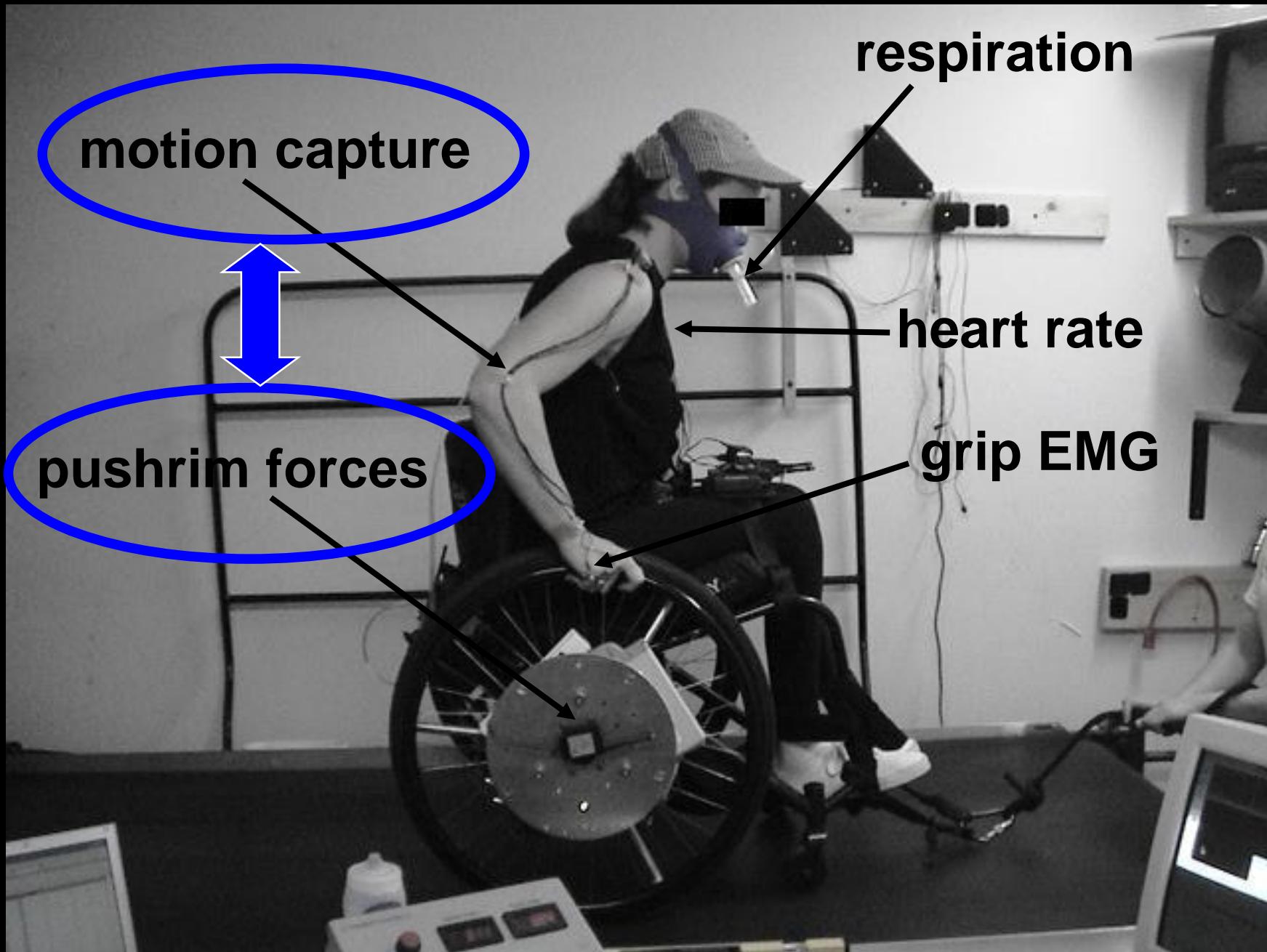
Like running shoes



Subjects are tested

over a wide variety of usage environments

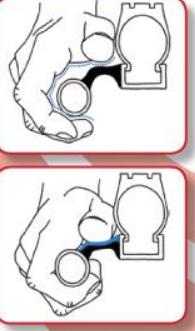




End product – the FlexRim

Design

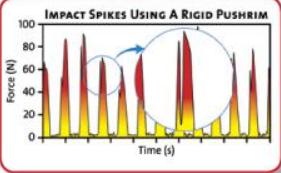
The FlexRim consists of a durable high friction rubber surface that spans between the aluminum pushrim and the wheel. The shape of the rubber is ergonomically designed to conform to your hand when gripped, making it the most comfortable pushrim you will ever use.



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.

Impact Spikes Using A Rigid Pushrim



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%**.



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



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.



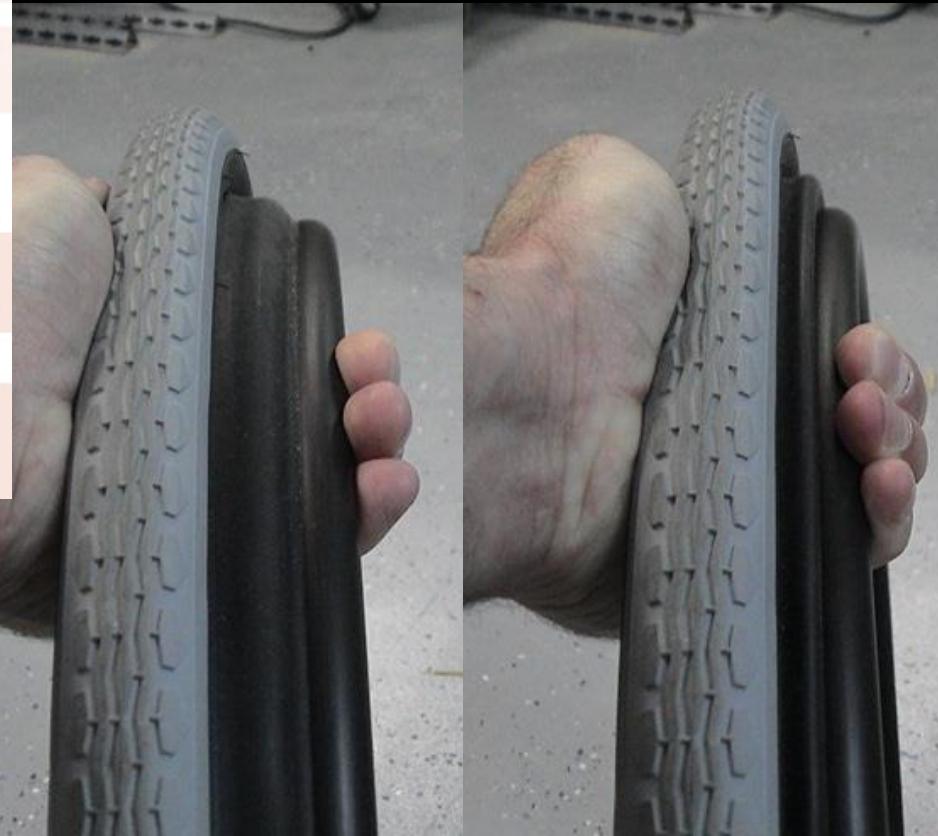
Results of the testing were:

- 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







pire

EM105.24
1200000000
IPS / DIGITAL

RT TOOL

9.8

ON/OFF

Calibra

PS/SET

HOLD

MIZUNO

seat angle

10 degrees from horizontal

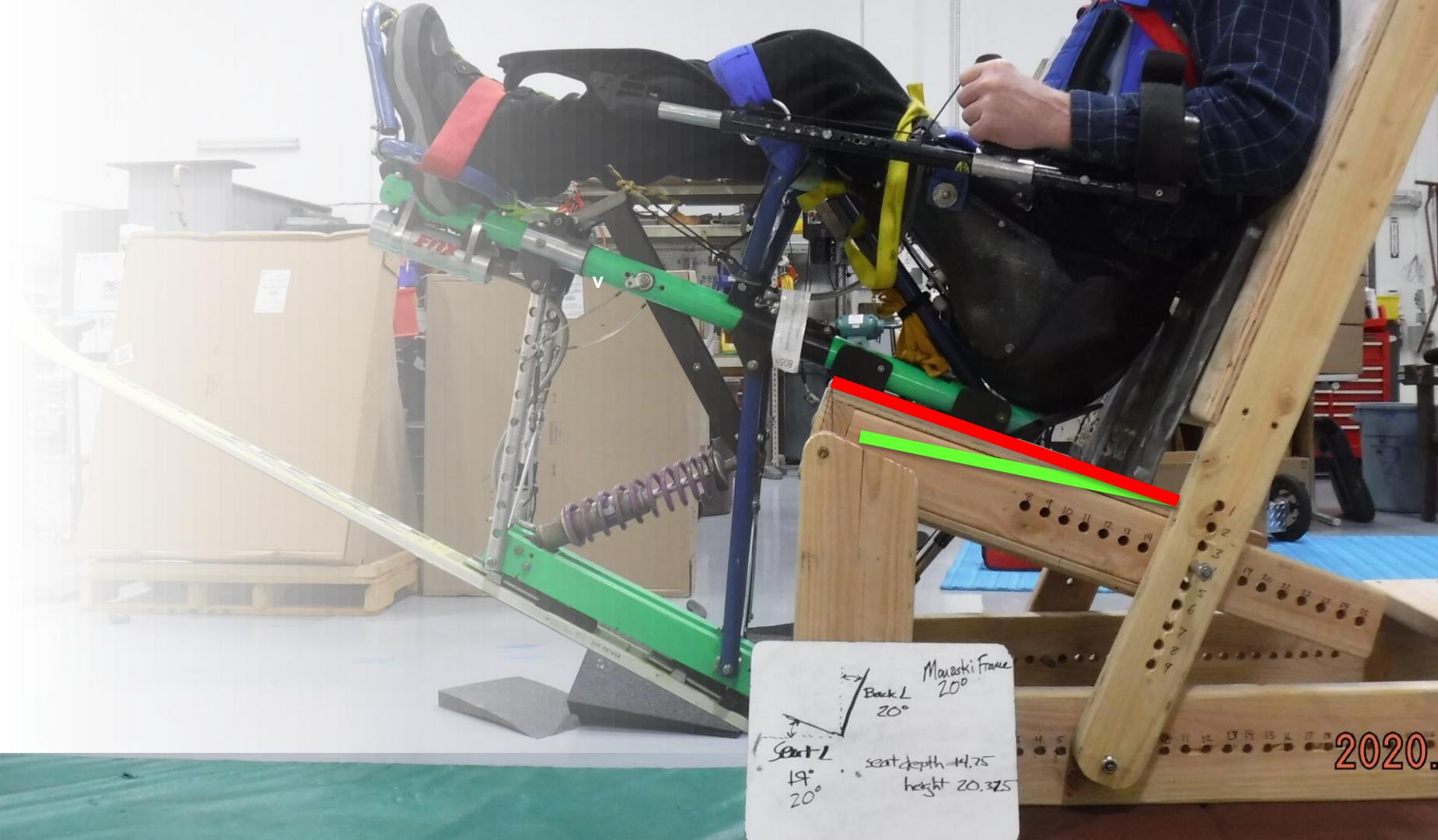






seat angle

19–20 degrees from horizontal





























Dynamic seating spring assist







The desire:

Get back into the backcountry

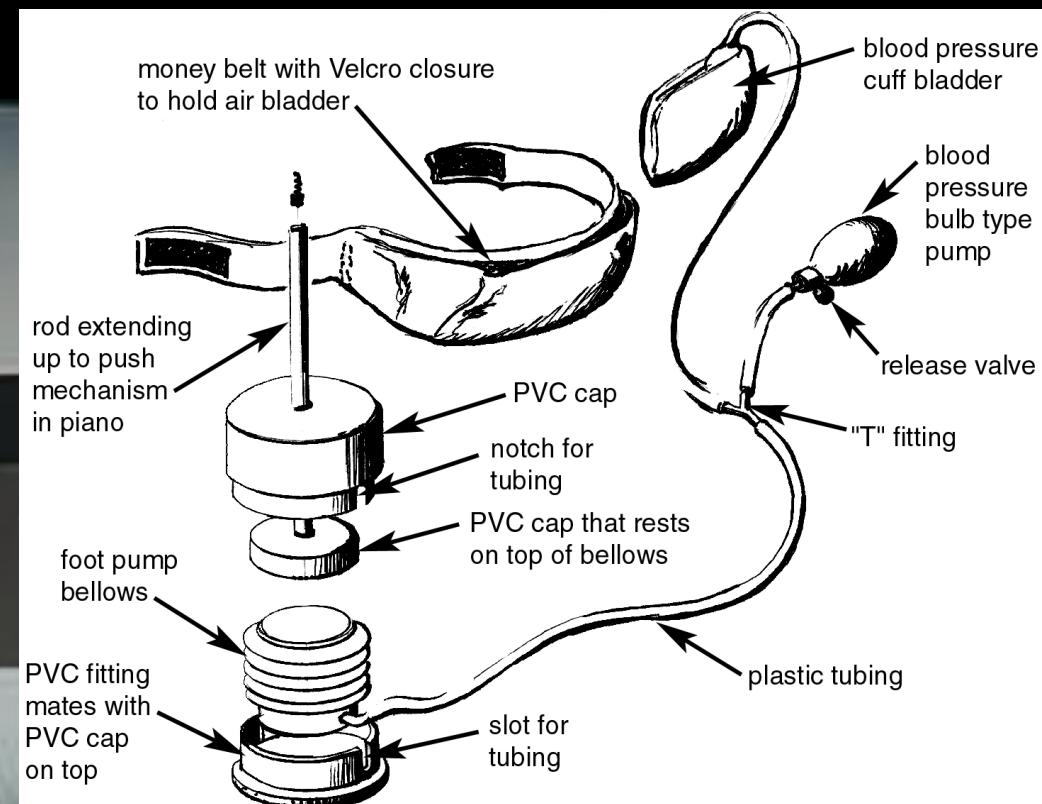






The need:

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

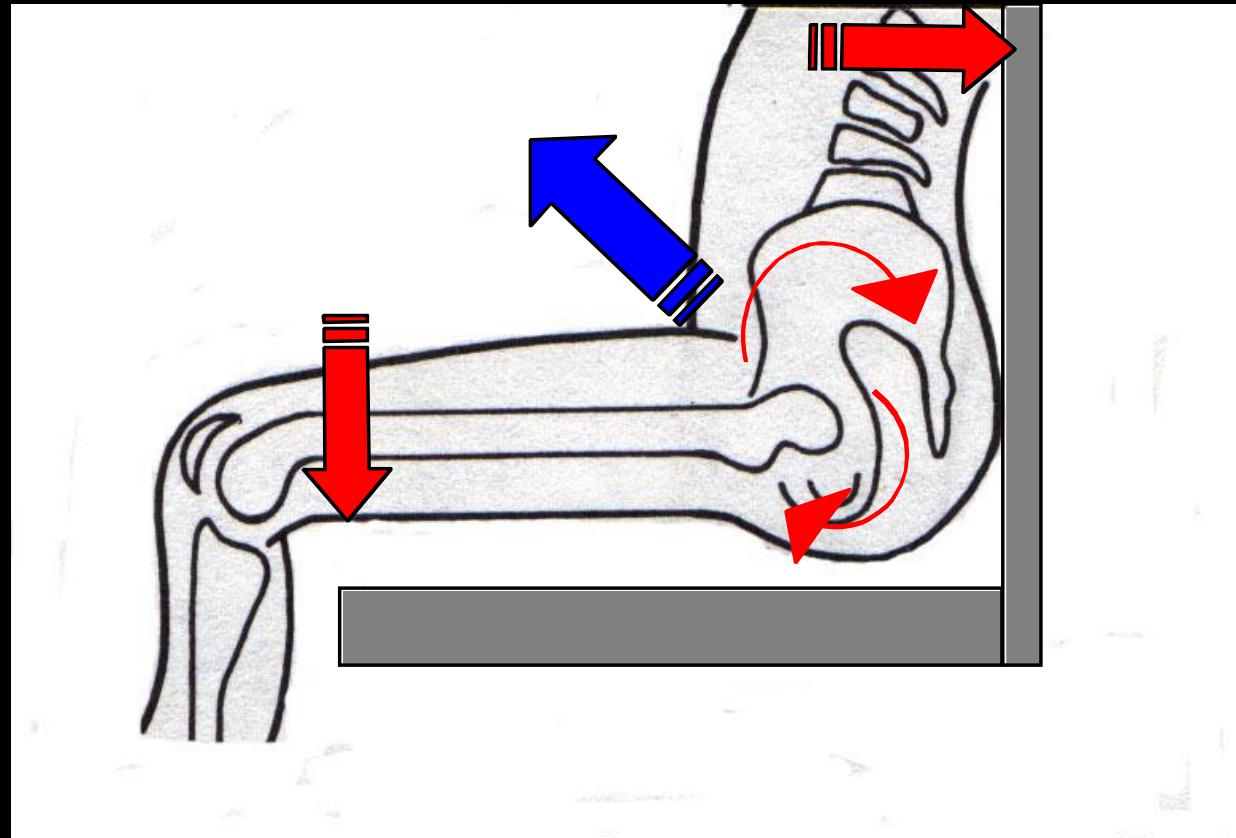
The desire:

Surf again



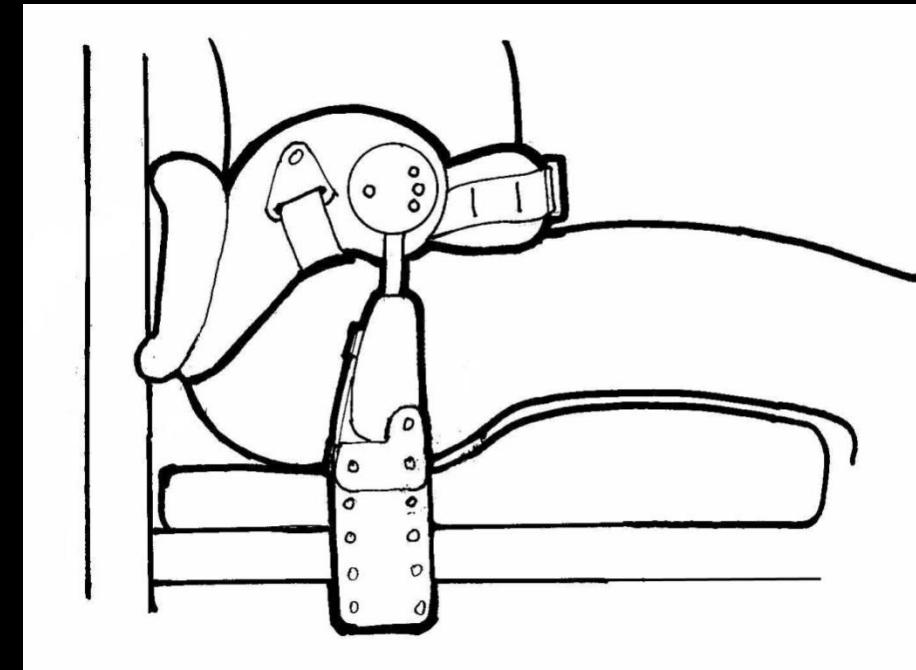
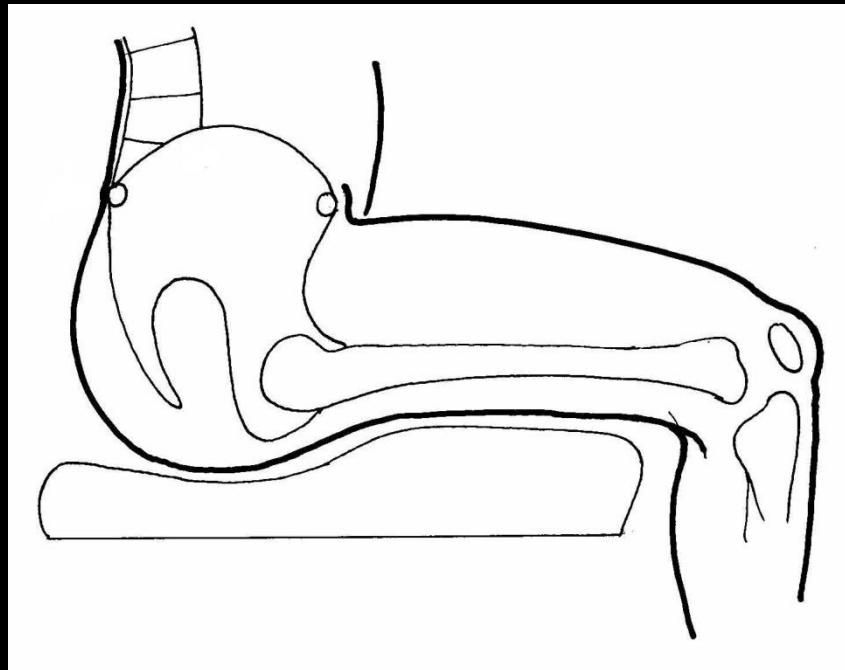
The problem:

Unwanted pelvic movement due to spasticity

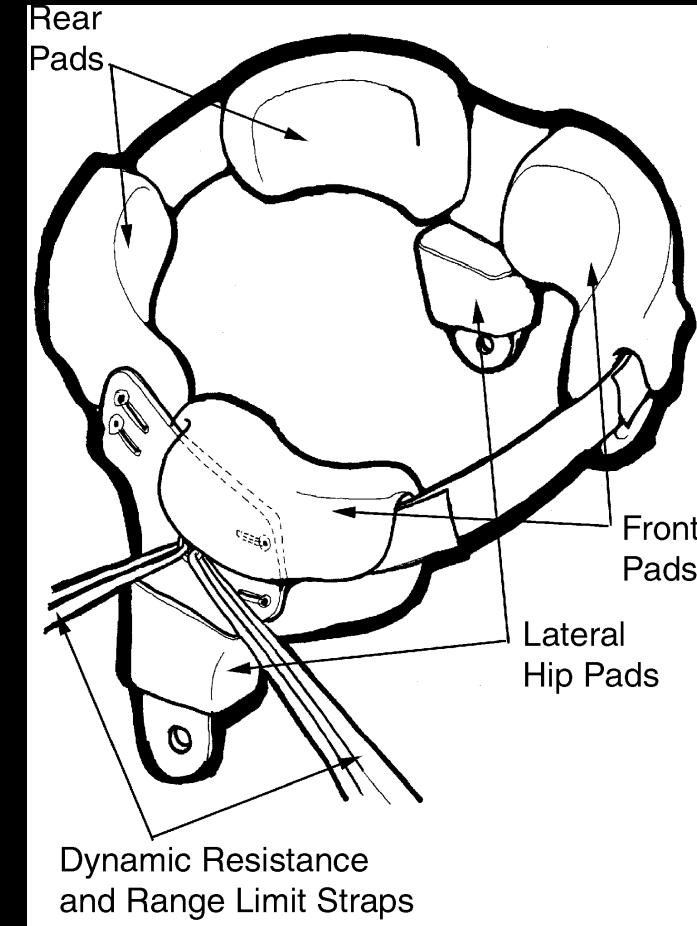
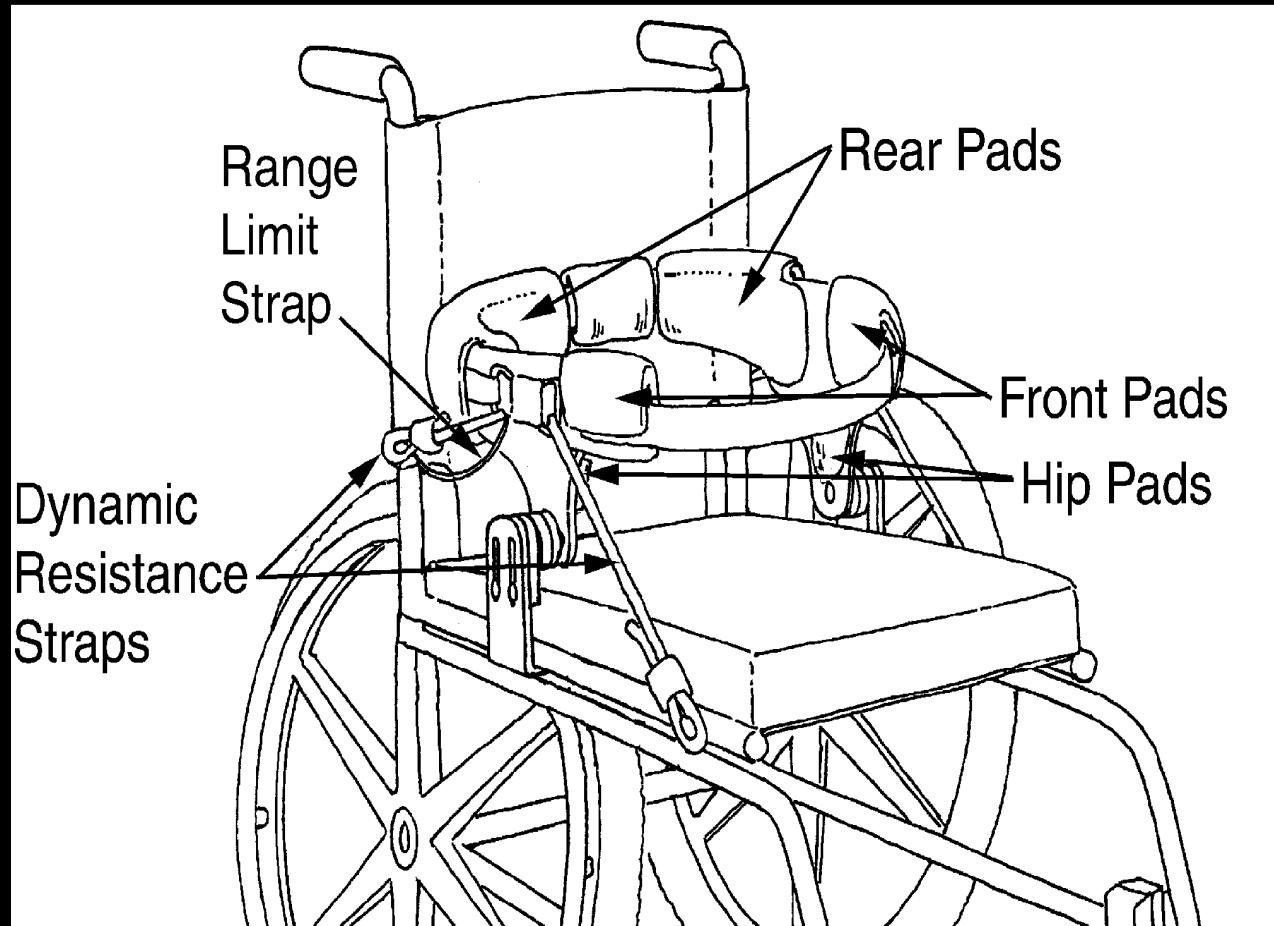


Concepts developed

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 1900 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

0.0 Ft

-1.3 %

2.1 %

Alarm Settings**Browse Images****New Segment****Outslope****Check Outslope Direction**

<- Left

Right ->

Vehicle Orientation **Forwards** **Backwards****Copy Surf. Data ->****Tread Width:****Current Station To Record**

25

in

Set MCW**Surface Category:**

Paved

Surface Type:

Ice

**Distance:**

7.2 Ft

**Grade:**

-0.7 %

**Cross Slope:**

0.8 %

Record Station**Add Features****Return Home****Distance Hold****Manual Entry****View Data****Current Segment:**

2 Joggin Lampe 2007-06-12

Compass Heading: ° True**GPS Location and Status****Lat:****Lon:****Apprx. Err:****Elev:**

Error: Garmin GPS is not connected

Show Camera Preview



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

Responsible dogs welcome on leash. Trail open



Yellow
Trail

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Trail Access Information (TAI)

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

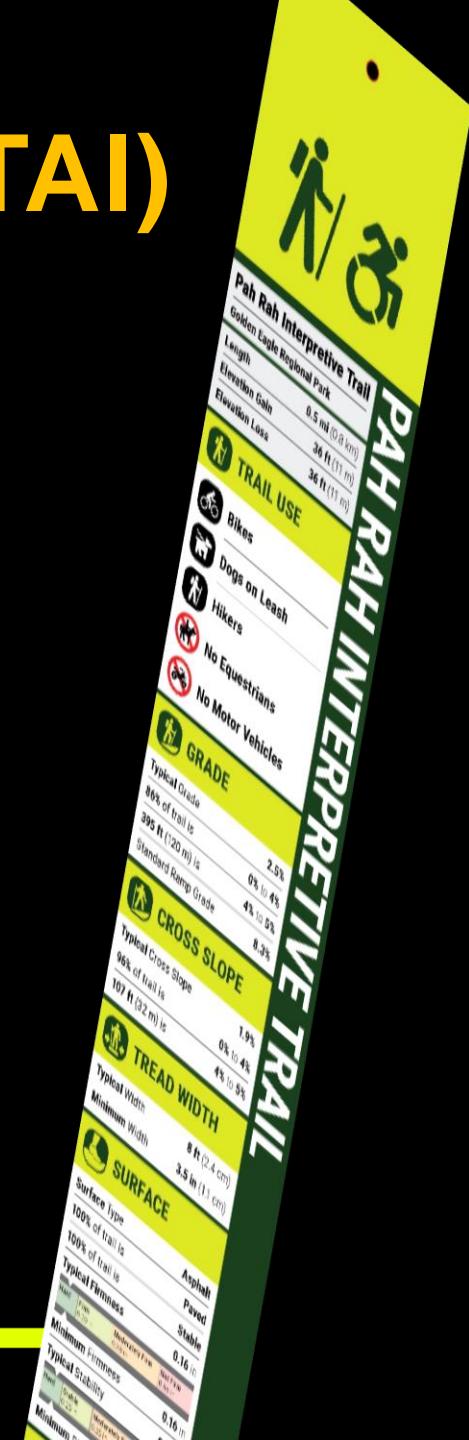
Grade

Cross Slope

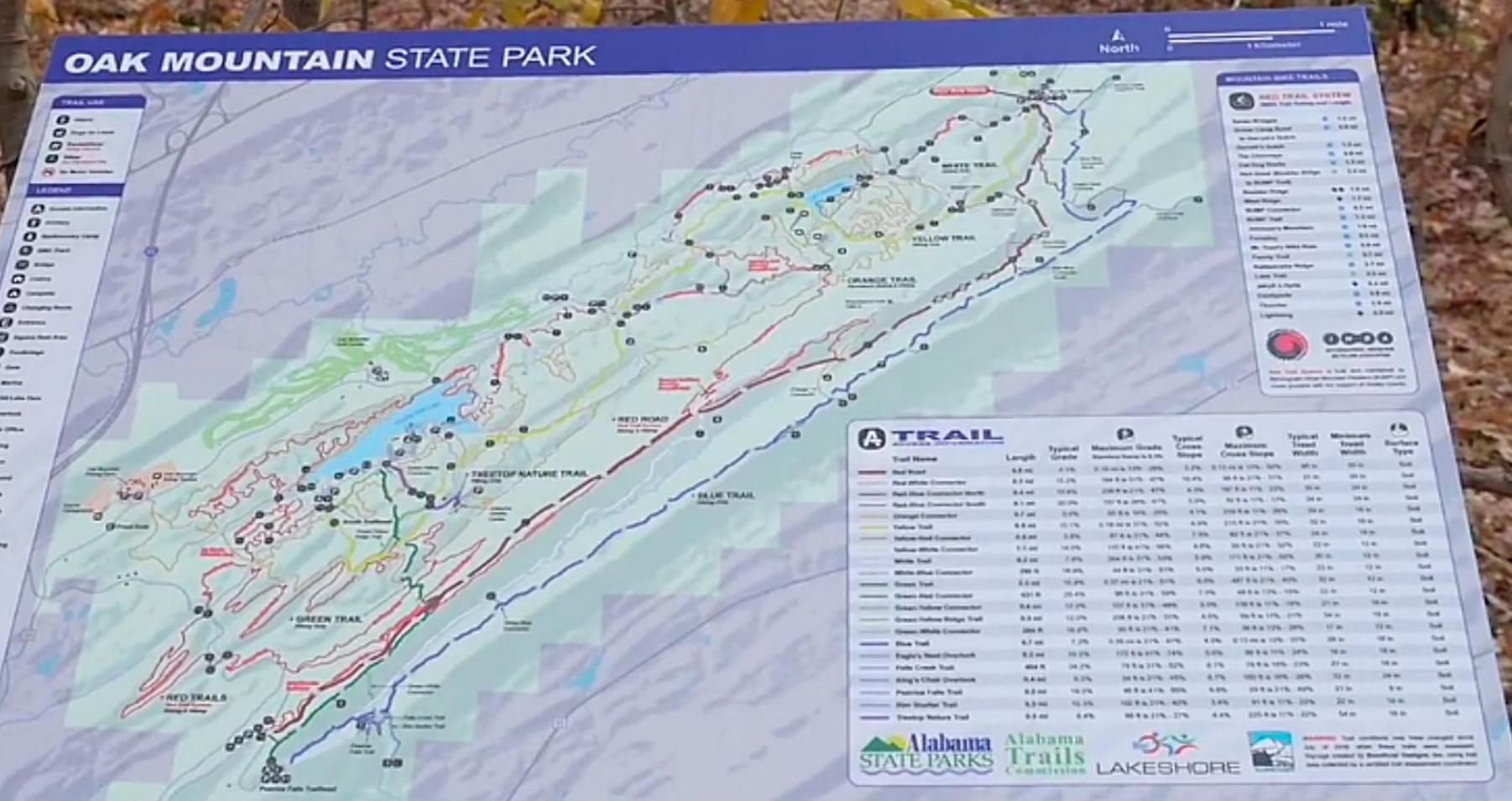
Tread Width

Surface

Obstructions



OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



Green River Natural Area

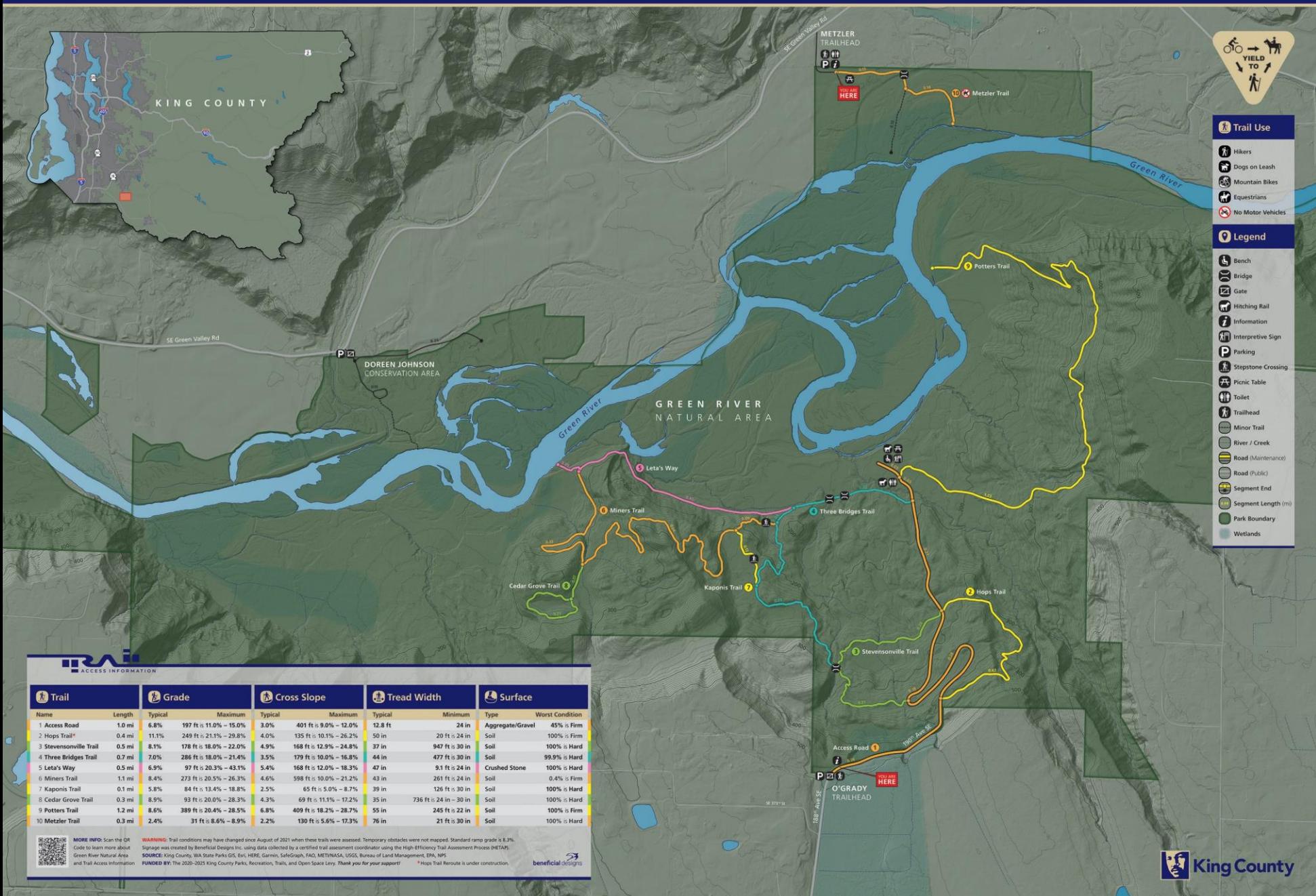
200 m 0
1000 ft 0  North

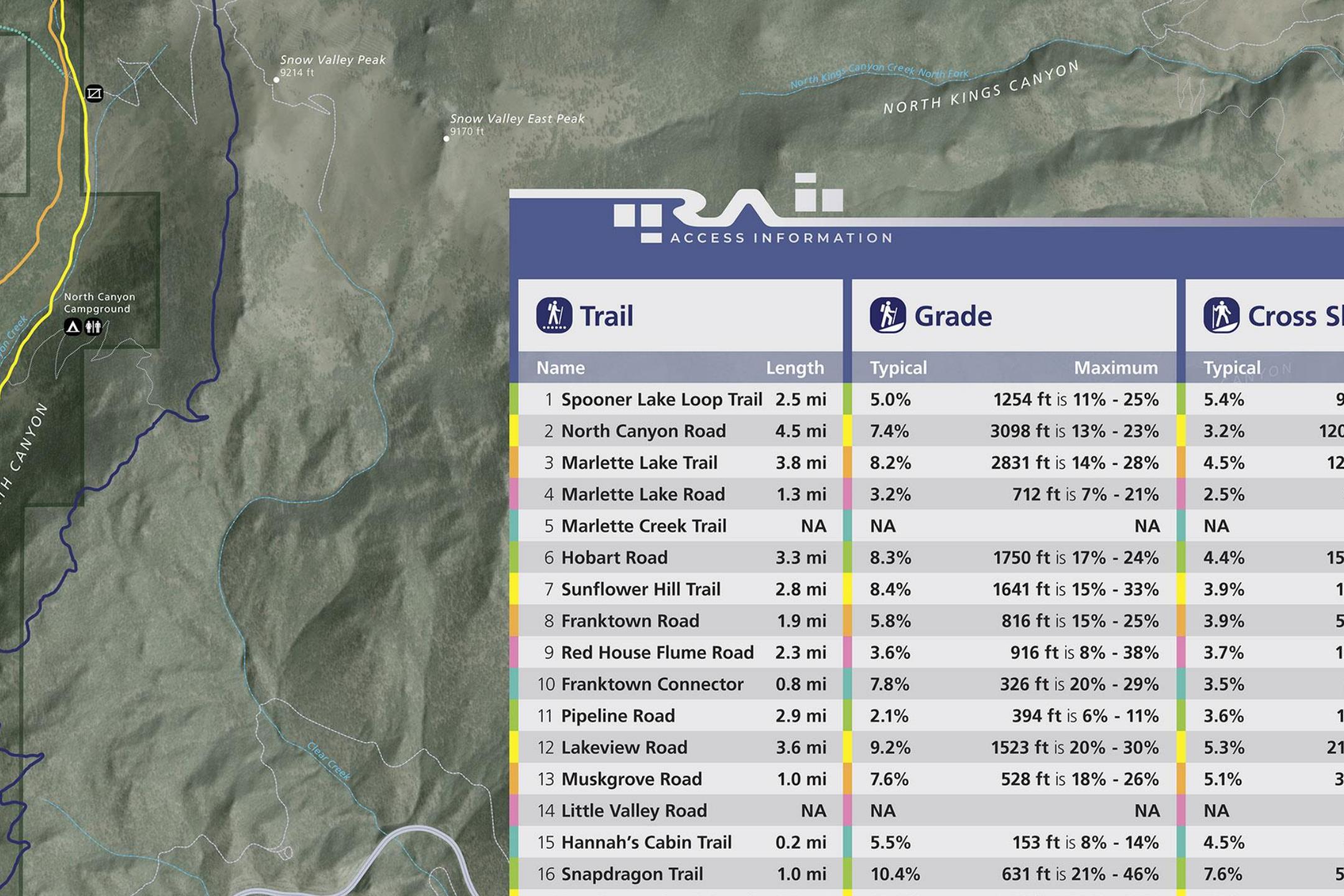


Trail Use

-  Hikers
-  Dogs on Leash
-  Mountain Bikes
-  Equestrians
-  No Motor Vehicles

Legend





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

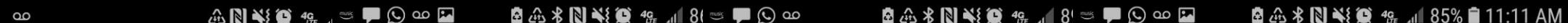
trash/recycling receptacle

utility/sewage connection

viewing area at overlooks

viewing scope

water spout



Table

ABA/FSORAG

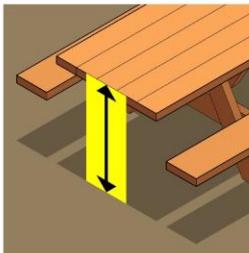
What type of assessment?

ABA

FSO



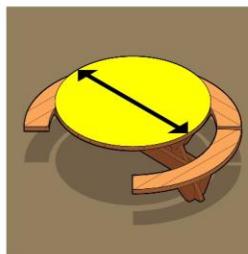
Measure the height from the ground to the table top



REQUIRED SPACES

Is the table Circular?

Table Diameter



Measure the height from the ground to the table top



Table

Compliant

CLEAR SPACE

Does one full unobstructed side clear ground space around the table? Adjacent or overlap an OPAP trail

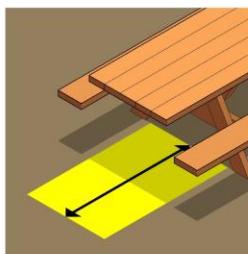


Table surface height (min 28 in - max 34 in)

Table

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

Table

Suggested maintenance

Notes

Optional photos



MANUFACTURER INFO

Manufacturer and Model

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

Manufacturer

Model

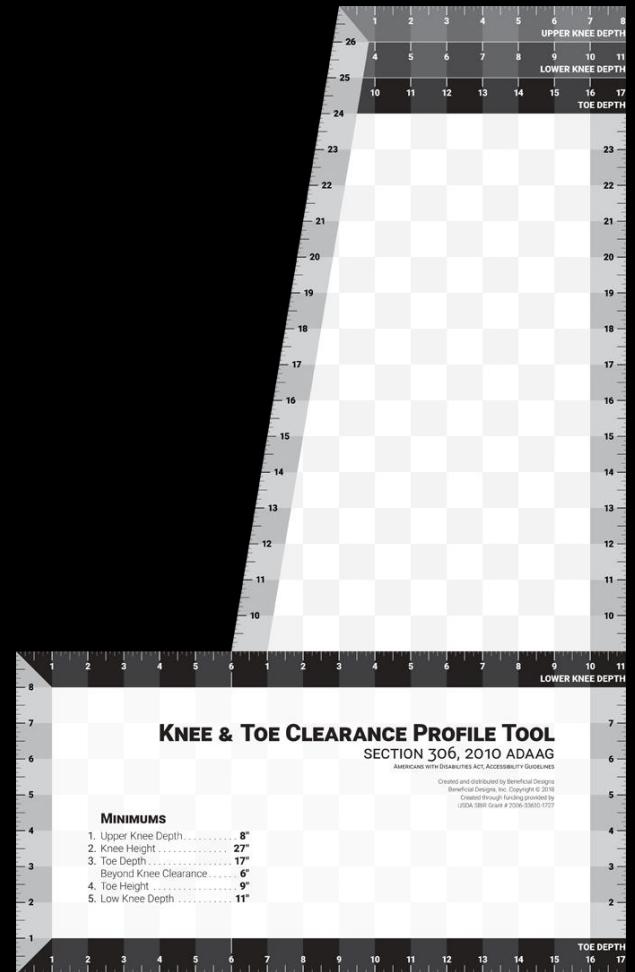
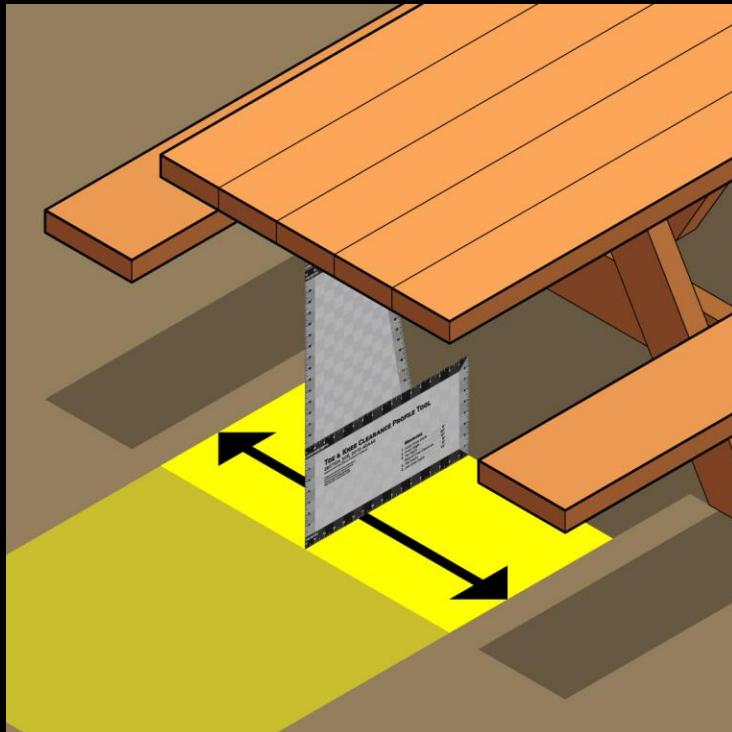


Table



Knee & Toe Clearance Profile Tool

unobstructed knee & toe space



Adjustable height cooking grill

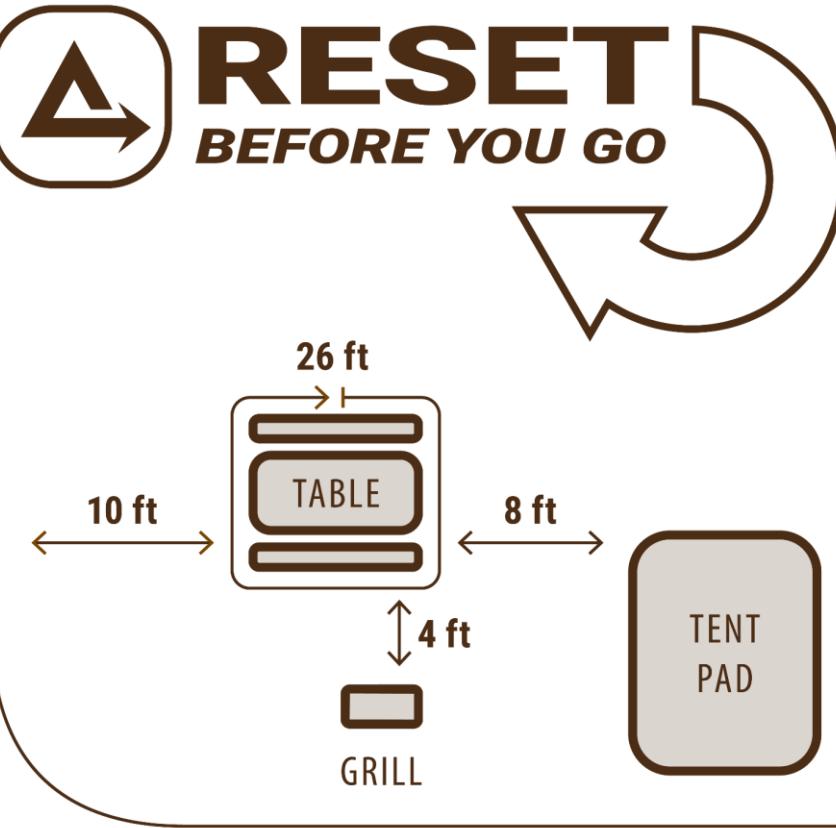


Water pump

Actuation force



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:

11AM **6PM**

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 fees may have changed since March 2011 after this campsite was assessed. Impairing obstacles were not recorded.

Printed 10/11/2011 by the Developed Outfitter
Accessible Assess™ process is provided by the
U.S. Department of Agriculture
through the Small Business Innovation and
Research Program (Grant number: 2013-03601-21051)

CAMP SITE ACCESS INFORMATION

Signage created by **Beneficial Design Inc.** using data
collected by a certified campsite assessment contractor.

Develop standards for

Trail and sidewalk design

Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)

Outdoor Recreation Access Guidelines

Public Rights of Way Access Guidelines
(PROWAG)





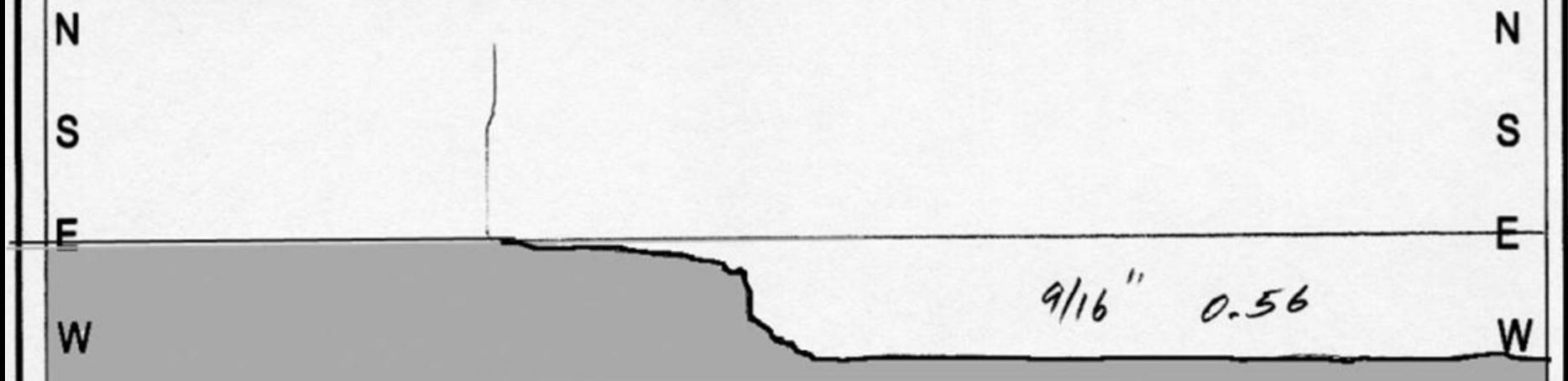


HEIGHT TRANSITIONS

Project #: 216-2

Date: 4/27/09

Street Name: OLVA WEST Segment Name: * Distance: 233' 9"
* N COUNTY ROAD TO INTERLAKEN



Sidewalk assessment

Public Rights-of-Way Assessment Process (PROWAP)



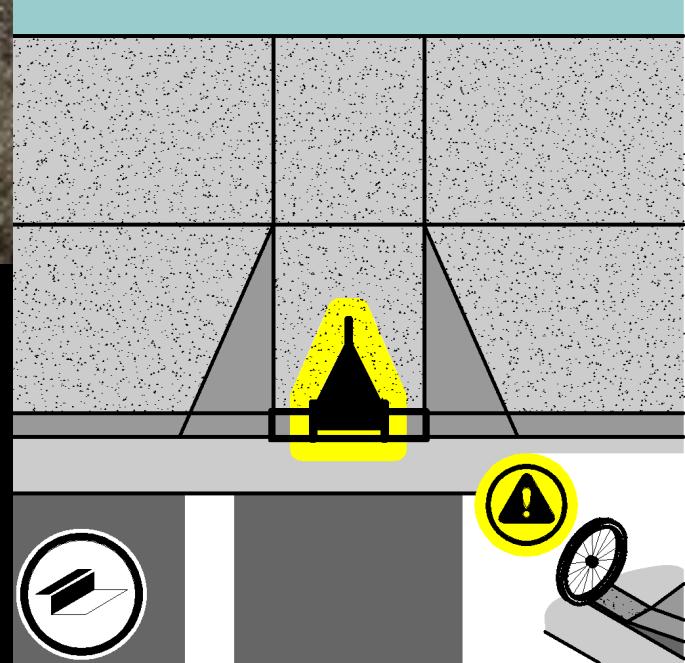


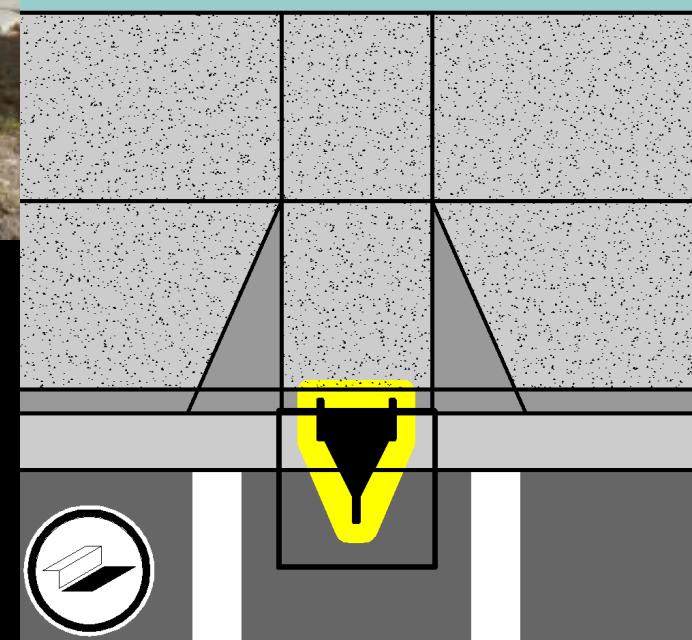
Digital Measuring Wheel (DMS)

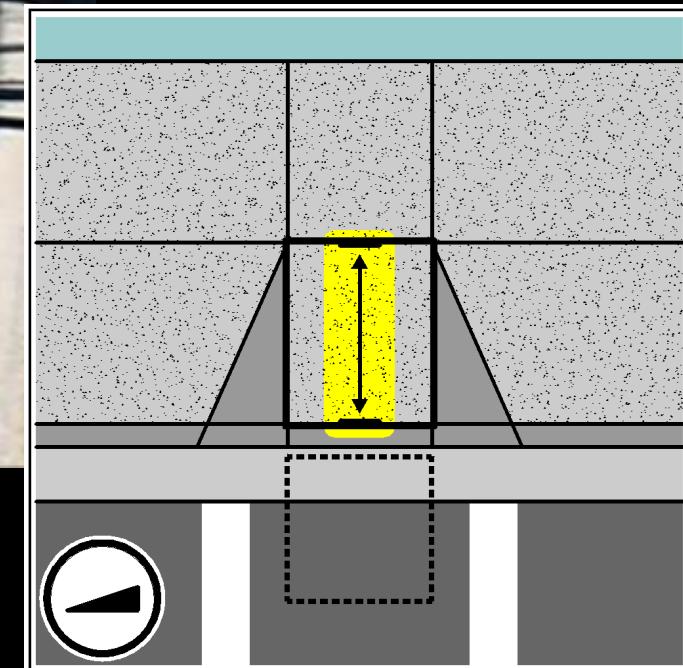


Digital Height Measuring Device









NDOT Curb Ramps

ADA Right of Way Inventory

Open in Map Viewer Classic

Ben Hubbard
ben_NDOT

Layers

- ADA_ROW_Inventory
- Tables
- Basemap
- Charts
- Legend
- Bookmarks
- Save and open
- Map properties
- Add
- Share map
- Create app
- Print
- Information
- Collapse

Properties

Effects

Add sketch

Map tools

Clark County, NV, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA, EPA, USDA | Nevada DOT, External Civil Rights, Roadway Design Division

Powered by Esri

NDOT Residential Driveways

ADA Right of Way Inventory

Open in Map Viewer Classic

Ben Hubbard
ben_NDOT

Properties

Effects

Add sketch

Map tools

Layers

ADA_ROW_Inventory

- Ramp
- Residential Driveway
- Missing Feature
- Discontinuities
- Pedestrian Push Button
- Narrow Access

Add

ADA ROW Inventory

2419 ft

215 ft

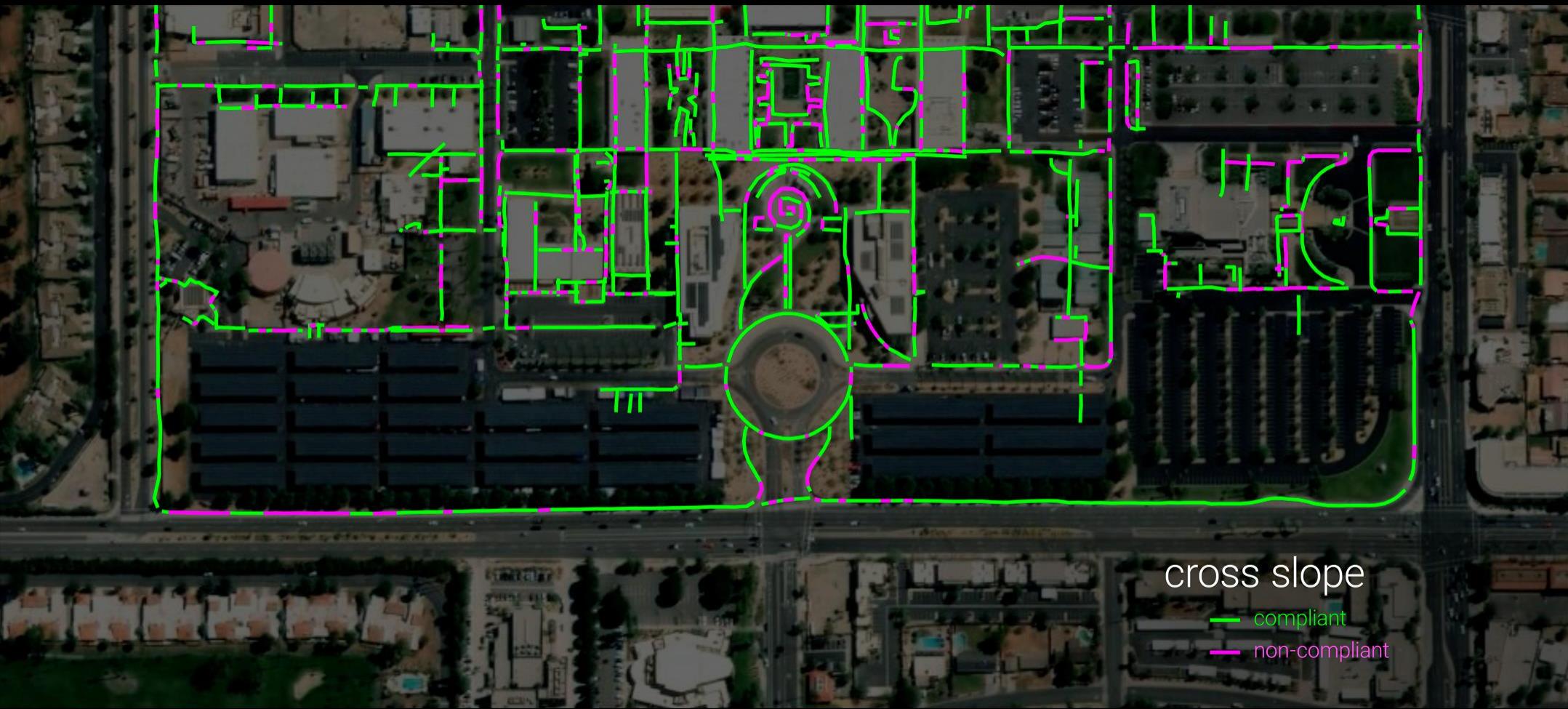
Information

Collapse

Clark County, NV, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA, EPA, USDA | Nevada DOT, External Civil Rights, Roadway Design Division

Powered by Esri

PROWAP



Path Events: Vertical Discontinuities

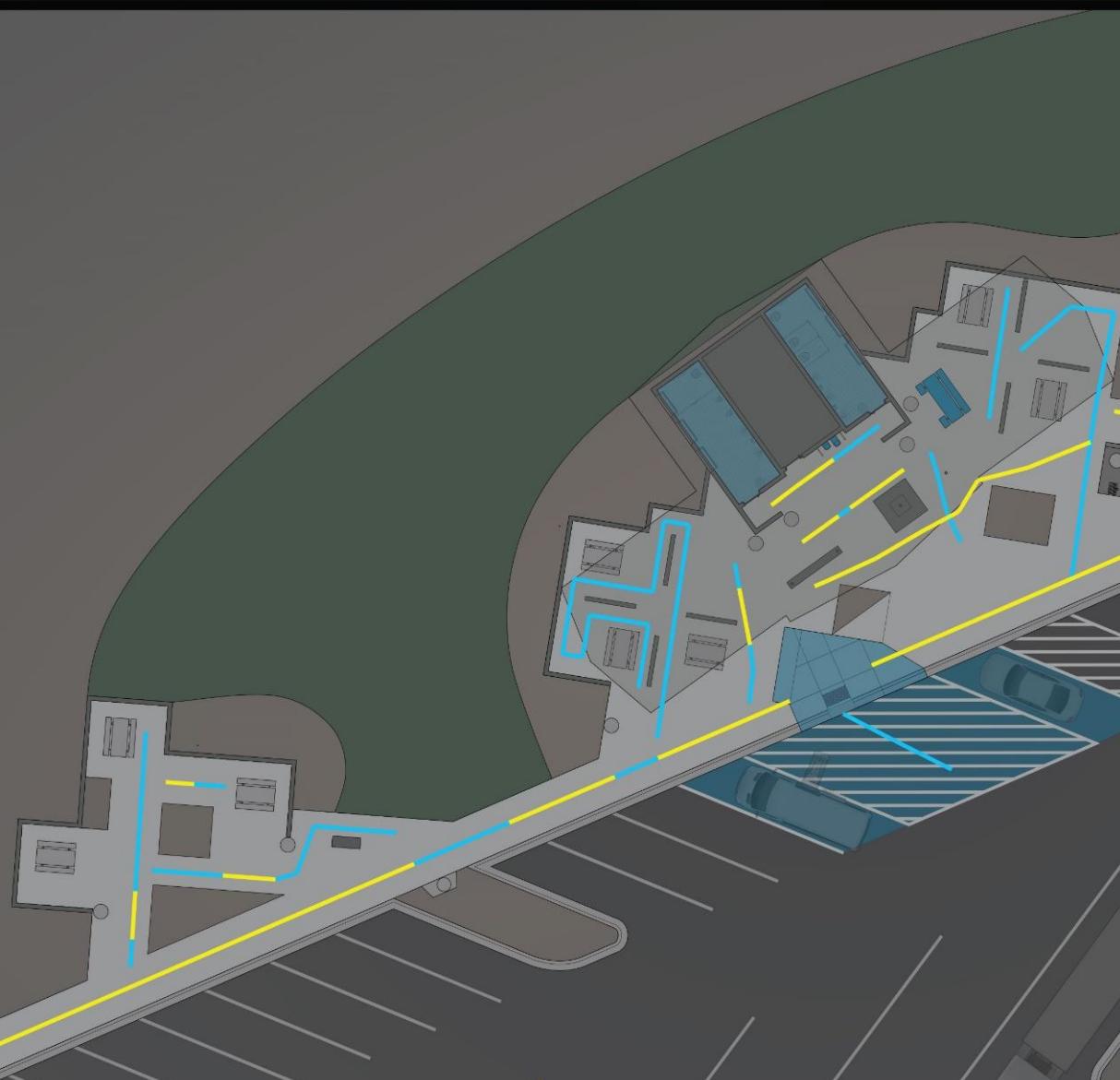
Vertical height...

- ▲ Greater than 0.25 in. up to and including 0.5 in. without bevel
- ▲ Greater than 0.5 in. up to and including 1.0 in.
- ▲ Greater than 1.0 in.
- Assessed path of travel



Paths of Travel: Cross Slope

- 0 to 2.0%
- Greater than 2.0% up to 5.0%
- Greater than 5.0% up to 8.3%
- Greater than 8.3%



Universal Design of Fitness Equipment (UDFE) Standards



Low step-up height design



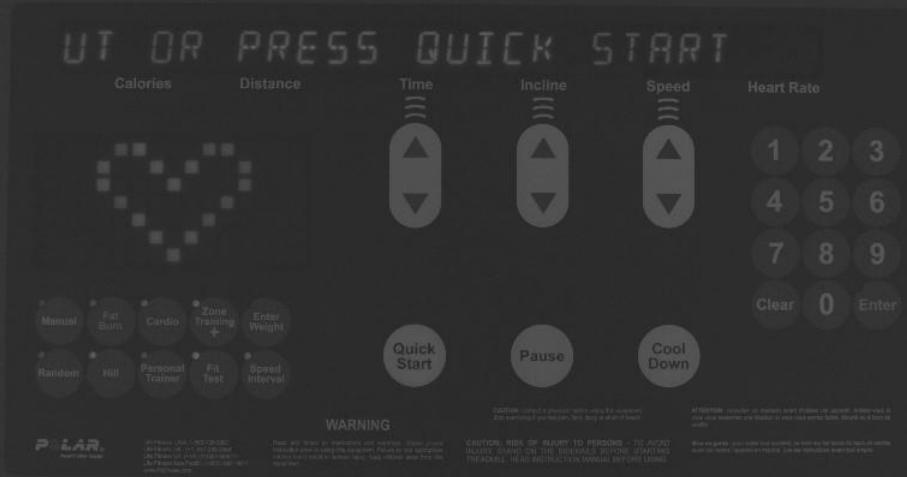
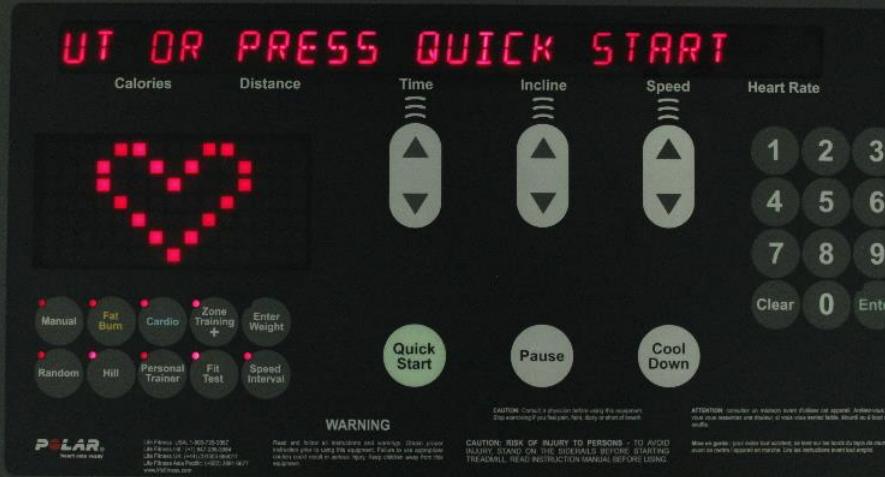


Finding the **Weight Adjustment Pin**





LifeFitness



color contrast

value contrast



color contrast



value contrast















2013.12.23 13:43





6°

6°



Boarding devices

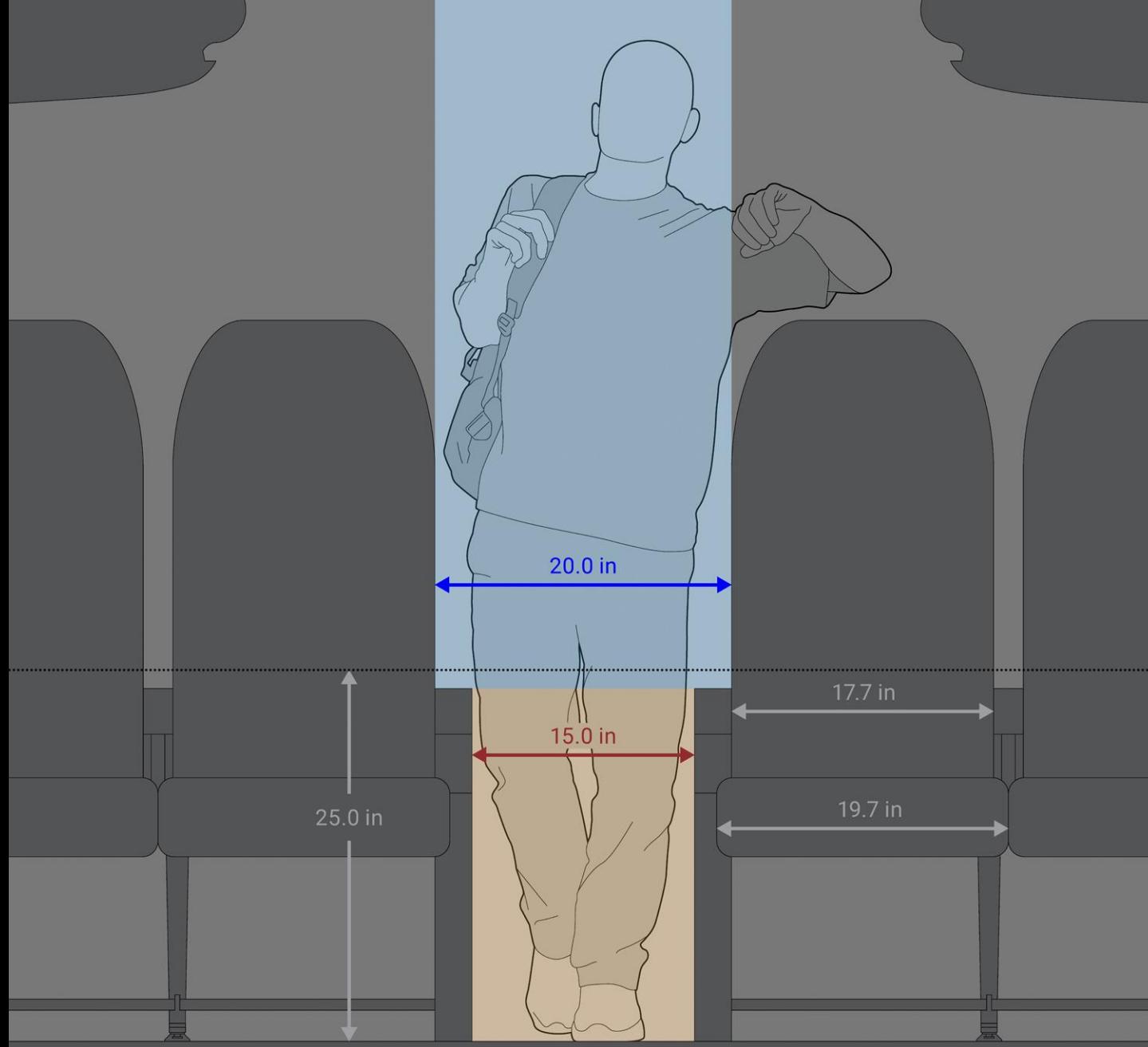


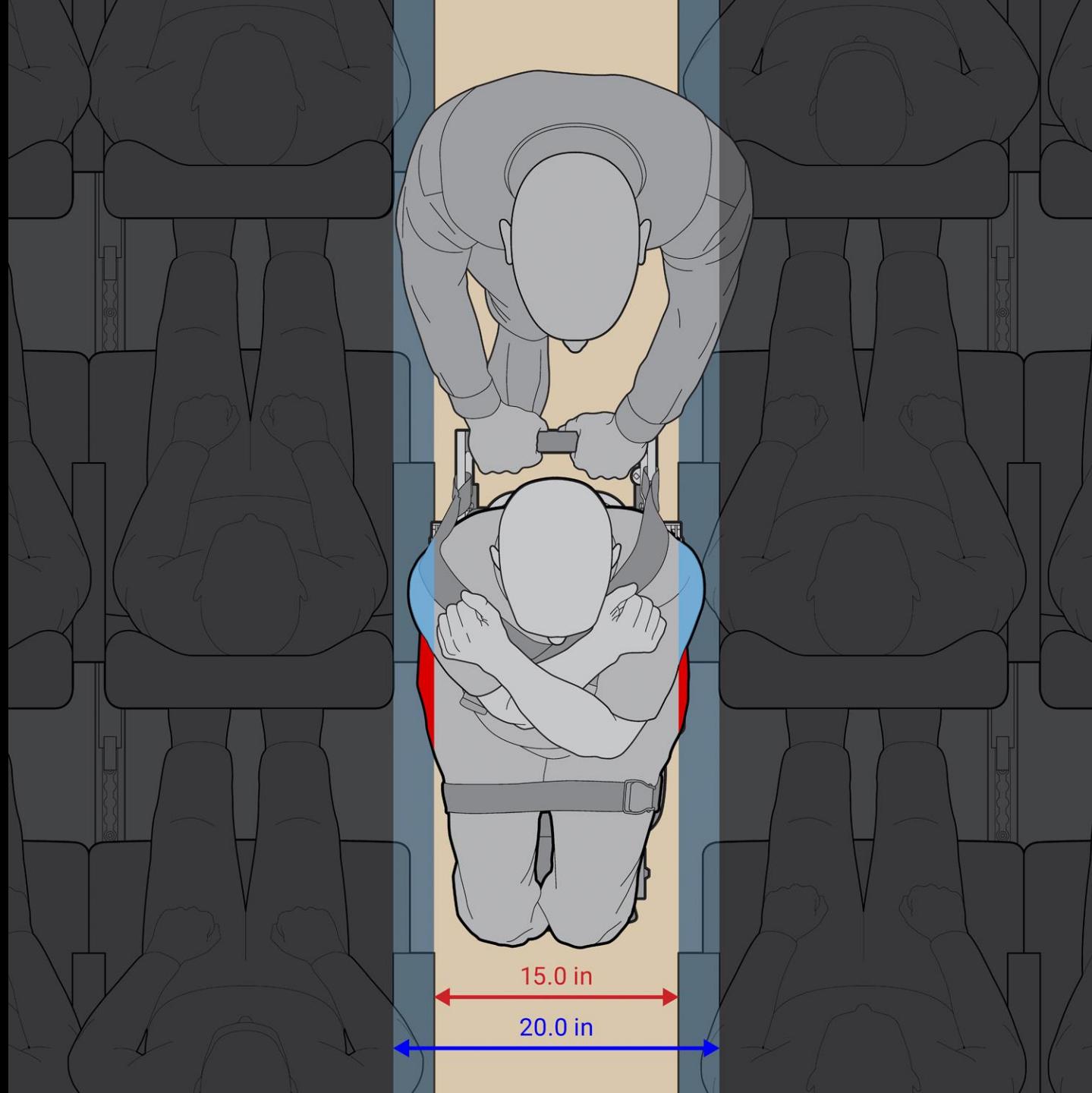
Assessment of

Traditional aircraft boarding devices

Stability







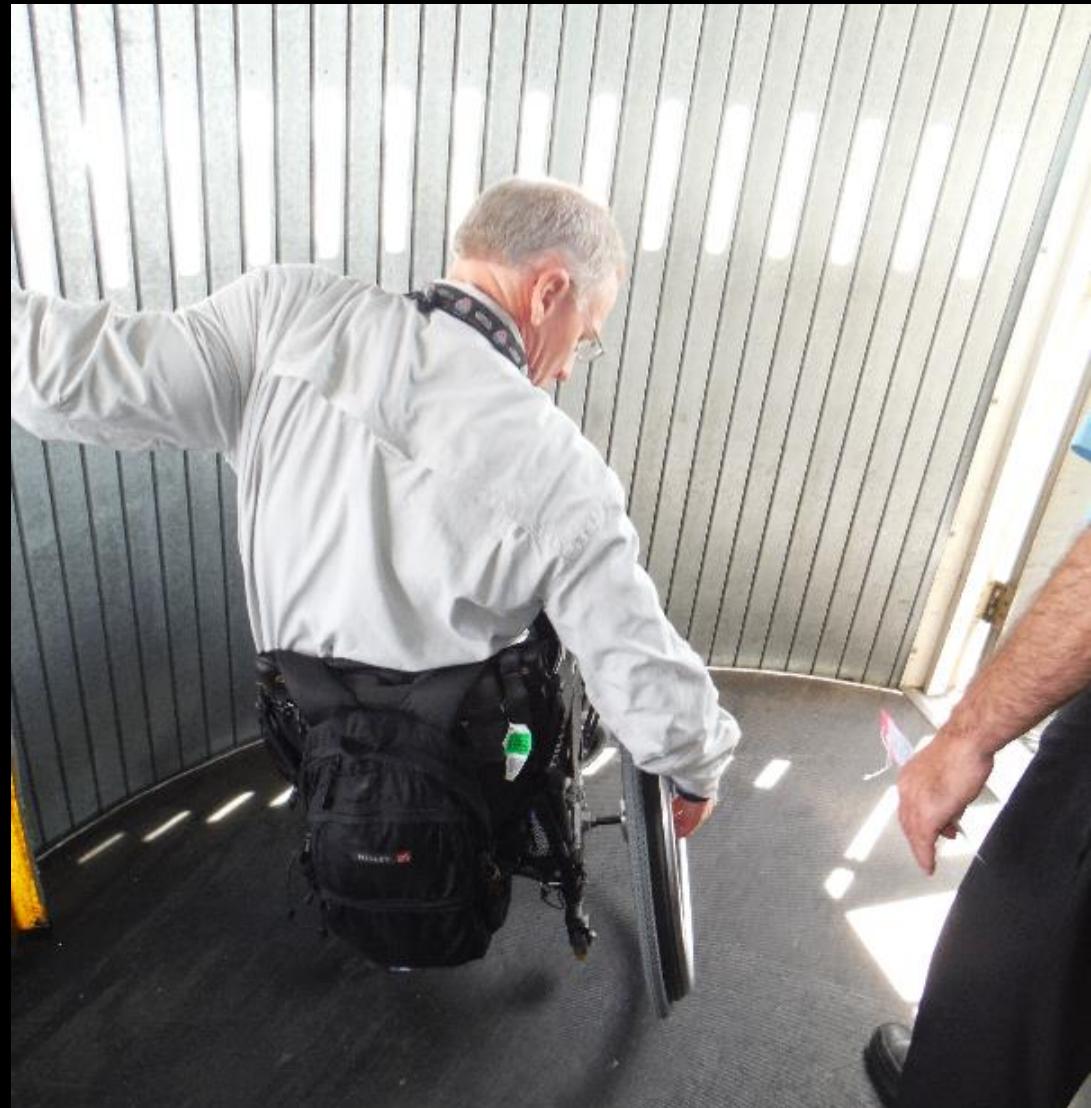






Aircraft boarding using a wheelchair with
Narrow accessory wheels

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

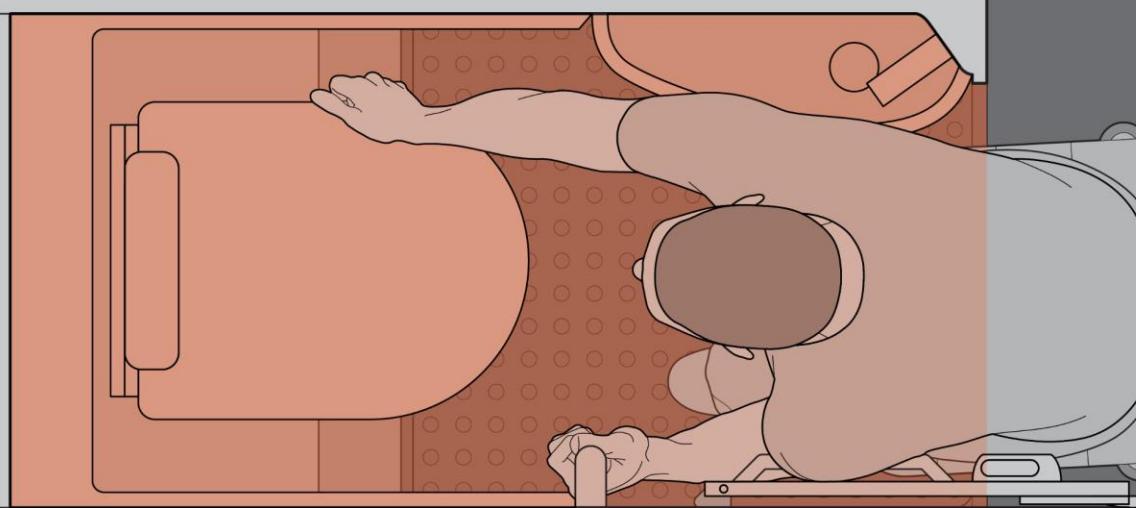
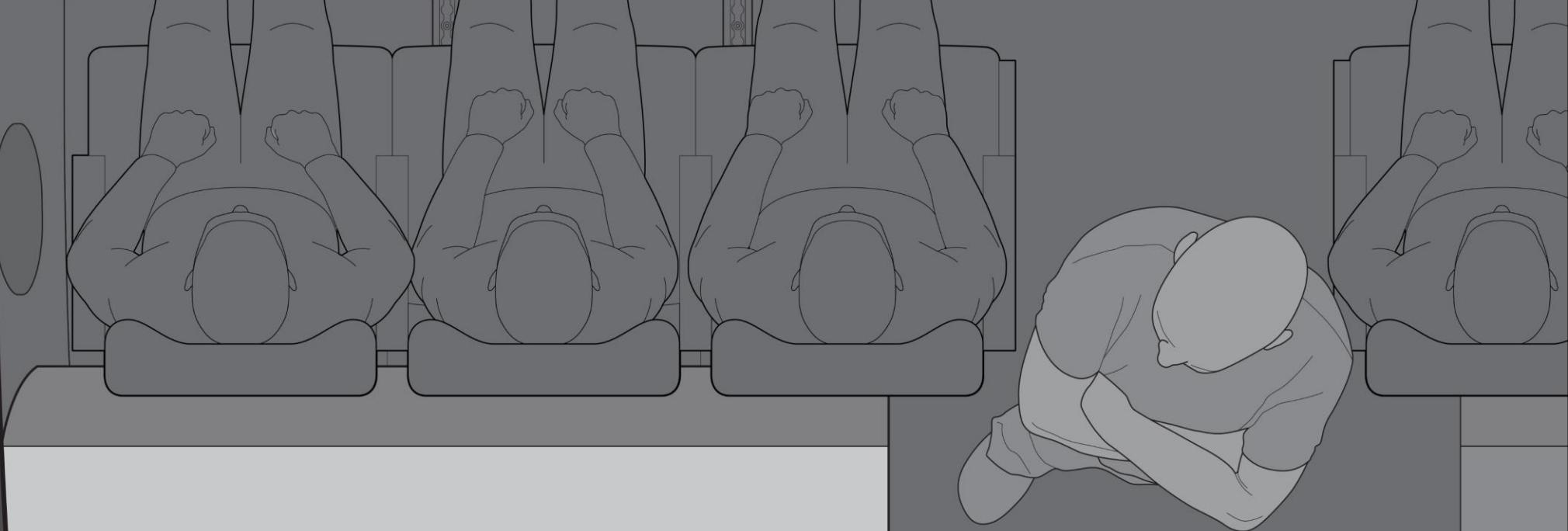
Arm Support

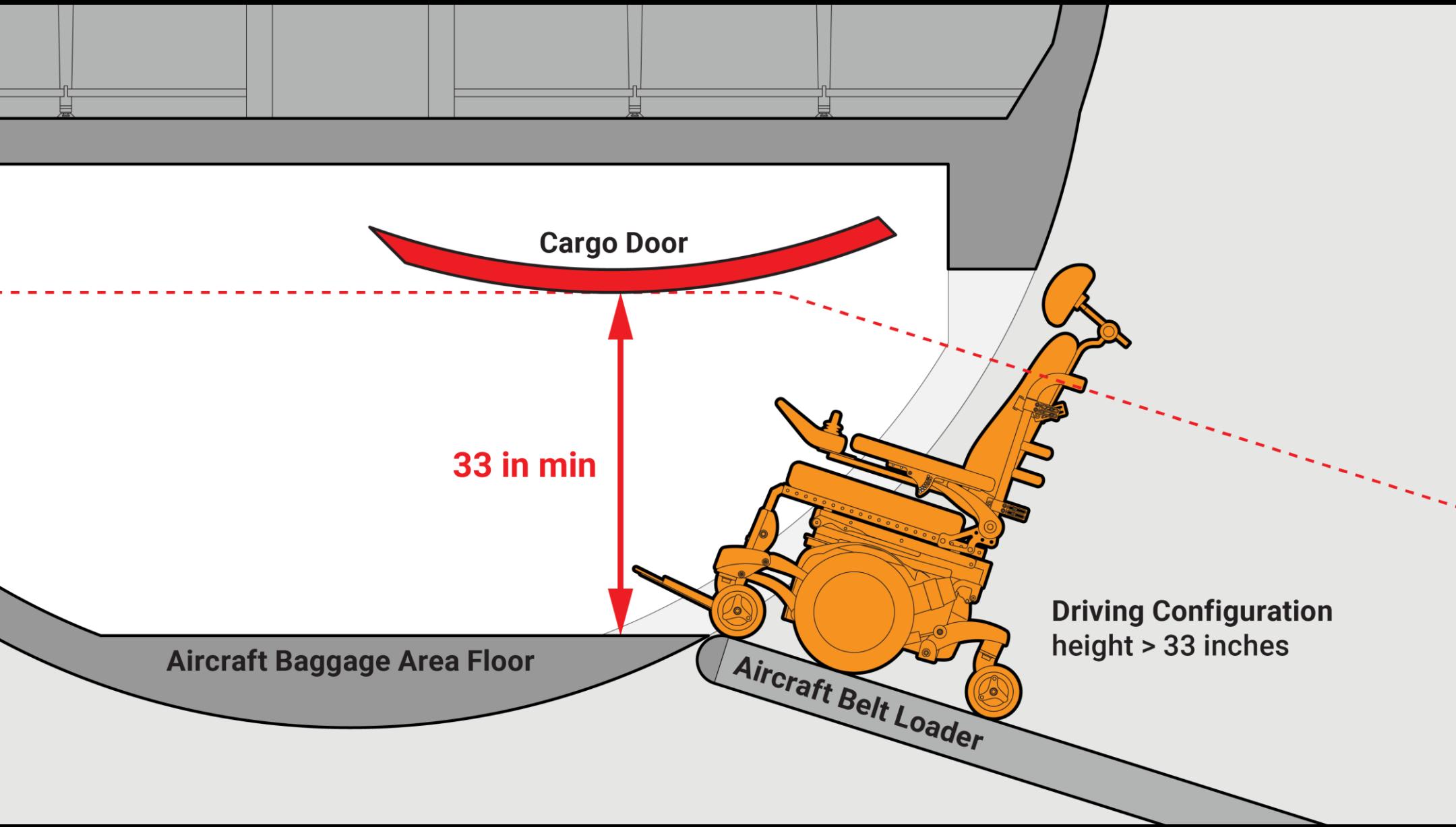


Aircraft seating with **Pressure relief cushion and “accessories”**

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







Short height baggage door





PWC tilted on side to fit through door



Damage

Damage to drive wheel
that came off powered
wheelchair

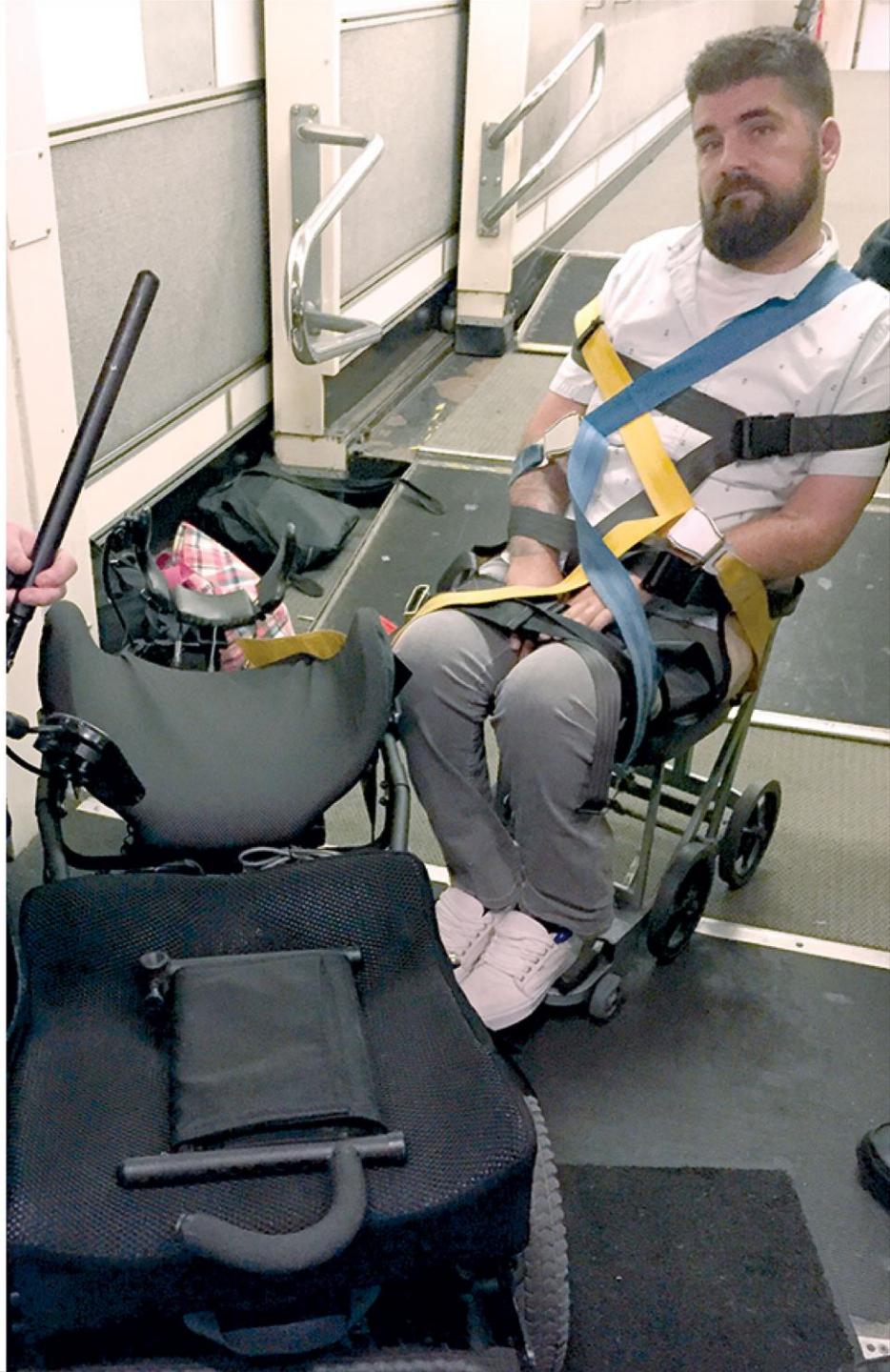




responded that their...

mobility devices were damaged after airtravel

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



American National Standard

RESNA AT-1:2021

for Assistive Technology for Air Travel—
Volume 1:
Requirements and Test Methods Related to
Mobility Devices

RESNA AT-1 Section 4 Standard



RESNA

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

IATA Guidance on the Transport of Mobility Aids



IATA Guidance on the Transport of
Mobility Aids



Assistive Technology for Air Travel Standards

Airline carriers and manufacturers

Wheelchair manufacturers

Disability organizations

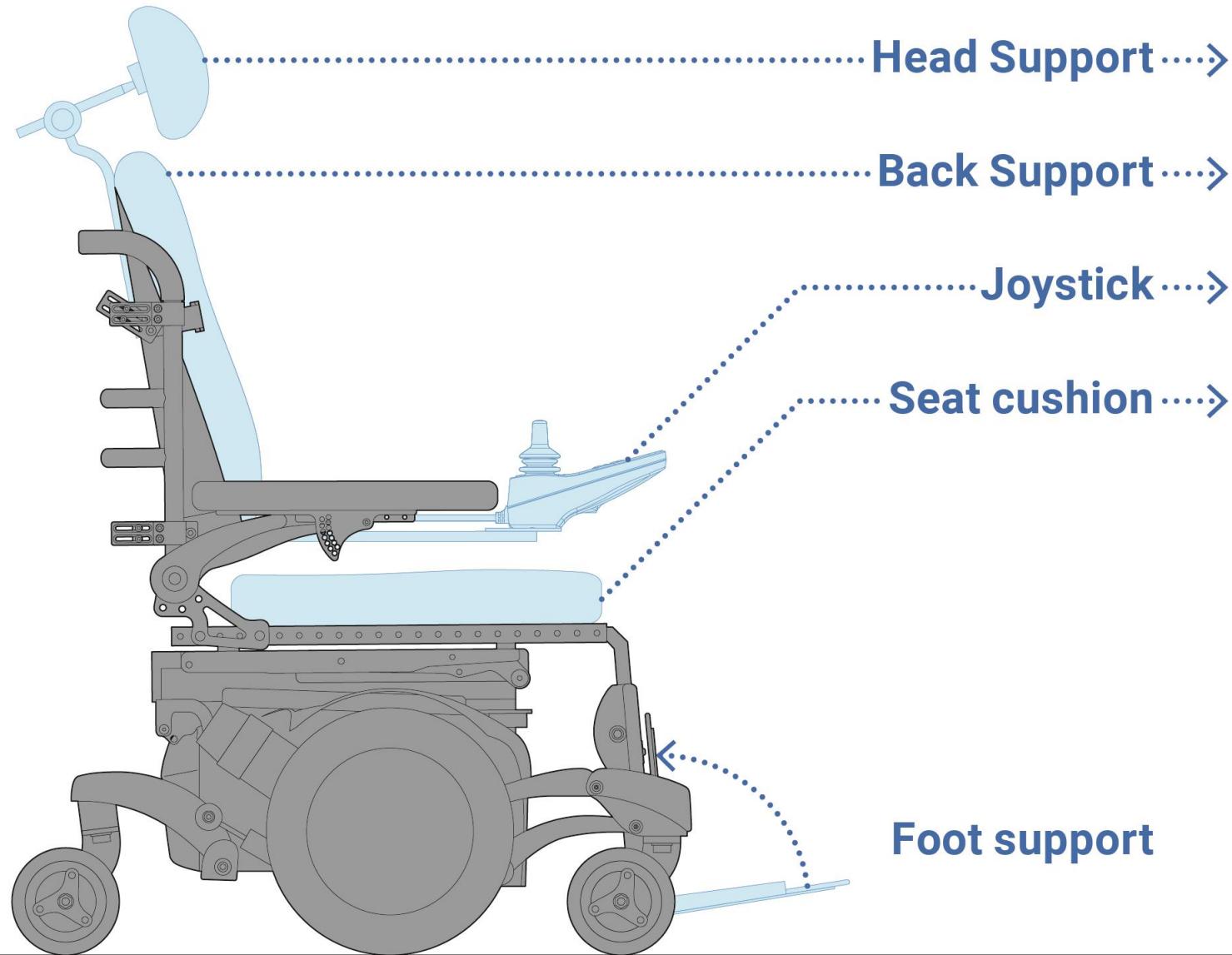
Government agencies – DOT - FAA

Wheelchair repair companies

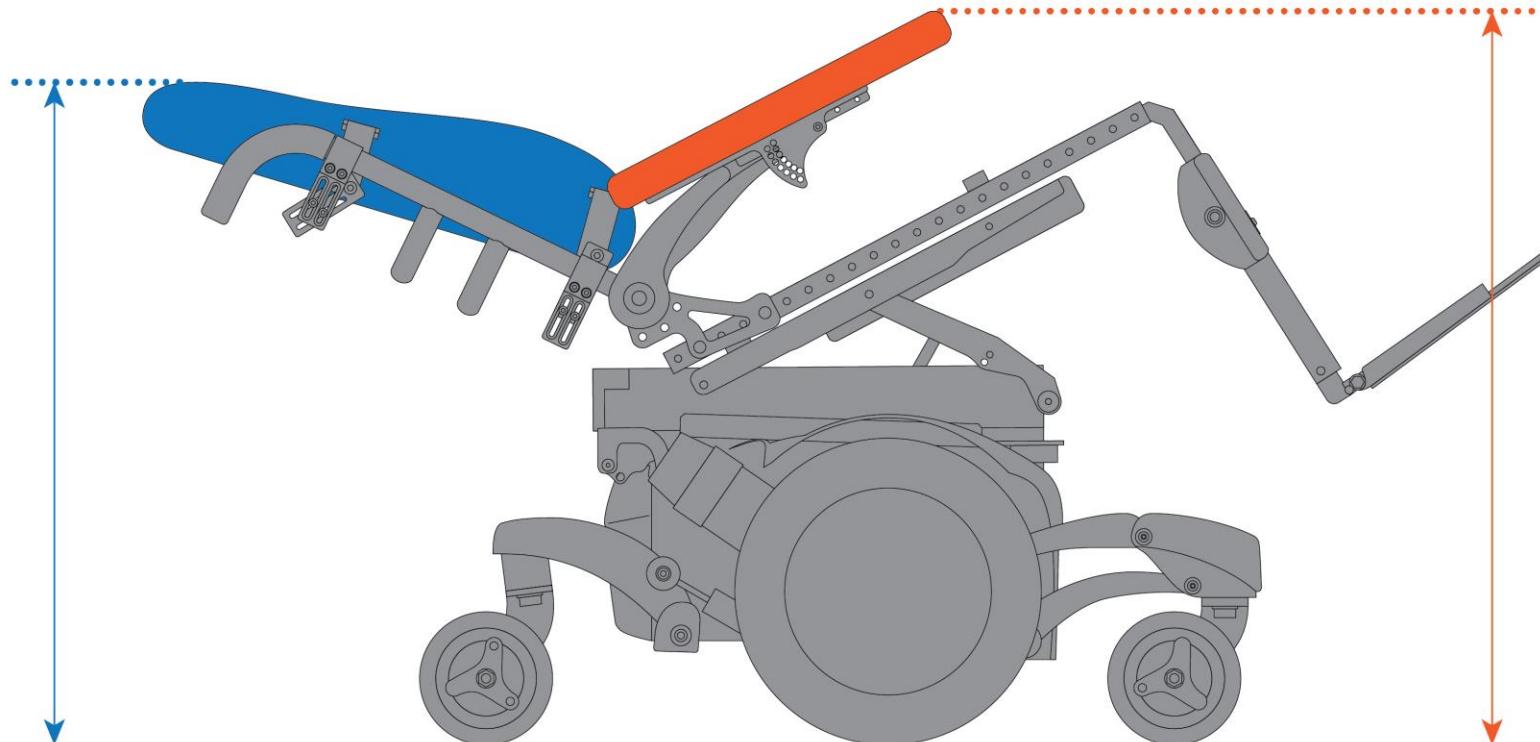
Standards for

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

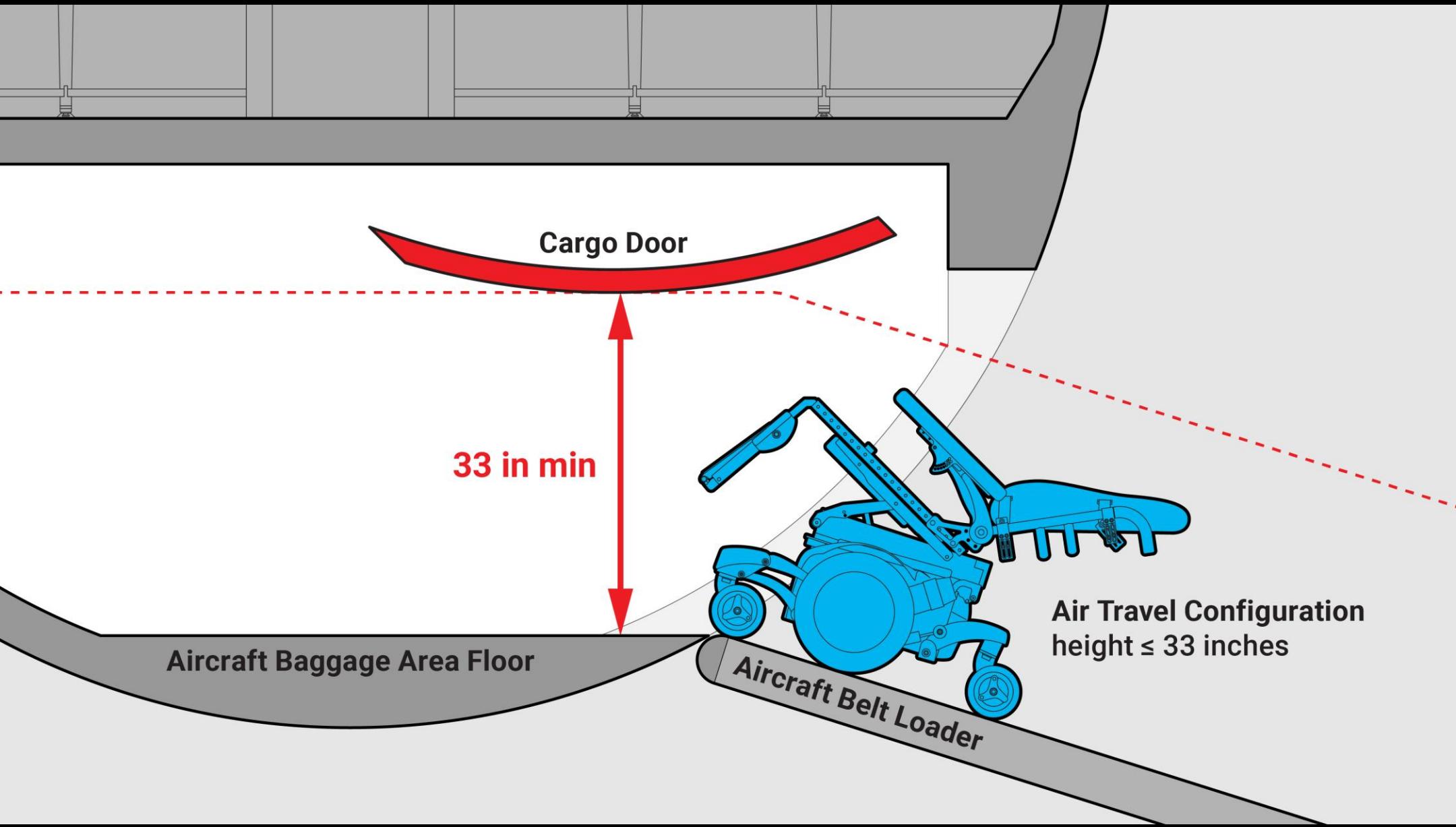


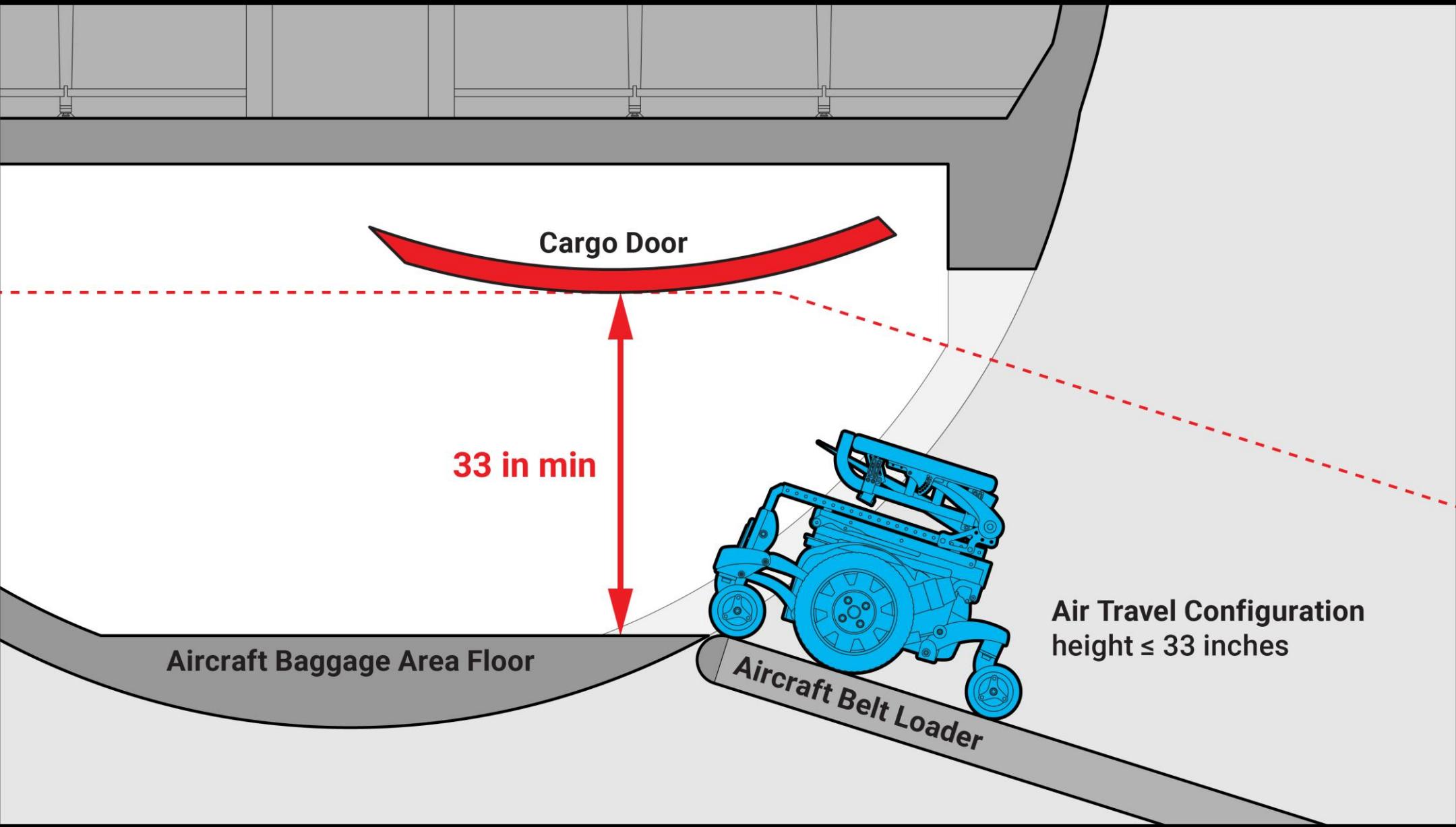
33" max



**Travel
Back**

**Travel
Arm**





PMD Labeling Guidelines

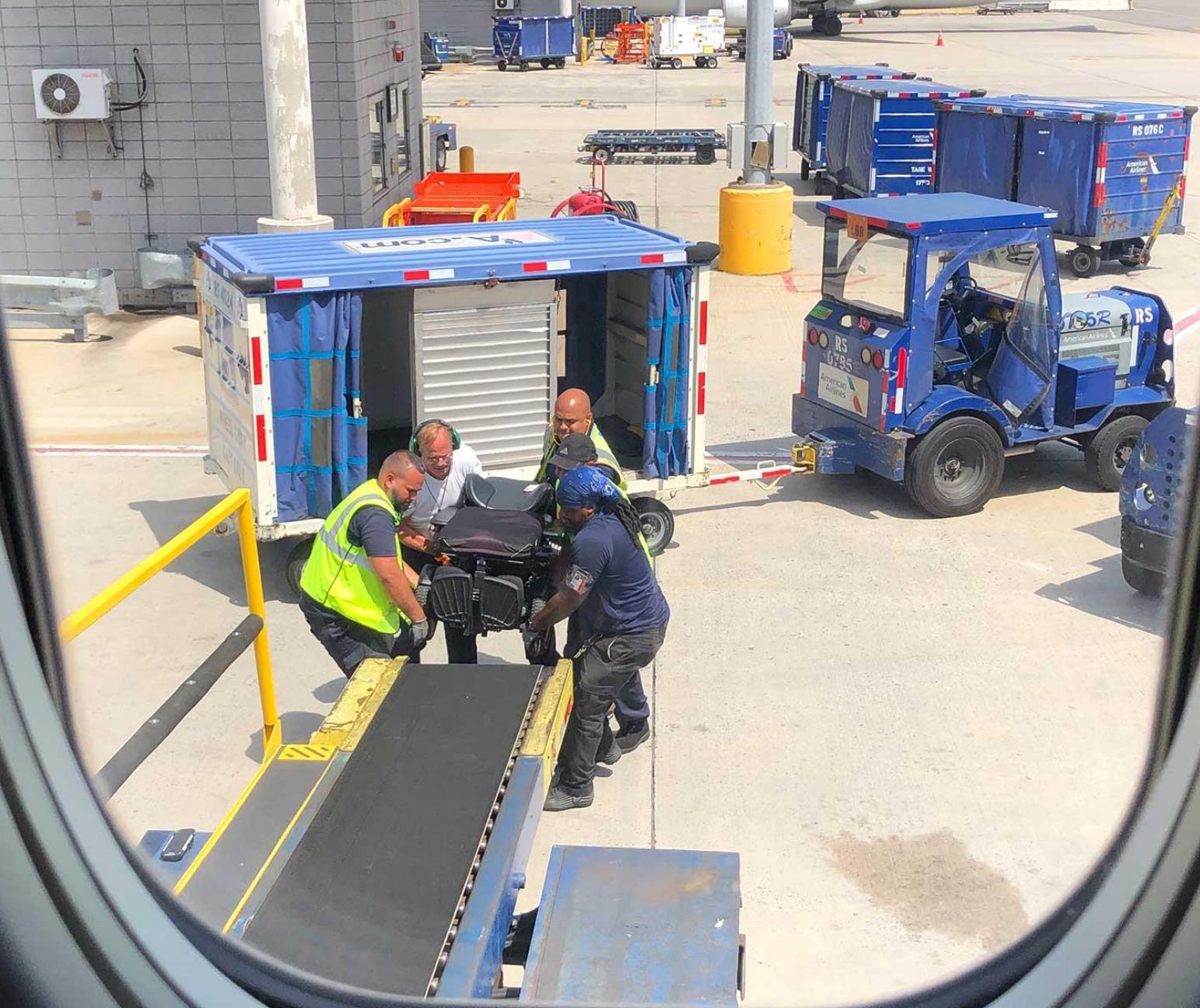
Weight



WHEELCHAIR
WEIGHT

150 kg

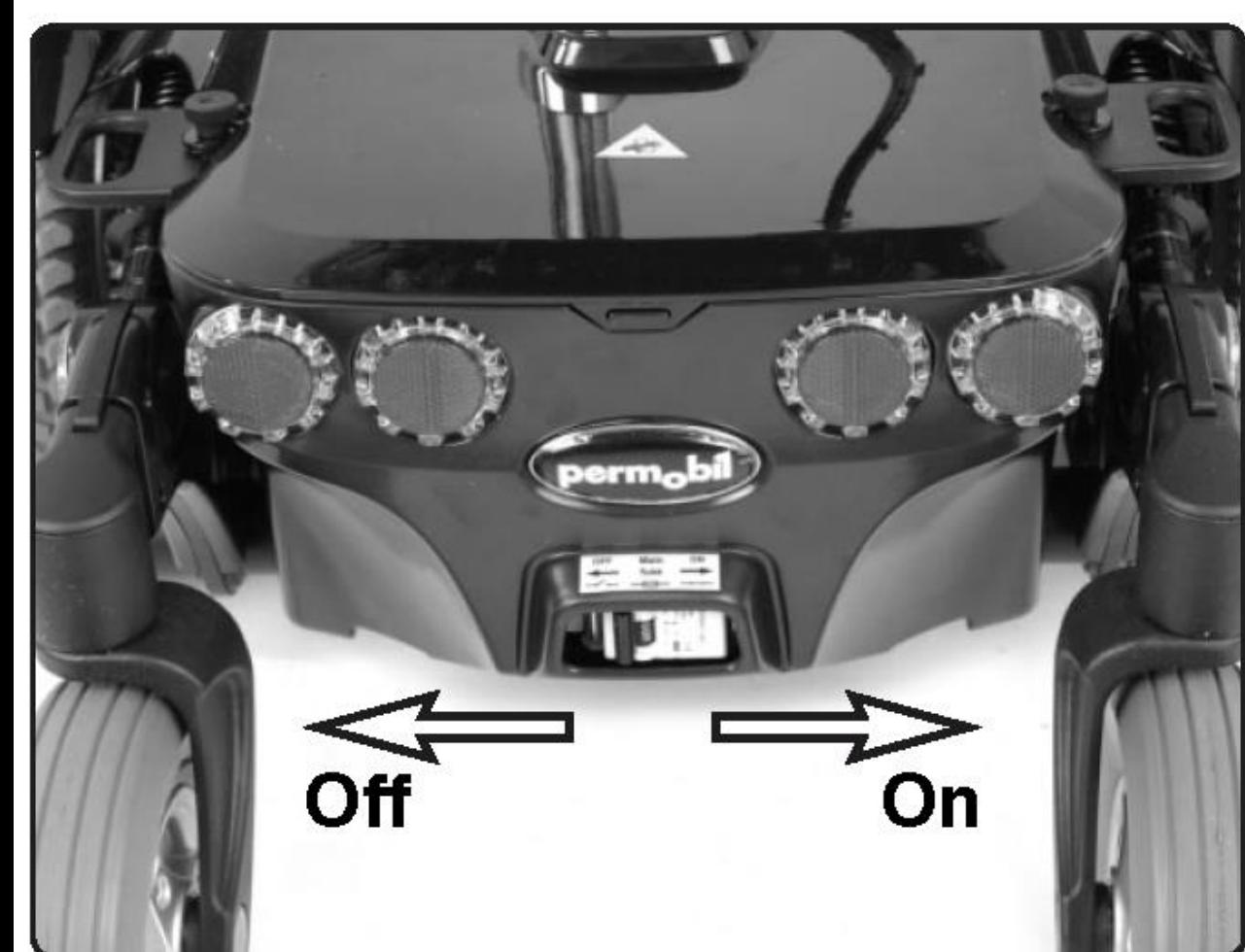
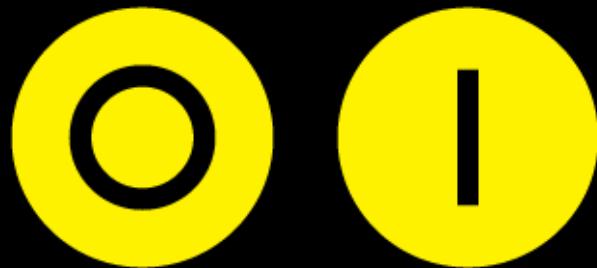
330 lb



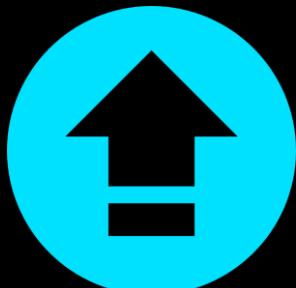
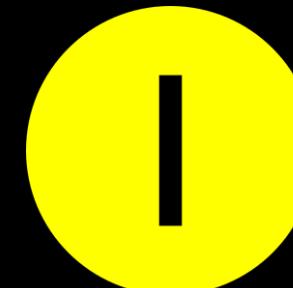
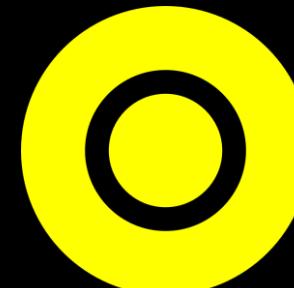
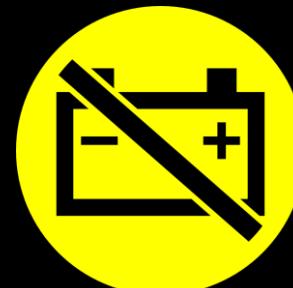


PMD Labeling Guidelines

Location of power disconnect



Labeling symbols



For existing devices, create an Air Travel Information Card

 **air travel information**

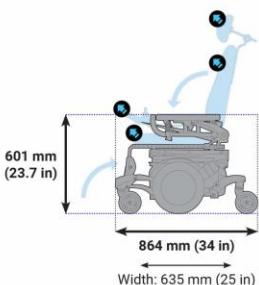
owner: John Doe phone: 123 456 7890 email: john.doe@email.com chair serial number: 7200003

Manufacturer Model  COMPLIANT with RESNA AT-1

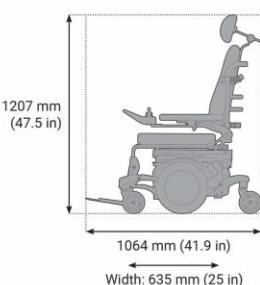
air travel preparation
The owner of this device, or a designated assistant, is encouraged to participate in the following process.

- remove seat cushion
Remove seat cushion; store in aircraft cabin.
- remove head support
Remove head support; store in aircraft cabin.
- lower back support to fit into aircraft
Remove back support cushion; store in aircraft cabin. Cushion is fixed in place by means of velcro on the rear. Disconnect quick release pin on back support actuator at the attachment point behind back support. Fold back support forward.
- remove joystick
Remove electrical connection to joystick. Remove joystick controller; store in aircraft cabin.
- raise foot supports
Move foot supports to upright position.
- isolate battery power
Switch breaker to off to fully disconnect power.
- disengage drive system
Rotate lever on each motor to manually push the mobility device.

air travel configuration



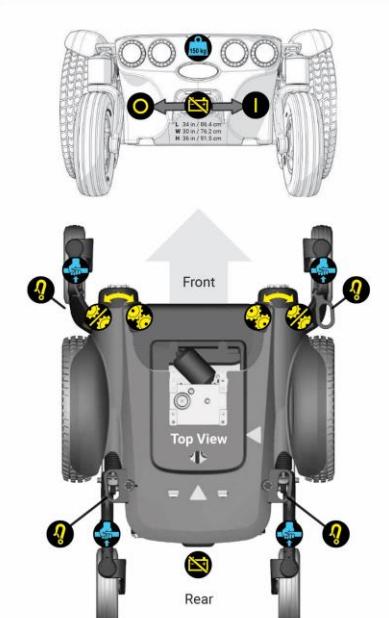
driving configuration



unoccupied product weight **150 kg (330 lb)**
battery information
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)

rev: 2022-11-30



isolate battery power SWITCH
Switch breaker to off to disconnect power from the battery. The circuit breaker is located in the rear beneath the tail lights.

disengage drive system
Move levers outwards to release the brakes. Disengage drive motors with brake release levers to move product manually. The brake release levers are located at the front of the mobility device.

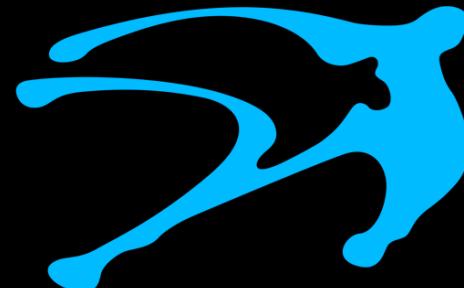
manual lift points
Manual lift points are located on all four caster arms.
WARNING! This product should be lifted using a mechanical lift to avoid injury. Unoccupied product weight is 150 kg (330 lb).

chair secured
RESNA WC19 securement points can be used to secure the mobility device. After positioning and securing the mobility device, re-engage the drive system to lock the drive wheels.

user operator manual online
Scan the QR code to visit the RESNA ATAT webpage. Configuration card prototype was created based on the product having a built-in electrical isolation switch to isolate the batteries. Some data was obtained from user operator manuals available online. All values are estimated and may not represent actual product data. The manufacturers of the products on this card have not reviewed or approved this information.

14 CFR §382.129(a)
states the following:
"As a carrier, you must permit passengers with a disability to provide written directions concerning the disassembly and reassembly of their wheelchairs, other mobility aids, and other assistive devices. **You must carry out these instructions to the greatest extent feasible...**"





beneficial designs

designing beyond the norm to meet the needs of all people

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