

Transportation of people seated in wheelchairs: providing evidence of the limit of tilt for forward-facing transport

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For PMG 2022, Nicola Holbrook, Dave Long and Bob Appleyard created and presented an interesting case study on rear-facing wheelchair users in transport, winning best free paper at conference.

During late 2022 and early 2023 Victoria Curling and Bob Appleyard have been expanding on this work to provide potential amendments to the PMG Best Practice Guidelines *Transportation of People Seated in Wheelchairs*. A dynamic test plan has been developed to explore the limits of tilt and recline appropriate to maintaining wheelchair user stability and safety when forward facing in road vehicles.

The tests are intended to establish a range of positions that are acceptable for forward-facing transport beyond which rear-facing orientation needs to be considered and adopted. Also a major consideration is identified in how to create potential rear-facing in-vehicle solutions.

The considerations are focused on user welfare, maintaining occupant posture, and providing effective occupant restraint rather than the performance of specific wheelchairs when set-up in combined tilt and recline not addressed by dynamic test standards.

To conclude the session we will work through a typical transport risk management case, with the objective of clarifying the thought processes.

If you would like to submit a case to be used as the example during the session (and get some help completing the risk management) please email us.

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