

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
FORTE PLUS
STANDARD WHEELCHAIR WITH HANDBRAKES
VCWK42L

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VITEA®
CARE

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PLEASE READ WHOLE INSTRUCTION CAREFULLY BEFORE USE.

1. Introduction

Thank you for choosing our product. We are deeply convinced that it will meet your expectations. Please read this document before first use. This manual was made in order to provide the necessary information on the safe use of the device. The correct application of the recommendations will contribute significantly to extend the durability and aesthetics of the product. We want to distinguish that to date we are trying to improve the quality of our products, which may result in minor changes that are not included in the manual.

2. Description of product



Illustration 1.

1. Handle holder
2. Armrest
3. The side plate of the armrest
4. Rear wheels
5. Metal handrim
6. The seat frame
7. Quick connect handle
8. The front wheel fork
9. The front wheel
10. Backrest
11. Seat cushion
12. The parking brake lever
13. Handle footrest

- 14. Cross-frame
- 15. Hook
- 16. Footrest frame
- 17. Footrest platform

Elements that should be inside the packaging:



Illustration 2. Seat cushion



Illustration 3. Belt stabilizing the calf



Hook

Illustration 4. Two footrests



Illustration 5. Wheelchair

3. Indications

The wheelchair is used in order to commute by people with disabilities e.g. after the spinal cord damages, cerebral palsy or various lower limb injuries, neuromuscular diseases, post-traumatic cranial cerebral or for geriatric patients.

It is also intended for people who want to actively and comfortably participate in everyday life.

4. Contraindications

Contraindications to a sitting position. Conditions that require stabilization of the upper spine and head. Patients with mental disorders should not be left unattended in the stroller.

5. Usage

- After unpacking the package, check if it contains all parts in accordance with the list of elements set out above.
- Ensure that all components have no visible damage. If any doubts, please contact the manufacturer.
- Do not use the wheelchair until all parts are properly connected.

UNFOLDING THE WHEELCHAIR.

- The wheelchair must be placed with rear wheels in front to You.
- Unfold the handle holder towards the outside (Illustration 6.).
- Then place wheelchair with front wheels in front of you.
- Press seat frames, until complete unfolding. (Illustration 7., 8.)



Illustration 6.



Illustration 7.



Illustration 8.

- The seat must put the seat cushion. Fasten velcro on the back of the seat, so as to stick the velcro under the seat.
- To install footrests, hang fixing bracket footrest on the hanger of the wheelchair frame (Illustration 9., 10.) Then rotate it into wheelchair front until it locks (“click” sound).
- Make sure that the footrests are blocked.
- Unfold the footrests platform.



Illustration 9.

Footrest lock
Frame hanger



Illustration 10.

Mounting bracket
footrest

- The belt stabilizing the calf must be fasten with velcro on the footrests frame.
- To avoid slipping belts, hook it on hangers. (Illustration 11.)



Illustration 11.

6. Safety of use - WARNING!

- a) Before using the wheelchair refer to this manual and keep it for future reference.
- b) While getting on and out of the wheelchair, the brakes always have to be on!
- c) Before getting on or getting off the wheelchair, do not stand on the footrest, you must fold or completely set aside footrests first.
- d) Patients who require additional head stabilisation should drive the wheelchair only with assistance of a caregiver .
- e) Lifting the wheelchair together with the user is strictly forbidden!
- f) When moving through doors and other passages, make sure that on both sides there is enough space to avoid injury to the hands or damage the wheelchair.
- g) Using public roads, follow accurate traffic regulations.
- h) Like other vehicles, do not drive the wheelchair under the influence of alcohol, or drugs. This also applies to indoor riding.
- i) The wheelchair is not intended for patient transport on stairs or pulling the patient on it. The construction of the wheelchair and joining elements are not designed for such a large overload if it is used in this way. This can cause weakness or damage of the entire structure supporting the wheelchair and possible accidents!
- j) The wheelchair is designed to use indoors and outdoors only on hard and even surfaces.
- k) Using the wheelchair on an unstable surface (covered with ice, wet, greasy, sandy) is unacceptable- it causes risk of falling,
- l) You can only use the wheelchair on surfaces where all four wheels are touching the ground.
- m) To overcome architectural barriers (steep or long climbs, thresholds or curbs, etc.) help of caretaker is needed.
- n) If the user does not have sufficient experience in the wheelchair use, should ask caretaker for help with overcoming obstacles.
- o) Do not leave the wheelchair with the user close to open sources of fire.
- p) Be aware that the surface temperature of the upholstery and the frame parts may be increased after exposure to the sun or other heat source. Furthermore, with low temperatures there is a danger of overcooling metal parts of wheelchair. It may cause burns or frostbite parts of the body.
- q) In order to transfer wheelchair, grab the frame. Never transfer the wheelchair by grabbing the armrests or footrest.
- r) Never use the wheelchair as a seat for the transportation of people in cars, buses or any motor vehicles.
- s) The wheelchair is designed for people up to 120 kg.
- t) Wheelchair must be easy to fold and to unfold. In case of problems with folding, you should re-read the instruction or contact the manufacturer.
- u) Keep caution while moving on sloping surfaces. The maximum allowable slope angle up and down is 5%.
- v) Brakes cannot be slow down the wheelchair during ride, you should use them only to prevent the unintended movements.
- w) Both brakes should be properly adjusted. Incorrect setting one of the brakes, results with blocking only one rear wheel. On large slopes, it can cause difficulty to control the rotation the wheelchair around the wheel stopped.
- x) Regularly check the tire pressure. With too low tire pressure than recommended, the brake performance can be significantly reduced!
- y) While reaching objects, avoid excessive leaning out the wheelchair because it can cause a fall (to the side, front, back).

- z) In order to avoid accidental rolling off the wheelchair, always put on the brakes when the stroller is stopped, when patient get in, get off, while changing the position.
- aa) Do not leave the patient in the wheelchair (even with turned on both brakes) on the descents, ramps, landings, etc.
- bb) It is necessary to check after each wheel mount if wheel axle connector lock works properly. While mounting should hear “click” of the latch. Pull strongly the wheel to check if it is installed correctly.
- cc) Using the parking brake while driving may result with an accident with all its consequences.
- dd) After each wheelchair adjustment, it is always necessary to check the correct operation of the brake.
- ee) Oil, grease, water or other chemicals, may cause that brakes may have reduced effectiveness.
- ff) Strength of the breaking intensity may be reduced after long exploitation of the wheelchair. You are allowed to adjust breaks yourself. In order to do that you must loosen the screws locking the position of the break, move the mechanism of the break towards the wheel so that the wheel will not rotate when break will be on again (try the adjustment with the user sitting on the wheelchair). After final adjustment secure back the mechanism with the screws.
- gg) It is extremely important to keep all wheelchairs components clean in order to maintain the product parameters.
- hh) Storing the wheelchair in areas with very high humidity (baths, laundry, etc.) or in the open air, also the lack of hygiene causes rapid loss of operating parameters and aesthetic of the product.
- ii) It is unacceptable to use the wheelchair after discovering any visible or detectable damages or when the wear of some parts may cause an accident. All the repairs need to be performed by skilled personnel and during the warranty period only by the manufacturer's service.
- jj) In case of wheelchair fitted with pumped wheels You should not exceed the maximum permissible inflation pressure of the wheels; the value is indicated on the tire wheels.
- kk) During transport (e.g. In the trunk), do not burden stroller, it may weaken or damage its structure.
- ll) Keep out of the reach of children under five years of age.
 - Keep extreme caution while unfolding / folding the wheelchair, lack of attention may result in finger trap by elements of the area of:
 - joining and removing the footrest,
 - brakes,
 - while folding the wheelchair around moving parts.

7. Everyday use and maintenance

SITTING ON THE WHEELCHAIR:

- Place the wheelchair in a position that will make easier transporting patient (by the bed, chair, close to lifting distance)
- Block both brakes wheelchair, fold or remove the footrests.
- Depending on the method of moving the patient, remove the correct armrest (it is recommended to leave the second armrest as a handrail for the patient and prevent slipping out of the wheelchair).
- To tilt the armrest, unfasten the clip armrest (Illustration 12), and place the front part, as is shown in Illustration 13.

Armrest clip



Illustration 12.



Illustration 13.

- Place the patient on the wheelchair.
- Put on the armrest.
- Install and open the footrests and put on it patient's feet.
- Place the patient on wheelchair so that the patient is in upright sitting position (knees should be bent at an angle of $\sim 90^\circ$).

PUSHING THE WHEELCHAIR BY CARETAKER

- Before use, make sure that no part of the patient's body or his / hers clothing is not exposed to hook with the moving parts of the wheelchair.
- If patient cannot sit on one's own, wheelchair should be equipped with stabilizing belts (belts, which are in standard equipment to protect the patient from sliding off the seat).
- Wheelchair should be pushed with both hands.

MOVING ON SLOPES



- While moving on slopes, use caution and reduce your speed.
- Do not move on too high slopes. The maximum allowable slope angle up and down is 5%.
- Consider the possibility of assistance from the caretaker. If the person on the wheelchair did not have enough force to control the wheelchair, the brakes must be on.
- To prevent tipping over while moving along the sloping surface, You should be slightly lean forward to move your centre of gravity forward.

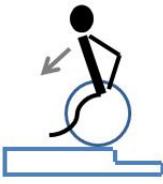
GOING DOWN OF THE THRESHOLD OR CURBS



- Ahead without the help of a caretaker
- Experienced wheelchair user can drive on his own from the threshold or curbs.
- With a low curb, you can drive by moving forward. Make sure that the footrests platform does not touch the ground.
- Please keep balance on the rear wheels to reduce the pressure on the front wheels.
- Then cross the curb.



- Ahead with the help of a caretaker
- Higher curbs can be overcome with caretaker help.
- Caretaker should slightly tilt the wheelchair back.
- Cross the curb moving on the rear wheels.
- Then the wheelchair must be paced on all four wheels.



- Backwards without the help of a caretaker
- Experienced wheelchair user can cross on his own the threshold or curbs.
- Turn the wheelchair in such a way that both rear wheels were turned toward the curb
- Lean forward to move the centre of gravity in forward.
- Come closer with the wheelchair to the edge of the curb.
- Then, by using the hand rim in a controlled manner, user must slide the wheelchair from the curb.

MOVING ON THE THRESHOLD OR CURBS



- Ahead with the help of a caretaker
- Experienced wheelchair user can drive on his own from the threshold or curbs.
- Caretaker should slightly tilt the wheelchair back.
- Wheelchair user should keep balance on the rear wheels to reduce pressure on the front wheels.
- Go with front wheels on the curb and then put the rear wheels over the curb.



- Higher curbs can be crossed going backwards with the help of a caretaker
- Turn the wheelchair in such a way that both rear wheels are turned toward the curb.
- Wheelchair user should keep balance on the rear wheels to reduce the pressure on the front wheels.
- Caretaker should pull the wheelchair over a curb.
- Wheelchair user should return to its normal position on the wheelchair.

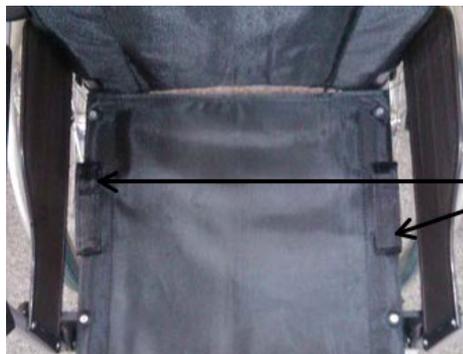


- Ahead without the help of a caretaker
- Experienced wheelchair user can go down on his own from the threshold or curb.
- Place the front wheels to the edge of threshold or curb.
- It is important to make sure that the footrests do not touch the threshold or curb
- Now, can go with the front wheels on the curb.
- Then, may enter the rear wheels on to the curb.



TRANSPORT IN THE CAR

- In order to make the wheelchair easy to transport, should remove the belt stabilizing the calf.
- Fold platforms footrests rotate the footrests on the outside wheelchair and remove the footrests.
- Remove the seat cushion.
- Then pull up the seat handles, it will fold a wheelchair.



Seat handles

Illustration 14.



Quick connect handle

Illustration 15.

- The wheelchair is equipped with system of quick release rear wheels.
- To install or remove the rear wheels, press the system of quick release rear wheels button (Illustration 15) and pull or push a wheel.
- The wheelchair have to be moved by holding the frame elements only. Never hold the wheelchair by the armrests or footrests.

REGULATIONS:

BRAKE MECHANISM



Brake lever

Brake

Illustration 16.

- Illustration 16. shows the brake mechanism.
- To activate the brake, pull the brake lever towards the front wheel to the point where the brake is tightly touching to the rear wheel
- Make sure that the brake lever does not automatically switch off when trying to move the wheelchair.
- To disable the brake, pull the brake lever toward the rear wheel.



Wrench number 10

Illustration 17.

- Illustration 17. Shows brake mechanism as seen from the top.

- To reposition the brake mechanism, loosen two screws (from inside of the wheelchair) by using wrench No. 10.
- Move the entire mechanism in the direction of the rear wheel and tighten the screws.
- When you turn on the brake, the wheel should not rotate (test the correctness of adjustment carried out in a wheelchair with a patient).

FOOTREST

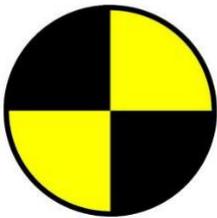
- Footrest could be adjustable in length.
- To set the desired length of the footrest, remove the footrests.
- At the bottom of the footrest is a footrest adjustment screw.
- With the wrench number 12 loosen the adjustment screw footrest. (Illustration 18.)
- Depending on the needs push in or pull out the footrest platform located in the frame footrest.
- After setting the proper length of the footrest, tighten the adjustment screw and fasten the footrest to the wheelchair footrest.



Illustration 18.

TRANSPORTING PEOPLE IN THE VEHICLE

According to standard
ISO 7176-19



The product conforms with ISO 7176/19-2007.

This wheelchair is approved for the transport of users in motor vehicles when the wheelchair is in the forward-facing position. Please follow the instructions below to ensure safety:

- 1) The wheelchair has been designed so that when used as a seat in a motor vehicle it faces forward. This is in line with the requirements of ISO 7176 / 19-2008.
- 2) The size of the wheelchair and the turning radius may affect the wheelchair's ease of access and manoeuvrability in motor vehicles. Smaller wheelchairs and/or wheelchairs with a smaller turning radius ensure greater ease of access and manoeuvrability in the vehicle in a forward-facing position.
- 3) The wheelchair must be facing forwards when used as a seat in a motor vehicle. Use an approved 4-point attachment system.

- 4) Placing the wheelchair in a different position has not been tested; sideways transportation is prohibited in all circumstances (Illustration 19.).
- 5) Only a homologated 3-point belt should be used to secure the user. The safety devices should not be moved away from the body by wheelchair components such as armrests or wheels. Using only a lap belt is not sufficient! (Illustration 20.).
- 6) All accessories must be removed from the wheelchair and secured separately in the vehicle. Accessories that cannot be removed must be attached to the wheelchair but placed away from the user by means of an energy absorbing pad placed between the accessories and the user.
- 7) Wheelchair users should move to the vehicle seat and use the security system installed in the vehicle whenever feasible.
- 8) The wheelchair should be checked by the manufacturer before being used again after being involved in any type of vehicle impact.

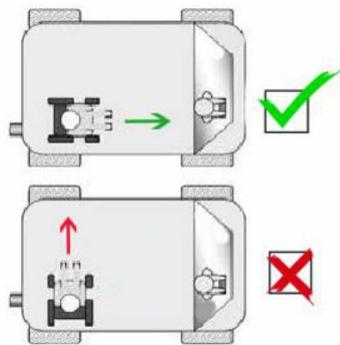


Illustration 19.



Illustration 20.

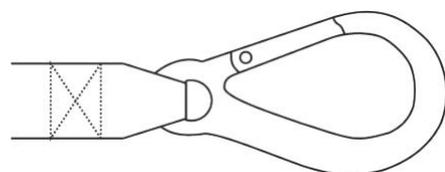
The name plate on the wheelchair provides information on whether the wheelchair is intended for transporting people in the vehicle.

WARNING! Posture's stability straps that are not intended to protect people in a moving vehicle should not be used for this purpose.

WARNING! It is not allowed to transport the wheelchair in vehicles for the transport of persons with disabilities, if the wheelchair has been additionally equipped with permanently installed parts that are not original parts of the wheelchair.

Securing the wheelchair

- The wheelchair is only to be secured through the four securing points (Illustration 23. and 24.).
- The anchor positions are marked with the symbols (3).



1. Fasteners should be attached to the main frame of the wheelchair. Attachment to additional elements of the wheelchair or accessories (i.e. spokes, brakes or footrests) is prohibited.
2. Fasteners should be wrapped as tightly as possible at an angle of approximately 45 degrees and locked in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. It is forbidden to make changes to the anchor points or the structure and the frame or subassemblies, or to exchange them for others without consulting the manufacturer. Failure to do so may prevent the wheelchair from being transported in the vehicle.
4. The wheelchair's hand brakes must be firmly applied.

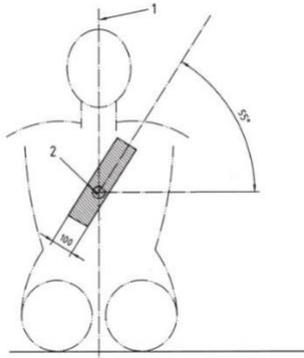


Illustration 21.

Instructions for preparing the user for riding:

1. The lap belt should be positioned low in front of the hips so that the side view of the lap belt angle is between 30 and 75 degrees from the horizontal (Illustration 22.). A larger angle is preferred.

The lap belt is bolted to the back tube using pads.

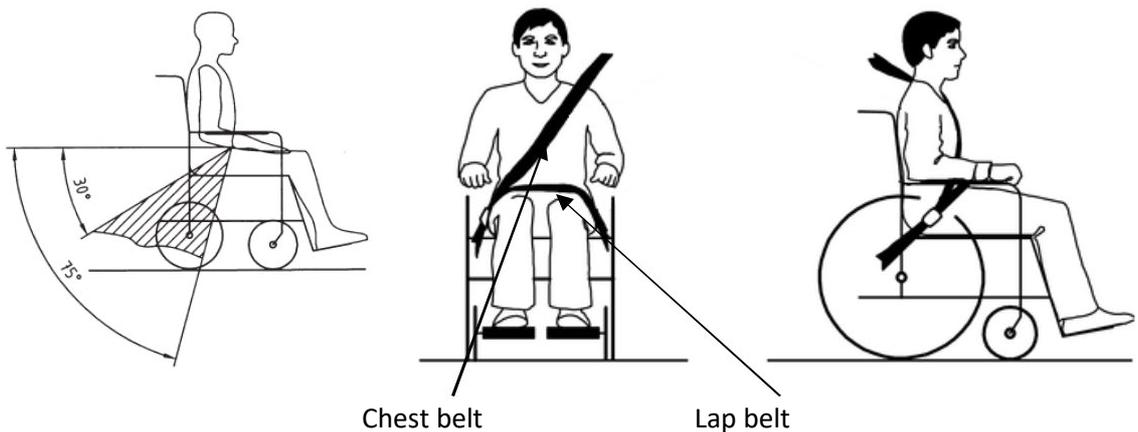


Illustration 21A.



Illustration 21B.

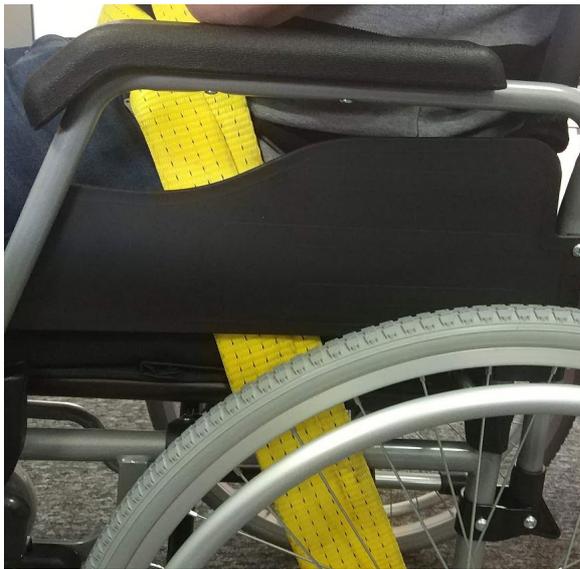


Illustration 21C.

Attention! The lap belt is not part of the wheelchair or passenger safety system during transportation in a vehicle for disabled people.

2. Put on the chest belt over the shoulder across the chest with hand rests lifted (Illustration 21A, B and C.) The safety belts should be tight and make sure they are not twisted.
3. The anchor positions are:
 - the front inner side tube of the frame, located above the front wheels (Illustration 23., Illustration 25.).
 - rear side tube of the frame (Illustration 24., Illustration 26.).
4. The fastening symbol on the wheelchair frame indicates the position of the safety belts. After attaching the front straps, they are tensioned to secure the wheelchair.



Rear securing points

Illustration 23.



One of the frontals securing points

Illustration 24.

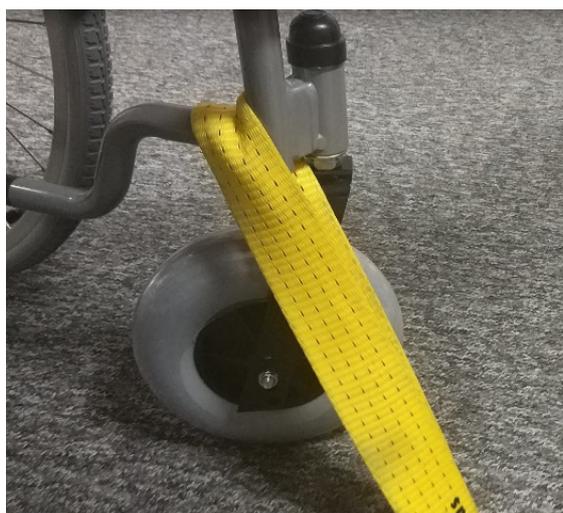


Illustration 25.



Illustration 26.

PUMPING TYRE (It applies to wheelchair fitted with wheels pumped)



Illustration 27.

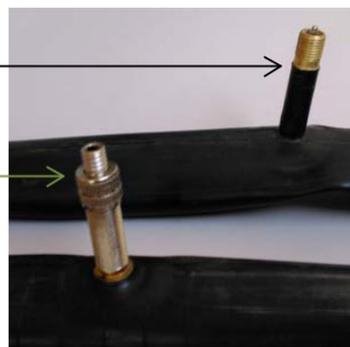


Illustration 28.

- Before pumping the tires, identify the type of valve which is located on the tire. This may be one of the two valves shown in Illustration 27. and 29.

- Prest valve also has an additional small top, which must be loosened before pumping.
- After identifying the valve, prepare the pump designed to valve type.
- Most of the new pumps are equipped to service both Prest valve and Schrader. Many of them let to reverse the tip. Smaller hole is Prest valve, Schrader valve greater. If the pump does not support Prest, you will need to buy yourself the "adapter Prest", which is available at any bike store.
- At this point, if the wheel is provided with a valve Prest, it will be necessary to unscrew the top located on the vent. It is a small top, which can be unscrewed with fingers. When doing this, the top should move upwards. Then valve is considered open.
- Then remove the plastic top from the valve and set it aside in a safe place. It is important to not lose it, because the valves will get dirt, leading to difficulties in pumping and rapid air loss.
- Place the nozzle of the pump to the valve and check if it stick properly. If it is needed, push the pump to the valve to make sure that the air does not escape to the sides.
- If the pump has a lever with clamp at the nozzle, tighten it. If the nozzle of the pump and valve have a threaded tip, screw them together. As a result, air will be streamed directly to the inner tube and the nozzle cannot be detached from the valve.
- At the beginning of pumping the pressure in tyres should be checked at some points. Check tire pressure with your fingers at the end of the tread. If it is possible, make only a millimetre indentation. It means that the tire has enough air. If necessary, continue pumping.
- After pumping, remove or unscrew the nozzle from the valve outlet while compressing it's ends by thumb. It is recommended to do this quick enough in order to not lose too much air.
- For Prest valve, tighten previously loosened additional small top.
- Screw the plastic top on the valve.

PRESSURE IN WHEELS AND BRAKING POWER

- Pressure in wheels should be select to the user weight and then with assistance caregiver check the operation of the parking brakes (wheelchair with user facing toward the fall, cannot roll on a plane with a slope of 15%.)
- After all the adjustments, be sure to thoroughly check all connections.

COMMENTS

- Observe proper tire inflation level with the information provided by the manufacturer on the sides of the tire.
- Use a pump with a pressure gauge or manual pump cycling.

EVERYDAY USE AND MAINTANCE

- Clean the upholstery and frame with a moist cloth, without the addition of detergents and other similar chemicals.
- Systematically remove the dirt from the movable elements of the wheelchair (screws, resistance mechanisms).
- Keep clean all wheelchair elements to save functional parameters of the product.
- Storing in rooms of very high humidity (baths, laundries etc.) or in the open air, in the combination with the lack of hygiene will cause the fast loss of functional and aesthetic parameters.
- Do not expose the wheelchair on to extreme weather conditions (rain, snow very strong sun), because certain parts can change colour.

You must not use:

- solvents,
- toilet detergents,
- sharp brushes and hard objects,
- detergents that contain chlorine,
- corrosive detergents,

Do not clean the exerciser with pressure or steam aggregates!

TECHNICAL REVIEW

The review should be carried out regularly, it should be preceded by thorough cleaning the wheelchair (so as to reveal any hidden damage).

Frequency	Object of control	Comments
Before first installation	Checking the technical condition and all the elements within the packaging.	Check if any elements have any visible mechanical damage.
Before each use	Control of wheels, brakes,	The brakes can wear out, check the condition of the brakes before each use. You should also check the condition of wheels and clean them from dust and sand.
Every two weeks	Screw and nut control regarding their correct fixing.	Make sure if all the screws and top are fixed tightly.
Every two months	Cleanliness and general condition.	In case of mechanical damage contact the producer immediately.
Once a month	wheel axles	Wheel axles must be conserved, setting between the axle and the hub a few drops of lubricant preservative. In addition, make test each wheel. Raise the wheelchair so that the tested wheel was located above the ground, the wheel should rotate freely but without backlash on axle.
Once a month	State connections, threaded, soldered, the system of quick release rear wheels	Pay attention to the cracks on frame material in connections threaded, soldered, the system of quick release rear wheels.
Once a month	Condition of the tires	Make sure that the tire tread is not worn and that the tires have no visible signs of damage.

Repair

- In case of reparation, please contact the producer.

Customer service

- If you have any questions or need help, contact the producer.

8. Technical parameters

Maximum user weight	 120 kg		
Usage period:	5 years since production date		
Wheelchair height	960 mm		
Wheelchair width	620mm	645mm	715mm
Wheelchair length	1105 mm		
Seat width	430mm	450mm	515mm
Seat depth	420 mm		
Back width	430mm	455mm	515mm
Back length	410mm		
The dimensions of the wheelchair after folded	800*960*300mm		
Wheelchair weight	18 kg +/- 5% 19 kg +/- 5%		
Wheelchair weight without components	16 kg +/- 5% 17 kg +/- 5%		
Minimum turning radius	112°		
Material	Frame steel; upholstery: polyurethane, polyethylene;		
Rear wheels diameter with the system of quick release rear wheels	24", (diameter 610 mm)		
Front Wheel Size	diameter 190 mm		
Maximum safe slope			
Description of the environment in which the product will be used			
Temperature of storage and use			
The humidity for the storage and use	From 30% to 70%		
SN	Printed on the product		
Tools necessary to adjustment	Wrench numbers 10, 12		

9. Symbols



Confirmation of compliance with EU standards



Manufacturer



Date of production



Read the user's manual



Warning



Catalog number



Medical device



Serial number



Protect from humidity



Protect from sunlight



Permitted user weight.



Use inside and outside buildings



Maximum safe slope.



The product is intended to transport by car.



The wheelchair is marked with stickers indicating the place of fastening the seat belts



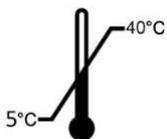
Unique Device Identifier



The possibility of fingers jamming.



Do not stand on the footrest



Temperature of storage and use

10. Contact details

 mdh Sp. z o.o.
ul. Maratońska 104, 94-007, Łódź, Polska
tel. +48 42 674 83 84
fax. +48 42 636 52 21
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