

## What is WC19?

### Helpful Terminology

**WC19:** WC19 refers specifically to general design requirements, test procedures, and performance requirements for manual and powered wheelchairs that are designed to offer safe forward-facing seating for passengers traveling in any motor vehicle.

**Crash Testing:** When a wheelchair has been "crash tested", it means that it has gone through a dynamic crash test to verify the integrity of the wheelchair and the safety of its occupant in the event of a crash. The crash test is done in accordance with the RESNA WC19 accepted industry standards.

**Transit Chair:** A wheelchair that meets the design and performance requirements of WC19. These chairs are labeled to show that they comply with WC19.

**WC20:** WC20 addresses general design requirements, test procedures, and performance requirements for seating systems. By using both a WC19 compliant wheelchair in combination with WC20 compliant after-market seating or positioning components, the wheelchair is safe to transport while forward facing in a vehicle.

**RESNA:** Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

**Postural/Positioning Harness:** A padded component and/or belt used to help maintain a person in a desired position during normal wheelchair use. In general postural supports are not designed to provide effective occupant restraint in a motor vehicle crash.

**Restraint Harness:** A system or device designed to restrain a motor vehicle occupant in a crash by keeping the occupant in the vehicle seat and minimizing contact with the vehicle interior, other occupants, or objects outside the vehicle.

## Convaid Transit Wheelchairs

**Convaid's transit wheelchairs comply with the WC19 requirements for the wheelchair and the occupant.**

Most Convaid wheelchairs are available as a transit chair and can be outfitted with the transit package, including the following models:



Lightweight • Compact Folding • Convenient

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**Additional Resources Include:**  
The RERC on Wheelchair Transportation Safety  
<http://www.rercwts.org>  
AbleData  
<http://www.abledata.com>

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# TRANSIT

*Safety*





# Transport Safe?

You can never be too careful when it comes to your child, which is why every Convaid transit wheelchair complies with RESNA WC19 safety standards. The WC19 Wheelchair Safety Standard is a voluntary industry standard, which improves the safety and security of your child when seated in their wheelchair aboard a school bus or van.

Your wheelchair should be:

- WC19 compliant
- Outfitted with a transit package, which will include 4 bright red anchors added to the frame and additional transit options as defined by the wheelchair manufacturer



- Outfitted with a postural/positioning harness. Positioning harnesses are designed and intended solely for seating and positioning requirements.
- Forward facing\*

\* The WC19 standard is specifically designed for the wheelchair to be secured in a forward facing configuration and not in any other direction.



The school bus, public transportation, or van will provide the WTORS (Wheelchair Tiedown and Occupant Restraint Systems), which consists of:

- 4 tie-down straps with ratchets
  - Floor anchor points
- And either,
- A crash-tested lap and shoulder belt to provide effective restraint **or** a 3-point child restraint harness.



Note: A 3-point restraint system consists of a shoulder and lap belt.\*\*

\*\* Only Occupant Restraint Systems designed to comply with SAE J2249, RESNA WC19, and FMVSS 209 are safe to use during transportation. There are two companies that manufacture occupant restraint system that comply with those standards: Q'Straint and Sure-Lok.

The driver of the vehicle should be trained to secure the wheelchair to the vehicle by using the 4 red wheelchair anchor points on the chair with the tiedown straps. (S)he should then secure the child to the chair by using the restraint system on the vehicle or the restraint harness, not the postural/positioning harness.

It is recommended to maximize the clear space around the rider, in order to reduce the possibility of contact with vehicle components and other passengers in the event of a crash. Cover rigid vehicle components that are close to the rider with dense padding.

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For more information, please contact us

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