

*Invacare*® **Blade +**

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*User Guide*



# Introduction

Thank you for choosing a Blade + manual wheelchair- we are certain that you will be delighted with it. Just to make doubly sure you really gain the full benefits from your remarkable new **INVACARE** wheelchair and to ensure many years of trouble free performance, this manual gives you essential information concerning Safety, Handling and Operation, together with some helpful tips. Please read it carefully before trying out your new **Blade +**, so that you may truly enjoy your new independence.

We recommend to have your wheelchair inspected and serviced by an authorised **INVACARE** dealer at least once a year. It is in your best interests, not only to ensure your personal safety, but also the continued high performance and long service life of your chair.

Whenever you need special advice and assistance, or if there is any problem with your chair, do not hesitate to contact the local **INVACARE** dealer. He is just a phone call away and has all the equipment and knowhow required to provide you with expert professional service.

ISO 7176 PART 15  
REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
DOCUMENTATION AND LABELLING

MODEL DESIGNATION: BLADE PLUS SELF PROPEL WHEELCHAIR --- OUTRIGGED FRONT CASTORS

ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX	ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Length with Legrest	742mm	820mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Angle Plane	4 degree	4 degree
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Width 10"wide 11"wide 12"wide 13"wide 14"wide 15"wide	470mm 495mm 520mm 545mm 570mm 595mm	470mm 495mm 520mm 545mm 570mm 595mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Depth  9" depth 10" depth 11" depth 12" depth 13" depth 14" depth 15" depth	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Length	720mm	720mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Width  10"width 11"width 12"width 13"width 14"width 15"width	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Width	300mm	300mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Surface Height –Front Edge	375mm	375mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Height Folding Back Fixed Height/Adj. Height	675mm 935mm	675mm 935mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Angle Folding Back/Fixed Back Adj. Height	10deg 7deg	10deg 7deg
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Total Weight	13.8kg	14.4kg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Height Folding Back Adjustable Height Back	430mm 440mm	430mm 440mm
				ISO 7176 Pt 7	Footrest to Seat Distance	155mm	325mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Downhill	22 degree	26 degree	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Leg to Seat Surface Angle		
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Uphill	8.5 degree	24 degree	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Armrest to Seat Distance	115mm	215mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Sideways	17 degree	18.5 degree	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Front Armrest to Backrest	260mm	260mm
ISO 7176 Pt 4	Energy Consumption Range	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Horizontal Location of Axle	22mm	22mm
ISO 7176 Pt 2	Dynamic Stability Uphill	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Minimum Turning Radius	585mm	585mm
ISO 7176 Pt 10	Obstacle Climbing	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Turn Around Width Limiting Walk	1090mm	1090mm
ISO 7176 Pt 6	Maximum Speed Forward	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Handrim Diameter  20"wheel 22"wheel	455mm 480mm	455mm 480mm
ISO 7176 Pt 3	Minimum braking Distance	N/A	N/A				

The Wheelchair conforms to the following standards:

ISO 7176 Pt 8	Static, Impact and Fatigue Strength	Yes
ISO 7176 Pt 9	Climatic Tests	N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 14	Power and Control	N/A
ISO 7176 Pt16	Resistance to Ignition	Yes

ISO 7176 PART 15  
REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
DOCUMENTATION AND LABELLING

MODEL DESIGNATION: BLADE PLUS SELF PROPEL WHEELCHAIR --- SWINGAWAY  
FOOTRESTS

ISO TEST ME THOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX	ISO TEST ME THOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Length with Legrest	878mm	970mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Angle Plane	4 degree	4 degree
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Width	10"wide 480mm 11"wide 505mm 12"wide 530mm 13"wide 555mm 14"wide 580mm 15"wide 605mm	480mm 505mm 530mm 555mm 580mm 605mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Depth 9" depth 10" depth 11" depth 12" depth 13" depth 14" depth 15" depth	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded length	665mm	678mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Width  10"width 11"width 12"width 13"width 14"width 15"width	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Width	290mm	290mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Surface Height –Front Edge	375mm	375mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Height			ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Angle		
	Folded Back	675mm	675mm		Folding Back/Fixed Height	10 deg	10 deg
	Fixed Height/Adj. Height	935mm	935mm		Adj. Height	7 deg	7 deg
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Total Weight	14.6kg	15.2kg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Height	430mm	430mm
					Folding Back	440mm	590mm
				ISO 7176 Pt 7	Adjustable Height Back	155mm	215mm
					Footrest to Seat Distance		
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Downhill	16deg	21.5deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Leg to Seat Surface Angle		
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Uphill	8.5 deg	24.5deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Armrest to Seat Distance	115mm	215mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Sideways	13deg	17.5deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Front Armrest to Backrest	260mm	260mm
ISO 7176 Pt 4	Energy Consumption Range	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Horizontal Location of Axle	22mm	22mm
ISO 7176 Pt 2	Dynamic Stability Uphill	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Minimum Turning Radius	650mm	720mm
ISO 7176 Pt 10	Obstacle Climbing	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Turn Around Width Limiting Walk	1090mm	1090mm
ISO 7176 Pt 6	Maximum Speed Forward	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Handrim Diameter		
					20"wheel 22"wheel	455mm 480mm	455mm 480mm
ISO 7176 Pt 3	Minimum Braking Distance	N/A	N/A				

The Wheelchair conforms to the following standards:

ISO 7176 Pt 8	Static, Impact and Fatigue Strength	Yes
ISO 7176 Pt 9	Climatic Tests	N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 14	Power and Control	N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 16	Resistance to Ignition	Yes

**ISO 7176 PART 15**  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**  
**DOCUMENTATION AND LABELLING**

**MODEL DESIGNATION: BLADE PLUS TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR --- GAS STRUTRECLINER**

ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX	ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Length with Legrest Swingaway Footrests Outrigged Castors	870mm 695mm	935mm 775mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Angle Plane	4deg	4deg
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Width 10"wide 11"wide 12"wide 13"wide 14"wide 15"wide	470mm 495mm 520mm 545mm 570mm 595mm	470mm 495mm 520mm 545mm 570mm 595mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Depth 9" depth 10" depth 11" depth 12" depth 13" depth 14" depth 15" depth	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Length Swingaway Footrests Outrigged Castors	645mm 695mm	710mm 775mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Width 10"width 11"width 12"width 13"width 14"width 15"width	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Width Swingaway Model Outrigged Castors	230mm 325mm	230mm 325mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Surface Height - Front Edge	375mm	375mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Height	920mm	920mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Angle	7 deg	42 deg
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Total Weight	14.5kg	15.8kg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Height	450mm	450mm
				ISO 7176 Pt 7	Footrest to Seat Distance	155mm	325mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Downhill	21 degree	33 degree	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Leg to Seat Surface Angle		
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Uphill	14 degree	26 degree	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Armrest to Seat Distance	115mm	215mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Sideways	14 degree	19 degree	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Front Armrest to Backrest	260mm	260mm
ISO 7176 Pt 4	Energy Consumption Range	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Horizontal Location of Axle	105mm	105mm
ISO 7176 Pt 2	Dynamic Stability Uphill	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Minimum Turning Radius	665mm	820mm
ISO 7176 Pt 10	Obstacle Climbing	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Turn Around Width Limiting Walks	1020mm	1140mm
ISO 7176 Pt 6	Maximum Speed Forward	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Handrim Diameter	N/A	N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 3	Minimum Braking Distance	N/A	N/A				

*The Wheelchair conforms to the following standards:*

ISO 7176 Pt 8	Static, Impact and Fatigue Strength	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
ISO 7176 Pt 9	Climatic Tests	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 14	Power and Control	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 16	Resistance to Ignition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

**ISO 7176 PART 15**  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**  
**DOCUMENTATION AND LABELLING**

MODEL DESIGNATION: BLADE PLUS TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR --- OUTRIGGED FRONT  
CASTORS

ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX	ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Length with Legrest	685mm	750mm	ISO 7176 Pt 6	Seat Angle Plane	4 degree	4 degree
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Width 10"wide 11"wide 12"wide 13"wide 14"wide 15"wide	470mm 495mm 520mm 545mm 570mm 595mm	470mm 495mm 520mm 545mm 570mm 595mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Depth  9" depth 10" depth 11" depth 12" depth 13" depth 14" depth 15" depth	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Length	640mm	690mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Width  10"width 11"width 12"width 13"width 14"width 15"width	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Width	230mm	230mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Surface Height –Front Edge	375mm	375mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Height Folded Back Fixed Height/Adj. Height	675mm 930mm	675mm 930mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Angle Folding Back/Fixed Height Adj. Height	10deg 7deg	10deg 7deg
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Total Weight	12 kg	13.1kg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Height Folding Back Adjustable Height Back	430mm 440mm	430mm 590mm
				ISO 7176 Pt 7	Footrest to Seat Distance	155mm	325mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Downhill	22.5deg	25.5deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Leg to Seat Surface Angle		
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Uphill	15deg	19.5deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Armrest to Seat Distance	115mm	215mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Sideways	17deg	19deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Front Armrest to Backrest	260mm	260mm
ISO 7176 Pt 4	Energy Consumption Range	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Horizontal Location of Axle	30mm	30mm
ISO 7176 Pt 2	Dynamic Stability Uphill	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Minimum Turning Radius	600mm	600mm
ISO 7176 Pt 10	Obstacle Climbing	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Turn Around Width Limiting Walk	930mm	930mm
ISO 7176 Pt 6	Maximum Speed Forward	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Handrim Diameter		
ISO 7171 Pt 3	Minimum Braking Distance	N/A	N/A				

*The Wheelchair conforms to the following standards:*

ISO 7176 Pt 8	Static, Impact and Fatigue Strength	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ISO 7176 Pt 9	Climatic Tests	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISO 7176 Pt 14	Power and Control	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISO 7176 Pt 16	Resistance to Ignition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ISO 7176 PART 15  
REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
DOCUMENTATION AND LABELLING

MODEL DESIGNATION: BLADE PLUS TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR --- SWINGAWAY FOOTRESTS

ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX	ISO TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENT	MIN	MAX
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Length with Legrest	865mm	930mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Angle Plane	4 degree	4 degree
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Overall Width 10"wide 11"wide 12"wide 13"wide 14"wide 15"wide	405mm 430mm 455mm 480mm 505mm 530mm	405mm 430mm 455mm 480mm 505mm 530mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Depth  9" depth 10" depth 11" depth 12" depth 13" depth 14" depth 15" depth	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm	250mm 275mm 300mm 325mm 350mm 375mm 400mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Length	590mm	640mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Effective Seat Width  10"width 11"width 12"width 13"width 14"width 15"width	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm	310mm 335mm 360mm 385mm 410mm 435mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Width	230mm	230mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Seat Surface Height – Front Edge	375mm	375mm
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Folded Height Folding Back Fixed Height/Adj. Height	675mm 935mm	675mm 935mm	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Angle Folding Back/Fixed Height Adjustable Height Back	10deg 7deg	10deg 7deg
ISO 7176 Pt 5	Total Weight	13.3kg	13.9kg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Backrest Height Folding Back Adjustable Height Back	430mm 440mm	440mm 590mm
				ISO 7176 Pt 7	Footrest to Seat Distance	180mm	350mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Downhill	18deg	21.5deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Leg to Seat Distance		
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Uphill	15deg	19deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Armrest to Seat Distance	115mm	215mm
ISO 7176 Pt 1	Static Stability Sideways	14.5 deg	16 deg	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Front Armrest to Backrest	260mm	260mm
ISO 7176 Pt 4	Energy Consumption Range	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 7	Horizontal Location of Axle	30mm	30mm
ISO 7176 Pt 2	Dynamic Stability Uphill	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Minimum Turning Radius	730mm	730mm
ISO 7176 Pt 10	Obstacle Climbing	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176 Pt 5	Turn Around Width Limiting Walk	1000mm	1000mm
ISO 7176 Pt 6	Maximum Speed Forward	N/A	N/A	ISO 7176	Handrim Diameter	N/A	
ISO 7176 Pt 3	Minimum Braking Distance	N/A	N/A				

The Wheelchair conforms to the following standards:

ISO 7176 Pt 8	Static, Impact and Fatigue Strength	Yes
ISO 7176 Pt 9	Climatic Tests	N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 14	Power and Control	N/A
ISO 7176 Pt 16	Resistance to Ignition	Yes

## **Note for wheelchair users**

INVACARE provides a wide range of wheelchairs to meet the requirements of users. However, the decision on the type of model to be prescribed rests exclusively with qualified advisors.

INVACARE or its appointed representative shall not be held responsible if a wheelchair is used that is unsuitable for the user's level of disability, if the wheelchair itself is incorrectly used or if a problem arises due to poor maintenance.

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**This manual gives details of all the options of the Blade + range of wheelchairs. It describes the options, operation and adjustments that may be required. However, your INVACARE retailer will be able to give you further information and demonstrations.**

### **SAFETY NOTICE**

**PLEASE ENSURE THE WHEELCHAIR IS  
FULLY OPENED AND THE SEAT RAILS ARE  
LOCATED IN THE SEAT SADDLES BEFORE SITTING DOWN**



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# 1 - Safety and operating limits

## Stability and equilibrium

To ensure that the wheelchair remains stable and is manipulated correctly, you must always maintain good equilibrium. Many actions cause the user of a wheelchair to reach out, lean over or move about within the wheelchair and outside it. These actions will change your centre of gravity and weight distribution of the wheelchair.

Your wheelchair has been designed to remain stable for normal everyday use if it is used correctly taking the precautions recommended in this manual.

### 1.1 - Weight limit

**The maximum user weight limit for the Blade + is 89kg.**

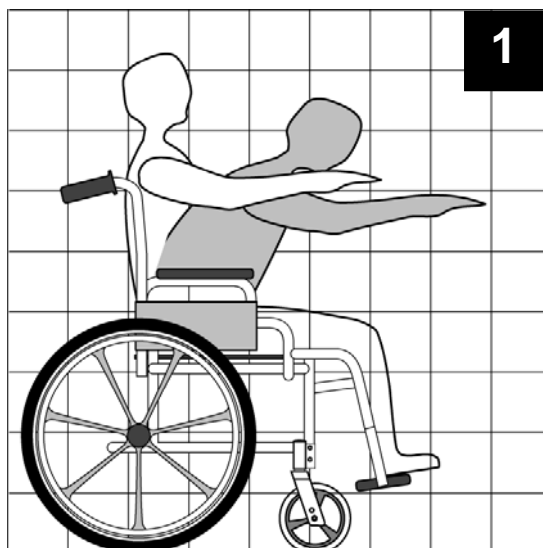
This weight includes accessories such as a compact oxygen cylinder or other equipment required by the user.

However, the wheelchair users' degree of activity is important. For example, an active user weighing 75kg may subject the wheelchair to more stress than a user weighing 115kg. We recommend very active wheelchair users to choose an appropriate design of wheelchair. Your INVACARE approved distributor will advise you on the best model.

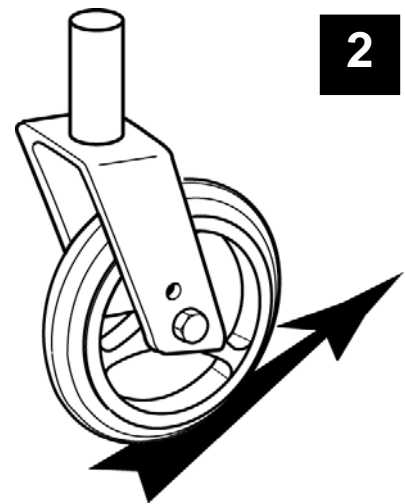
### 1.2 - Reaching for an object from a wheelchair

The limitations on reaching out from a wheelchair shown in figure 1 have been produced using a representative sample of wheelchair users.

Only the arms should extend beyond the seat of the wheelchair. For safety reasons, the body and head should remain within the wheelbase.



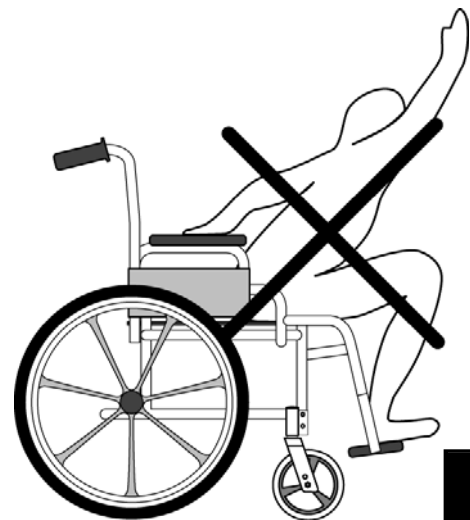
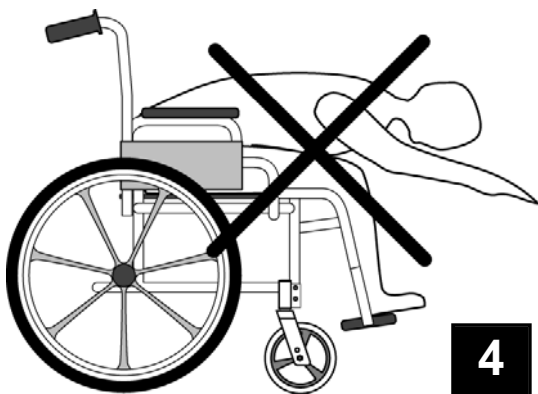
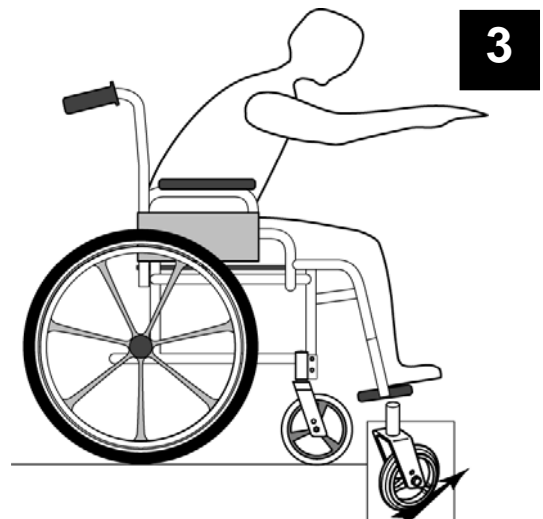
Position the castors to give the longest possible wheel-base. (Figure 2)  
Lock the manual brakes on the rear wheels.



### Leaning forwards

(Figures 3, 4 and 5)

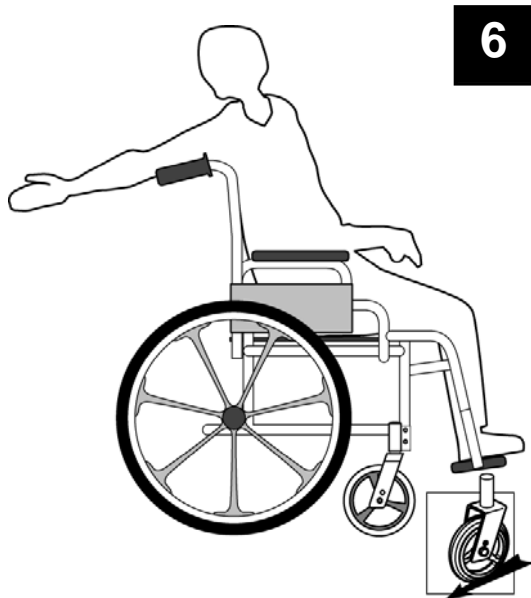
Move the wheelchair as close as possible to the object you wish to reach.  
Only reach out to take what is within arms length in normal sitting position.



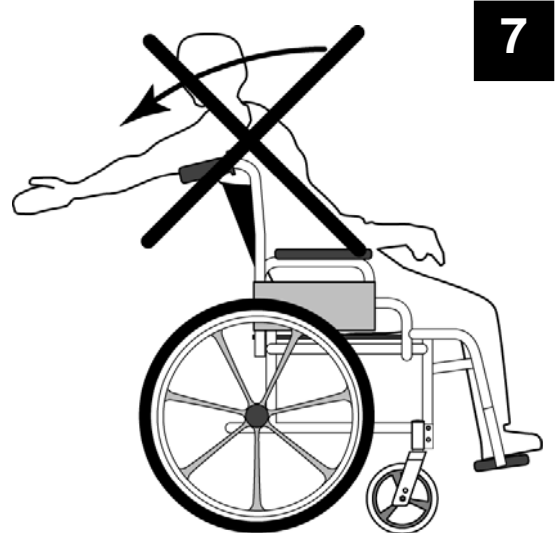
## Leaning backwards

(Figures 6 and 7)

Move the wheelchair as close as possible to the object you wish to reach. Only lean back for objects that are within arms length in normal sitting position.



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## Leaning to one side

(Figure 8)

This is the most dangerous manoeuvre as it is easy to tip sideways.

To move up to the object and lean over, you must use the castors as a means of keeping the wheelchair stable and balanced. (Figure 2)

For your safety, it is essential to be in the correct position.

Do not try to pick something up from the floor if this would upset your balance.



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### 1.3 - Transferring to other seats

It is possible to move from and to a manually propelled chair if the following guidelines are followed.

INVACARE does not recommend any particular method for transferring: this is the responsibility of a medical advisor who should consider your level of disability and type of wheelchair.

When transferring, either to get out of or return to your wheelchair, make sure:

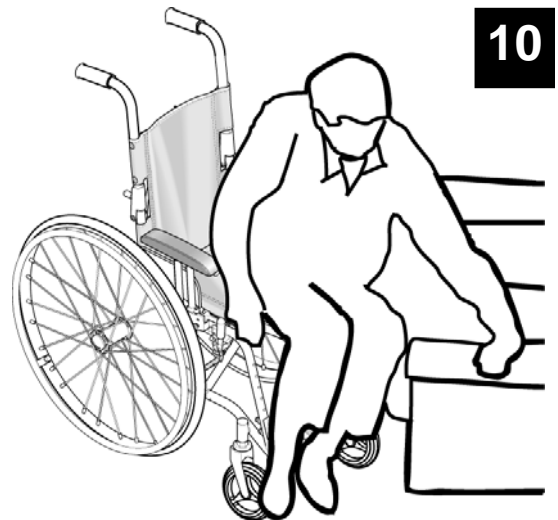
- That the gap between the two seats is as small as possible. (Figures 9 and 10)
- That the manual brakes on the rear wheels are on to prevent the wheels moving. (Figure 11)

Turn both castors towards the seat to which you wish to move. Lift up the footplates.

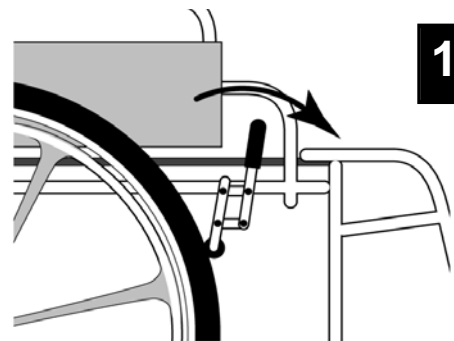
Do not stand on the footplates.



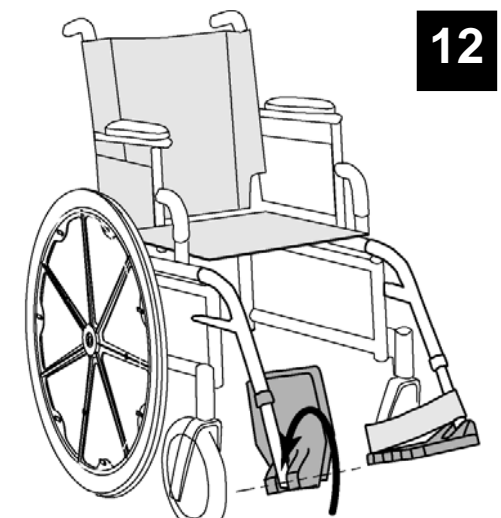
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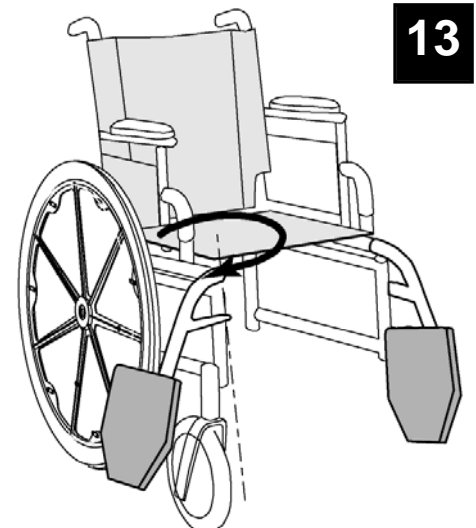


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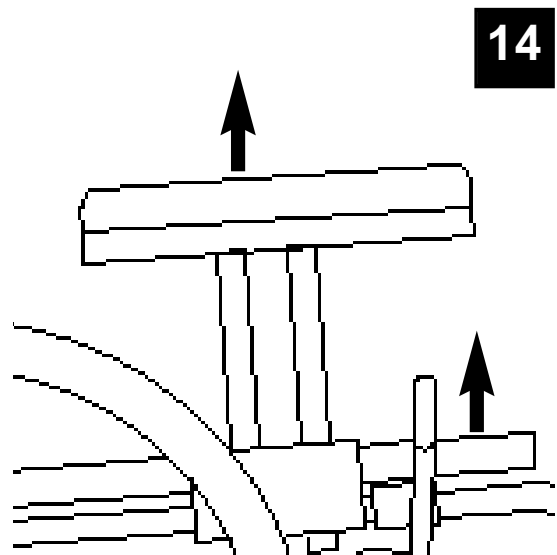


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If possible, fold back the footrest supports to the side to clear the way. (Figure 13)



If possible, remove the armrests on the side between the wheelchair and the other seat. (Figure 14)



**NB**

Never stand up on the footplates. (Figure 15)



## 1.4 - Tilting (balancing on the rear wheels)

### Tilting without help from a third person

Wheelchairs in the INVACARE range have been designed for use by those who have mastered the technique of balancing on the rear wheels without help from a third person. However, you should never exceed the limitations of the wheelchair. Repeated shock on the castors caused by tipping the wheelchair up yourself may affect the rigidity or settings of your wheelchair. If your wheelchair is fitted with accessories, these may affect the methods used for balancing on the rear wheels.

When you wish to learn a new technique, consult an experienced person for advice in using your type of wheelchair.

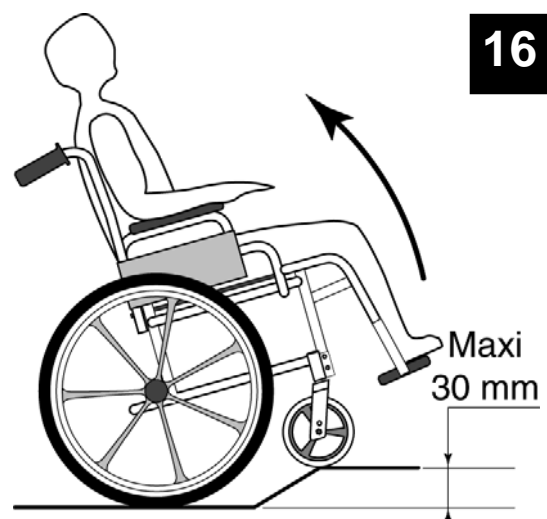
### Tilting with assistance from a third person

The user should be sitting correctly and firmly in the chair or if unable to support themselves, should be strapped in position to prevent him/her falling out of the chair.

If a wheelchair user needs assistance in tilting the chair, the assistant must know how to use their body correctly. Keep your back straight and bend at the knee to tilt the wheelchair. Never exert too much force. The medical team in charge of the user will advise you in the methods best suited to your morphology. The INVACARE approved distributor will provide you with information on the risks of using the wheelchair incorrectly if the wheelchair has removable parts such as armrests or leg rests. **These must NEVER be used as aids when lifting** as they may inadvertently become detached and cause injury.

To tilt the wheelchair (Figure 16), a third person should grip the handles firmly. Warn the user of the wheelchair before tilting it and remind him/her to lean backwards. Check that the user's feet and hands are clear of all the wheels. Place a foot on the foot step tube and push smoothly until the wheelchair is at the point of equilibrium.

At this stage, the helper will feel a difference in weight distribution which usually occurs at an angle of about 30°. Turn the wheelchair in the direction





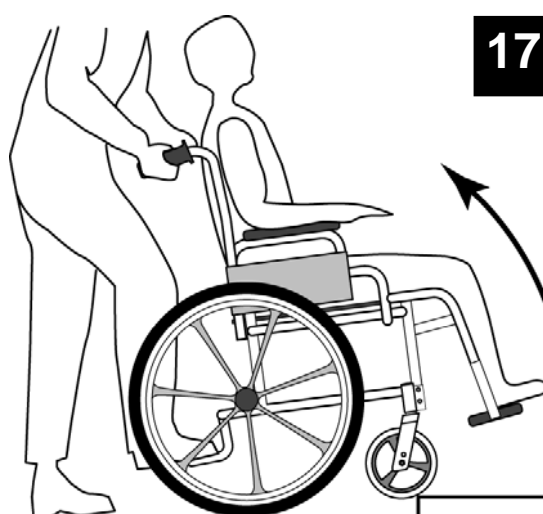
Lower the front of the wheelchair smoothly, holding the handles firmly. Use your weight on the foot step tube to act as a counterweight. Do not lower the wheelchair suddenly down the last few centimetres before returning to the normal position as this may hurt the user.

## 1.5 - Kerbs or obstacles 30 to 50mm high

### Method 1 - Negotiating the obstacle forwards

(Figure 17)

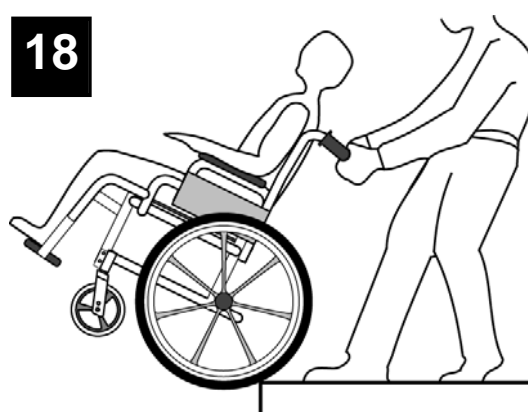
The helper should tilt the wheelchair until the castors have passed over the kerb. Move the wheelchair forwards and lower the castors gently onto the pavement. Push the wheelchair until the rear wheels touch the kerb. Lift and push until the rear wheels have mounted the kerb. Do not lift by the handles on the backrest.



### Method 2

(Figure 18)

The helper should stand on the pavement and turn the wheelchair until the rear wheels are against the kerb. Tilt the wheelchair backwards to the point of equilibrium and, in a continuous movement, pull the wheelchair until the rear wheels mount the kerb and pass onto the pavement. Do not lower the castors to the ground until you have pulled the backrest of the wheelchair sufficiently far to clear the kerb.



NB: Folding backs should always be checked to ensure they are engaged.

## 1.6 - Steps, stairs or obstacles over 50 mm high

We recommend that you take very great care when taking a wheelchair up or down stairs. Two people are required for this.

### **ADVICE TO THIRD PERSONS**

Make sure that you get hold of fixed, non-removable parts only. Use the following procedure for going up stairs: (Figure 19)

Tilt the wheelchair to its point of equilibrium. One helper (at the back) holds the wheelchair up against the first step, gripping the handles firmly to lift.



The second helper, holding firmly a fixed part of the front frame, lifts the wheelchair above the stairs and holds it while the first helper places one foot on the following step and repeats the operation.

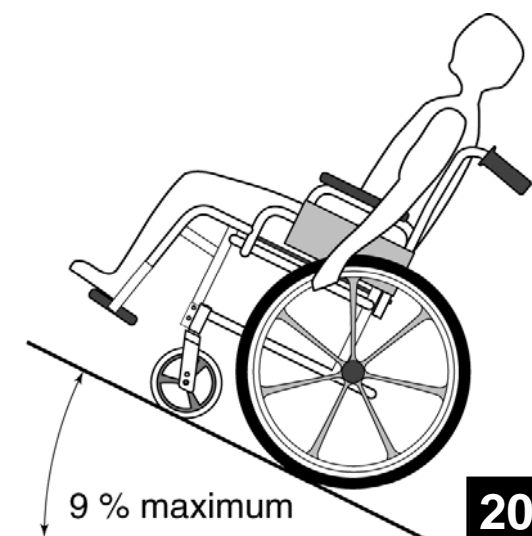
The wheelchair must not be lowered until the last step has been negotiated and until the chair is clear of the stairs.

### **Escalators**

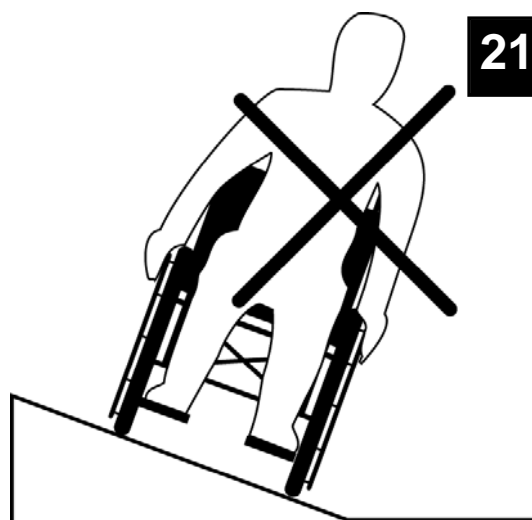
Do not use an escalator when moving a wheelchair from one floor to another. This might cause serious injury.

## 1.7 - Upward and downward slopes (operating limits)

Do not attempt to go up or down slopes greater than 9% without assistance. (Figure 20)



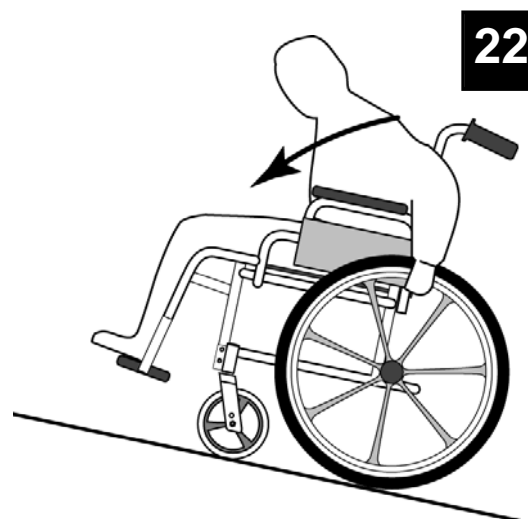
Always go straight up and down slopes otherwise the wheelchair might overturn. (Figure 21)



### Upward slopes

Lean the upper part of the body forward and push the chair forward with short quick thrusts on the handrims to maintain speed and control direction. If you wish to take a rest, apply both brakes when stopping. (Figure 22)

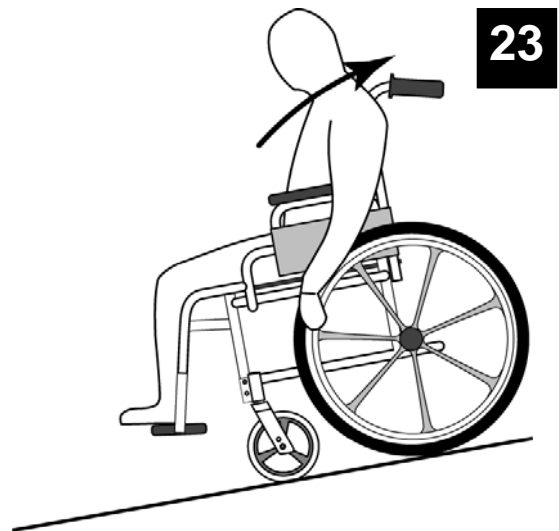
NB: The use of Anti Tippers is recommended in traversing upward slopes.



## Downward slopes

Lean backwards carefully and allow the handrims to slide through your hands. Be ready to react at any moment to check the speed and direction by keeping in close contact with the handrims. The manual brakes should not be used to slow you down. (Figure 23)

If you are going up or down a slope avoid turning sharply and never try to go up or down diagonally.



## 2-Use

### 2.1 - Folding and unfolding the wheelchair

Wheelchair with fabric upholstery.

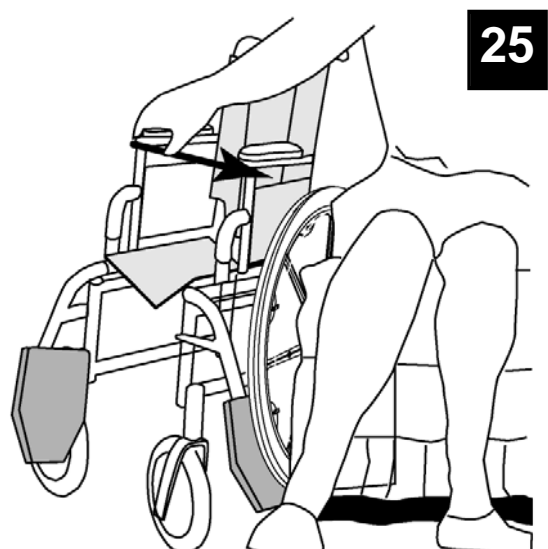
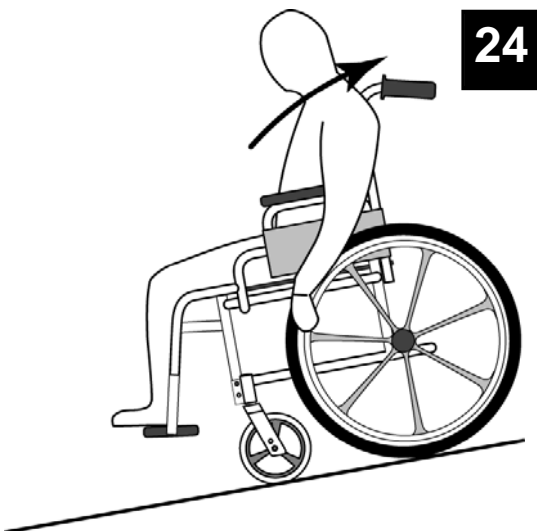
#### To fold

Lift the footplates.

Release the backrest tensioner if necessary.

Using both hands, take the centre of the seat fabric at the front and back edges and raise it. (Figure 24)

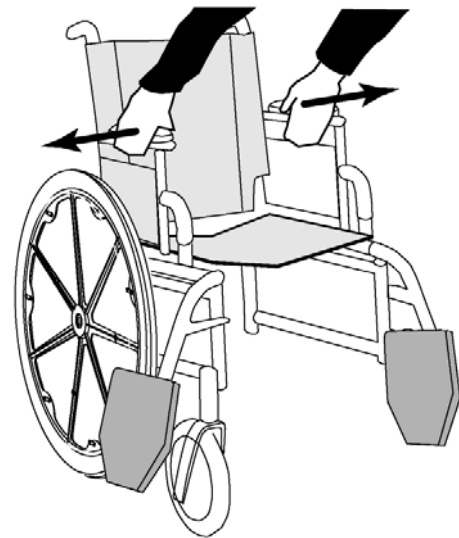
Or, tilt the wheelchair to one side and close it using the handles on the back rest or the armrests. (Figure 25)



## To unfold

(Figure 26)

Unfold the wheelchair by taking hold of the armrest or the side of the chair nearest to you, tip the chair sideways (lifting the rear wheel and the castor from the ground) and press on the tube supporting the seat upholstery until it is fully down. The seat upholstery should be fully open.



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### **NB**

To avoid injury, keep hands and fingers away from moving parts (armrests, folding frame, footrest supports or leg rests, etc).

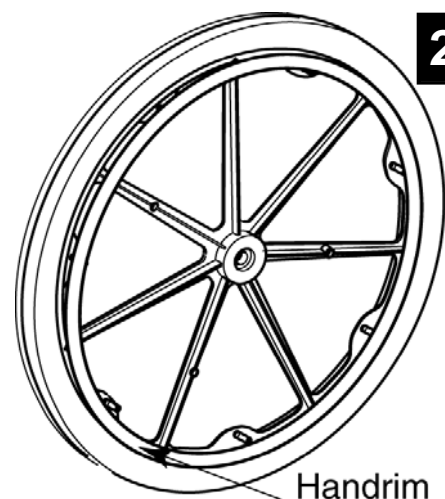
## 2.2 - Propelling the wheelchair

The wheels of your wheelchair are fitted with handrims (Figure 27) and qualified personnel will be able to advise you on the most appropriate way of propelling yourself.

Various accessories may be fitted to improve the grip (plastic coatings, studs).

Lean the upper part of the body forward and push the chair forward with short quick thrusts on the handrims to maintain speed and control direction.

Be ready to react at any moment to check the speed and direction by keeping in close contact with the hand-rims.



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### 3 - Summary of instructions for improved safety

- **Do not try** to reach objects if you have to move forward on the seat.
- **Do not try** to reach objects on the ground if you have to lean down beyond the safety limits.
- **Do not lean** too far back to reach objects behind you: you may tip over.
- **Do not move** your weight, or your sitting position in the direction in which you wish to go: you may tip over.
- **Always apply both manual brakes** before trying to get out of or back into the wheelchair.
- **The manual brakes are not designed for slowing you down.**
- **Do not try** to stop a moving wheelchair using the manual brakes.
- **Do not tilt the wheelchair without assistance from a third person when negotiating obstacles more than 30 mm high.**
- **Do not use** an escalator for moving a wheelchair from one floor to another (this may cause serious injury).
- **Do not use** your wheelchair if the tyres are not inflated to the correct pressure shown on the side.
- **Do not over-inflate** the tyres. Failure to comply with these instructions may cause the tyre to burst and cause bodily injury.
- **Carry out** the regular checks recommended in this guide and by your INVACARE approved retailer.
- **Use** your wheelchair with respect for other people.
- **Do not use** your wheelchair as a transport seat in a vehicle. Unless it is not practical for the user to be transferred (Refer to section 23 - Transport).

## 4 - Description

Each wheelchair is specially designed to meet the requirements of its user. This manual describes how to adjust the chairs in this range, enabling you to find out how to adjust the wheelchair to suit your needs.

### General description

Your wheelchair has a number of main parts which will be mentioned throughout this manual. These parts are described below.

Support is provided by the **backrest**, **seat** and **armrests**.

The **folding chassis** comprises of the **side frames** and **folding cross brace**.

This is the essential supporting framework of the wheelchair on which all the other parts are mounted.

The **rear wheel** comprises of the **wheel**, **axle** and **handrim**.

The rear wheels provide contact with the ground and are driven by turning the handrims.

The **front castors** comprise of the fork and wheels.

The front wheels provide contact with the ground and the rotating forks steer the chair.

#### Manual brake

The manual brake is used to park the wheelchair.

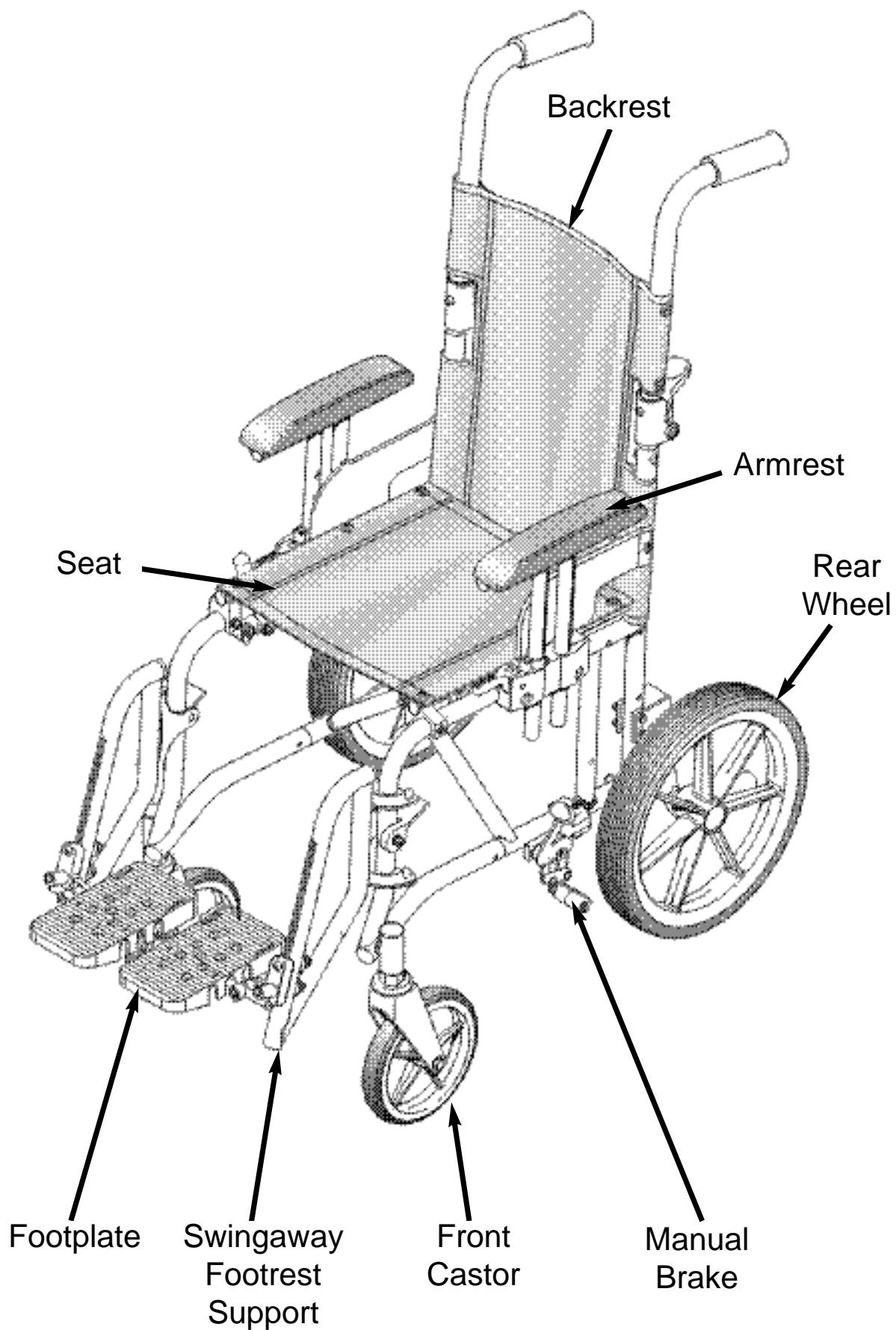
#### Swing away footrest support and leg rest

These are connected to the chassis and can be swung away to make transfer easier to and from the wheelchair.

The **footplate assembly** comprises of the **adjustable tube** and **foot plate**. These support your feet.

#### The heel support strap or calf support strap

These two straps support your feet or legs in the best position. These parts are illustrated on the following diagram.



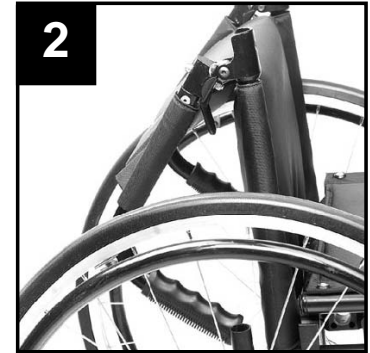


## 5 - Backrest

Photographs 1 and 2

The backrest can be folded at the middle by means of a locking mechanism and can be operated by either the user or an attendant.

- Use: To fold the backrest, pull both black plastic locking levers (A) downwards and fold the top part of the backrest to the back and then down. Carry out these operations in

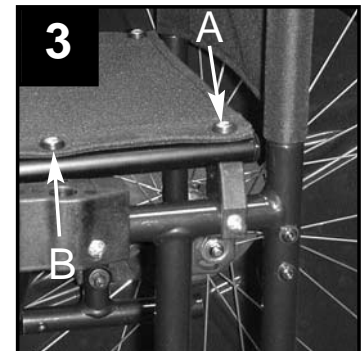


the reverse order to return the backrest to its normal position, making sure that the locking mechanisms (A) are secure.

## 6 - Seat

Photograph 3

- Your seat upholstery is screwed onto the seat tubes of the folding cross brace.
- Adjustment: This model requires no adjustment. Just check regularly that the screws (A) are tight. If the washers (B) are loose, these screws should be tightened. If the problem continues, contact your INVACARE retailer and ask him to change the mounting for safety reasons.



### Seat cushion

The seat cushion is placed on the upholstery and must be removed when folding the chair.

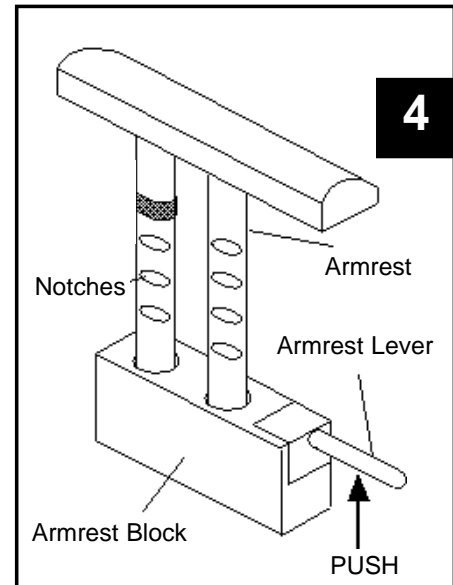
## 7 - Removable, swing-away adjustable height armrest

Photograph 4

The armrests can be removed for easier storage and allow sideways transfer from the chair. They can also be adjusted in height to suit the individuals preference.

To adjust the height, the armrest lever is lifted up which allows the armrest to slide up and down, within the armrest block. When the desired height has been achieved, lower the armrest lever and push down/pull up the armrest until the armrest drops into place.

To make sure that this has happened try to pull up/push down the armrest, if it is located the armrest should be “locked in”, and the lever should be in its down position.



## 8 - Chassis

### Side Frames

- The side frames provide the mounting points for the rear wheels and the castors.
- Adjustment: No adjustment is possible on this series of wheelchair.

### Folding cross brace

- The folding cross brace has two members which enable the wheelchair to be folded.
- Adjustment: No adjustment is required. To fold or unfold your wheelchair, refer to this user and safety manual.

## 9 - Rear wheels

Photograph 5

### Wheels

- The rear wheels are positioned on rear wheel mounting blocks which determine the rearward stability. This position should only be adjusted by a qualified technician on the advise of a qualified advisor.

The rear wheels have a diameter of either 315mm, 500mm, or 550mm. They are equipped with spokes and handrims. They can have pneumatic tyres or solid tyres and can be connected to the side frame by means of a fixed axle or a quick release axle.

## Tyre pressure

The pressure is shown on the tyre and must never be exceeded. Remember that the tyre pressure on both wheels should be the same to ensure perfect steering.



In case of a puncture, the tyre has to be removed from the rim. Press the valve to let all the remaining air out of the inner tube. Pull the tyre off the rim. Repair or replace the inner tube. Put the tyre back on the rim. Inflate the tyre to the required pressure.

- NB: It may be necessary to use one or two tyre removal tools (not supplied).

## Handrims

- The handrims are used by the user to drive the wheelchair.

- NB: As the handrims are in contact with your hands, make sure that they are not damaged and that the surface has no parts which might cause injury to the hands.

- Adjustment: No adjustment is required for the handrims.

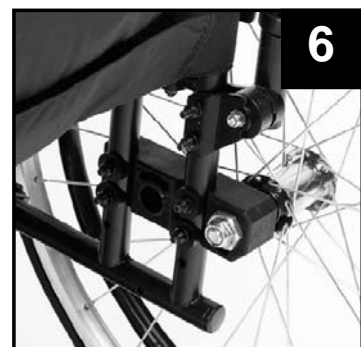
## Axles

Photographs 6 and 7

- The axles link the back wheels to the chassis. They are fixed or quick releasing.

- Quick release wheels

Removal: Push on the quick release button head with your finger and pull the wheel towards the outside of the chair.



- Assembly: Push on the quick release button head with your finger and locate axle through the axle bush, making sure that the axles are secured (no axial movement).

- Fixed wheels

No adjustment is required, however, check on a weekly basis that the axle / nut are secure.



## 10 - Castors

### Front wheels

- The front wheels have a diameter of 125mm. Available in solid puncture-proof tyres only. No adjustment is necessary for the front wheels.

### Forks

Photograph 8

- The fork connects the chassis and the wheel.
- Adjustment: The forks do not require adjustment. Check that the fork rotates freely.

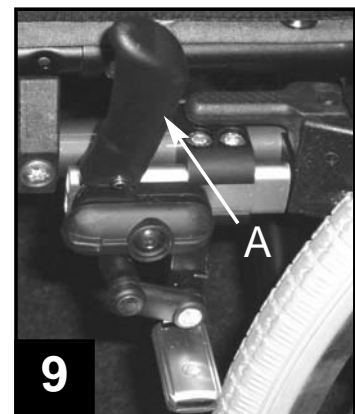


## 11 - Manual brakes

Photograph 9

### Brakes

- The manual brakes are used to immobilise the wheelchair in a stationary position. They are not intended for slowing down and should not be used when the wheelchair is moving. They should be applied together.
  - Use: The brakes are operated by moving the brake handle (A) towards the front of the wheelchair. When the brakes are applied, the wheelchair should resist movement.
  - Adjustment: It may be necessary to adjust the brakes after repairing a puncture or because of wear on the pneumatic or solid tyre. Slacken clamp screws and adjust the brake assembly to achieve adequate braking. Tighten the clamp screws firmly after adjustment.
- NB:** The brakes are fitted in pairs to the wheelchair. When adjusting or



removing, remember that there is one brake for the right hand side and another for the left hand side.

## Brake extension

- The brakes may be equipped with a handle extension to assist attendants/user who have insufficient strength or difficulty in reaching the standard brake handles.

## 12 - Footrest

Photograph 10 and 11

### Swing away footrest supports

The footrest supports can be swung away to the outside/rear of the chair to free the front of the wheelchair making it easier for the user to transfer to another seat. They can also be removed.

- Use: To swing the support to the outside, press the release mechanism lever. Rotate the support carefully to the outside of the wheelchair.

To return the support, repeat the operations in the reverse order. Check that the release mechanism has automatically locked.

To remove the support, swing the assembly away from the chair, release the spring mechanism and lift the support away from the chair.

- Adjustment: Loosen the two screws, adjust to the required height and re-tighten screws.

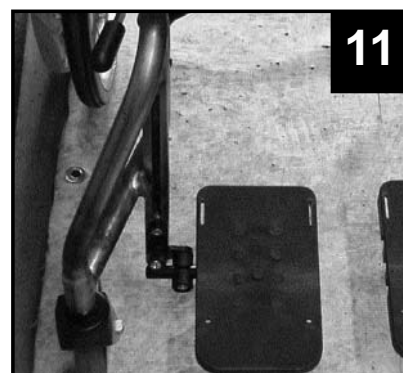
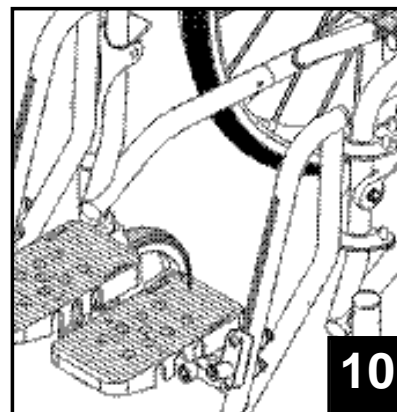
**NB:** The footrest supports are fitted in pairs to the wheelchair. When adjusting or removing, remember that there is one support for the right hand side and another for the left hand side.

## Footplate Assemblies

Photograph 12

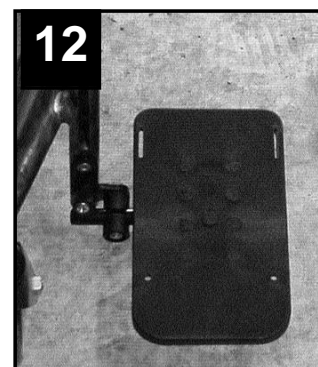
### Independent footplates for footrest supports

- The footplate assemblies comprise of an adjustment tube and footplate and are intended solely as a foot support when you are



sitting in the wheelchair and should not be used for standing. Each footplate assembly can be adjusted in height. The footplates can be pivoted to an upright position to aid front transfers.

- Adjusting the footrests on the supports: Release the nut, position the footplate assembly at the required height in the footrest support tube, tighten the nut to secure.



## 13 - Backrest Extension

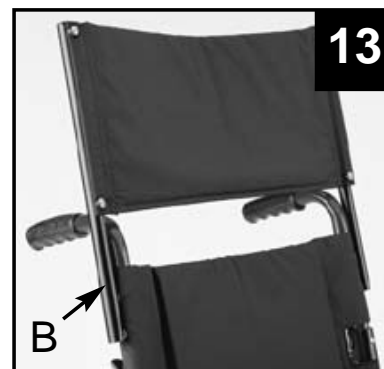
Photograph 13

The backrest extension has two uprights (B) and a backrest extension upholstery. The locating pegs should only be fitted to the push handles of the backrest by a qualified technician.

When refitting, make sure that it is firmly fixed onto the locations fitted to the backrest tubes. Raise the head rest assembly to remove it from the tubes of the recliner backrest.

- Adjustment: No adjustment is required for this extension. However, it can be removed for transport.

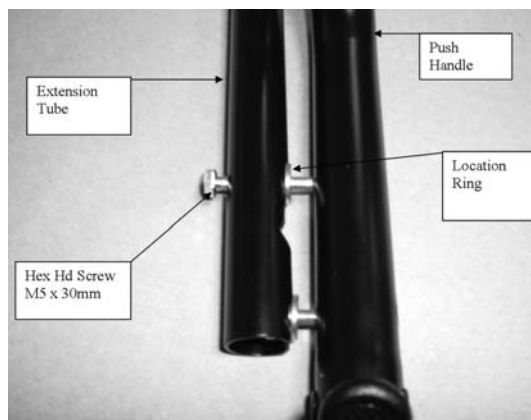
### FITTING INSTRUCTIONS BACKREST EXTENSION FOR VEHICLE TRANSPORT



When transporting the chair the backrest extension must be secured to the push handles.

Using a M5 x 30mm Hex Hd screw and location ring (See photo below)

Slide the location ring inside the slot on the extension tube, and then feed the Hex Hd screw through the tube and location ring and firmly secure to the push handle.



## 14 - Rear Anti-tippers

Photograph 14

The anti-tippers help prevent you from tipping over when the rear wheels are incorrectly positioned, or when the user or attendant mishandles the wheelchair.

- Use: The anti-tippers fit into the rear tubes of the side frames (A). Fit the anti-tippers into the side frame rear tube, until the button springs are positioned in the holes of the rear tube (A). Carry out these operations in the reverse order to remove. You can leave the anti-tip castors on the wheelchair even if you do not wish to use them. Just depress the button spring and rotate the entire anti-tipper unit a half turn (180°). DO NOT twist or turn the Anti-Tipper when withdrawing it from the frame.



**NB:** The anti-tippers are not to be used as tipping levers.

## 15 - Transit kit

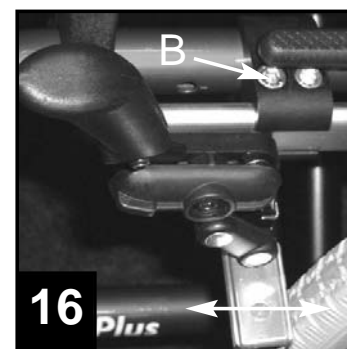
Photographs 15 and 16

The transit kit includes a manual brake for operation by an attendant.

**NB:** This brake is different to the self propelled version.

Also included is a choice of either pneumatic or solid tyred wheels.

- Adjustment: It may be necessary to adjust the brakes after repairing a puncture or because of wear on the pneumatic or solid tyre. Slacken clamp screws (B) and adjust the brake assembly to achieve adequate braking. Tighten the clamp screws (B) firmly after adjustment.



The pressure of the pneumatic tyres should be checked before use of the wheelchair. The pressure is shown on the tyre and must never be exceeded. In case of a puncture, the tyre may have to be removed from the rim. Press the valve to let all the remaining air out of the inner tube. Remove the tyre off the rim. Repair or replace the inner tube. Put the tyre back on the rim. Inflate the tyre to the required pressure.

**NB:** It may be necessary to use one or two tyre removal tools (not supplied). The tyre pressure on both wheels should be the same.

## 16 - Safety Belt

The strap can be adjusted by the user with a buckle system.

A qualified advisor must show you how to position the strap according to your needs.

## 17 - Spoke guards

The spoke guards must be assembled by a qualified technician.  
The spoke guards do not require any adjustment.

## 18 - Tipping Levers

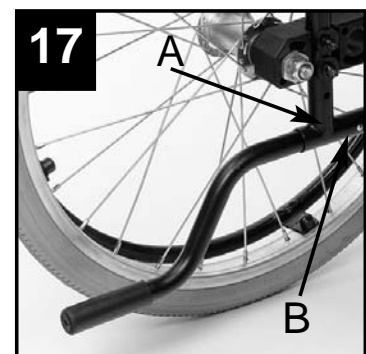
Photograph 17

The tipping lever can only be used by an attendant and it is designed to assist tipping the chair rearwards when obstacles are encountered, such as pathway or kerbs.

The tipping lever tubes are fixed into the rear tubes of both side frames (A).

Fit the tipping lever into the side frame rear tube, until the button springs (B) are positioned in the holes of the rear tube (A).

- Use: The attendant, whilst pulling the wheelchair push handles must press on the tipping levers with either foot, in order to raise the front of the wheelchair to the required height.





## 19 - Adjusting Recliner Backrests

### Gas Spring Type

**CAUTION:** It is recommended that this operation be performed only by the attendant. Always make sure that the backrest is locked in place to ensure perfect safety for the user. Keep fingers away from moving parts (levers, cylinders, mechanisms, etc.) to prevent injuries!

1. Grip the push handles with both handles
2. Pull the triggers and raise or lower the back to the desired position, supporting the backrest by means of the push handles at all times during adjustment. Release triggers

## 20 - Hub Brakes

Besides the functions provided by manual brakes, the optional hub brakes provide slow down (for example, on a slope) and improve safety because they are still efficient when you have a flat tyre!

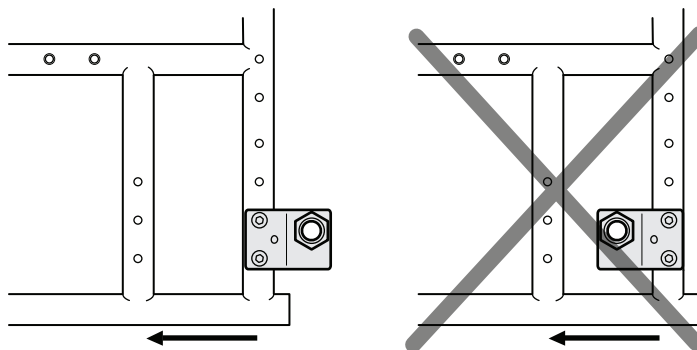
To slow down gradually pull the lever upwards. To lock the brake in parking position, with the lever tightened, push the lock to engage it in the notches of the brake handle; then pull the lock up to unlock. To adjust braking: turn the screw counterclockwise to increase braking force and turn clockwise to reduce it.



The specific adjustments of hub brakes must always be performed by your Dealer.



Always operate the two brakes simultaneously and do not take slopes exceeding 5% to ensure perfect control of the wheelchair steering!



Always mount the hub brake attachment in backward position

## 21 - Routine checks and maintenance

### Checking performance

As a user, you are the first to notice that your wheelchair is not operating properly. The following table shows some readily identified symptoms and gives the preliminary checks to be carried out. As a general rule, the parts subject to wear should be monitored and changed most often: tyres on the rear wheels, front castor wheels, brake pads, upholstery.

The wheelchair drags to the right	The wheelchair drags to the left	The wheelchair turns or moves slowly	The castors wobble	Creaks and clicking	Play in the chair	Checks
X	X	X				Check that the tyre pressure is correct and even
		X	X	X	X	Check that nuts, bolts and screws are tight
X	X	X				Check that the angle of the front forks is correct
X	X		X			Check that the castors are both in contact with ground at the same time

If the symptoms persist when the tyre pressure has been corrected and the nuts, bolts and screws have been tightened, consult your approved INVACARE distributor.

### Checking the general condition

For maintenance operations, consult your distributor who has all the necessary information.

Twice a year, ask your distributor to inspect your wheelchair thoroughly and carry out in depth maintenance. Regular maintenance allows defective or worn parts to be identified and improves the normal operation of your wheelchair.

The following table shows what to check when the wheelchair is delivered, each week, each month and at 6 monthly intervals.



## Checks to be made

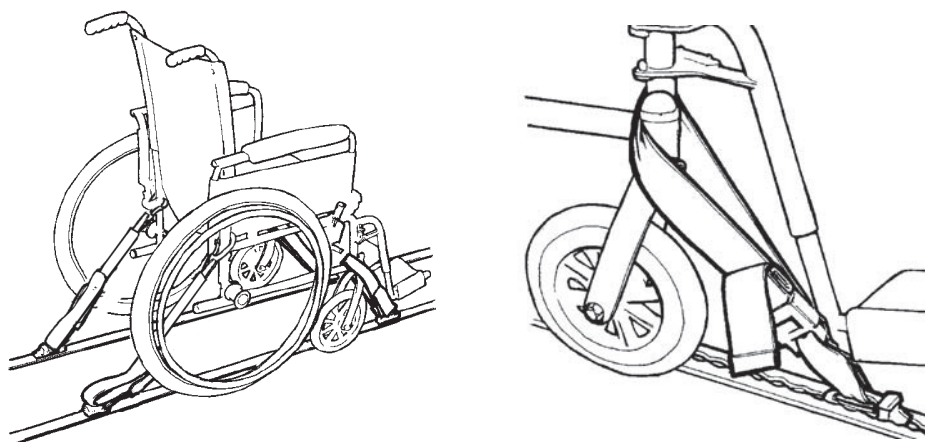
	On delivery	Weekly inspection/adjustment	Monthly inspection/adjustment	6 Monthly Service
<b>1. General</b>				
The wheelchair unfolds and folds easily . . . . .	X			X
The wheelchair moves in a straight line (no resistance or drag) . . . . .	X	X		
<b>2. Manual brakes</b>				
The manual brakes do not touch the tyres when moving . . . . .	X		X	
The manual brakes are easy to operate . . . . .	X			X
The articulations are not worn and do not show signs of play . . . . .	X		X	
<b>3. Cross bars</b>				
Examine them to check that they are not worn or bent . . . . .	X			X
<b>4. Clothing protectors / armrest upholstery</b>				
Check that all fixings are in position and tightened . . . . .	X			X
<b>5. Armrests</b>				
Firmly attached but easy to remove . . . . .	X		X	
<b>6. Arm pads</b>				
Check that the padding is in good condition . . . . .	X			X
<b>7. Seat and backrest upholstery</b>				
Check that it is in good condition . . . . .	X	X		
<b>8. 22" and 24" wheels</b>				
Wheel nut and sealed bearings correctly tightened . . . . .	X		X	X
No excessive lateral movement or binding when they are lifted from the ground and turned, quick release axles correctly locked . . . . .	X		X	
<b>9. Handrims</b>				
Check for rough patches . . . . .	X			X
<b>10. Spokes</b>				
Inspect the spokes in case any are bent, broken or slack . . . . .	X	X		
<b>11. 6" or 8" castors</b>				
Check the axle to ensure that it is correctly tightened, by turning the castor The castor should stop gradually . . . . .	X	X		
<b>12. Fork / Fork tube</b>				
Check that all the fittings are in place . . . . .	X	X		
<b>13. Pneumatic and solid tyres</b>				
If the wheelchair has pneumatic tyres, check that they are correctly inflated (the pressure is shown on the sidewall) . . . . .	X	X		
If the wheelchair has solid tyres, check the running surface . . . . .	X	X		

## 22 - Transport

Invacare always advises that a wheelchair secured in a vehicle will not provide the equivalent level of safety and security of vehicle seating systems and recommends transfer to the vehicle seating, but also recognises that it is not always practical for the user to be transferred.

In those cases where it is considered that the user must be transported whilst within the wheelchair, then the following advice should be followed.

1. Seek confirmation from the Transporter that the vehicle is suitably designed and equipped to transport a passenger seated in a wheelchair.  
**NB:** The wheelchair user safety during transportation largely depends upon the diligence of the person securing the tie downs and passenger restraints.
2. Any part of the wheelchair (accessories etc.) that can be easily detached should be removed and stored in the vehicle luggage hold during transportation.
3. The wheelchair should always be transported in a forward facing direction. Rearward facing is only acceptable if the occupant's head and back can be supported by a suitable bulkhead.
4. If the wheelchair is equipped with a headrest, it should always be used during transportation.
5. Invacare recommend that the wheelchair be secured by 4-Point webbing tie down systems as manufactured by Unwin Safety Systems or Koller Safety Restraint Engineers.
6. When attaching tie downs to the wheelchair it is imperative these are fixed onto the MAINFRAME of the wheelchair and not onto any attachments or accessories ( wheels, handrims, castors, footrests, anti tipping levers etc.)
7. The tie downs should be secured, as close as possible, at an angle of 45 degrees to ensure maximum effectiveness of the restraint in all directions.
8. The occupant should be restrained independently of the wheelchair by a suitably Approved passenger safety belt or harness.  
Pelvic restraint or lap belts supplied with the wheelchair may be used in addition to but never as a substitute for Approved passenger restraints.



## 23 - Warranty

This is to certify that your Blade + wheelchair is warranted by Invacare, for a period of 2 years. This warranty is subject to the following conditions:

1. Only Invacare wheelchairs purchased at full price are warranted against defective workmanship and materials.
2. If a defect or fault is discovered the supplier from whom the appliance was purchased/obtained should be notified immediately.
3. The manufacturer will not accept responsibility for damage caused by misuse or the non-observance of the instructions set out in the User Manual.
4. During the period of the warranty, any parts that have become defective due to faulty workmanship or materials, will be renewed or repaired free of charge by the Invacare supplier.
5. The warranty will be forfeited should any unauthorised alteration be made to the equipment.
6. The purchaser's statutory rights under the Consumer Protection Act are not affected.

### Limitation of liability

This warranty does not extend to the consequential costs resulting from fault clearance, in particular freight and travel costs, loss of earnings, expenses, etc.

Invacare shall not be liable for:

- natural wear and tear
- inappropriate or incorrect use
- defective assembly or setting-up by the purchaser or third parties
- defective or neglectful treatment
- use of unsuitable spares

## 24 - Storage

When you will not be using your wheelchair for a prolonged period, the following precautions will help to keep it in perfect condition.

Store the wheelchair in a clean, dry place.

Do not put heavy objects on top of it.

Cover with it with a dust sheet to keep it dust-free

## 25 - Cleaning

The parts of the wheelchair can be cleaned with a soft, dry cloth.

Vynyl or Nylon seat and backrest upholstery and the tyres can be cleaned with a cloth dampened in clean soapy water.

When you have been out or whenever the metal parts have been wet, they should be wiped dry to prevent possible corrosion.

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