

American National Standard

for Wheelchairs –

**Volume 1:
Requirements and Test Methods for
Wheelchairs (including Scooters)**

**Section 26
Vocabulary**



RESNA

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

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Section 26

Vocabulary

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Section 26 Introduction

This section of RESNA WC-1 is based on the draft ISO/FDIS 7176-26 dated 2007. RESNA amended the draft ISO/FDIS 7176-26 dated 2007 to eliminate redundancies and highlight discrepancies between the various sections of the ISO 7176 wheelchair standards, and to include editorial and technical revisions.

At the time of publication of this section, ISO 7176-26:2007 was valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this section of RESNA WC-1 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the ISO standard. Members of ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards. More recent versions of this ISO document may have resolved some of the highlighted discrepancies. If ISO resolves these discrepancies in a different manner than described herein, the RESNA amendments shall supersede the ISO revision.

In this section, strikethrough text indicates text that has been deleted from the ISO standard, and underlined blue text indicates text that has been added to the ISO standard.

The provision and selection of wheelchairs and associated seating products relies on clear communication of information relating to these devices. Over time, many terms and definitions have evolved. Unfortunately, this process has resulted in a lack of clear meaning for some terms and duplication of other terms (sometimes with conflicting messages).

For example, the terms tilt and recline are sometimes used interchangeably, but usually have quite distinct meanings. If used inappropriately, an entirely inappropriate wheelchair may be specified or purchased.

The purpose of this section of RESNA WC-1 is to provide a collection of terms and their definitions to form the basis of clear communication across the field of wheelchair and associated seating and to eliminate confusion from duplication or inappropriate use of terms.

The vocabulary is drawn from surveys of the literature and language used by experts in this field. It excludes, however, terms which are adequately defined in the everyday language of English, medicine and technology.

RESNA WC-1 Sec. 26 recognizes that there are a number of terms in use which, because of duplication or inadequacies of meaning, should be replaced by terms from this vocabulary. To help people move towards a common vocabulary, these deprecated terms are included along with a reference to the preferred term.

The development and application of wheelchair standards is particularly dependent upon clear and consistent terms and definitions. Hence, a major proportion of this section of RESNA WC-1 includes terms and definitions used in more than one [section](#) of the RESNA standards specifically related [to wheelchairs](#). These include RESNA [WC-1](#), [WC-2](#), [WC-3](#), and [WC-4](#). Future standards [related to](#)

wheelchairs and associated seating systems will cite this document for definition of terms wherever possible, thus facilitating the consistent use of a common vocabulary.

This section of RESNA WC-1 is intended purely as a means of specifying terms and definitions. It does not attempt to classify wheelchairs and associated seating into any classification of device groupings as this is the purpose of ISO 9999. Annex A provides a standard set of descriptors for characterizing wheelchairs.

Section 26: Vocabulary

1 Scope

This section of RESNA WC-1 specifies a vocabulary consisting of terms and definitions used in the field of manual and electrically powered wheelchairs (including scooters) and associated seating systems. This section of RESNA WC-1 includes, but is not limited to, the preferred terms used in two or more [sections of the RESNA WC-1, WC-2, WC-3, and WC-4 standards](#), but does not include terms considered to be adequately defined in everyday English.

NOTE 1 Annex A provides a standard set of descriptors for characterizing wheelchairs.

2 Rules and elements used in vocabulary

2.1 Rules used in vocabulary

Most terms defined are used in more than one section of the RESNA Wheelchair Standards relating specifically to wheelchairs and seating supports. Terms used in only one of these sections are defined in the terms and definitions clause of that section.

Within Clause 4, terms are organized by function. Terms (and the function) can be further specified by adding an adjective as shown in Clause 4.8.

2.2 Organization of elements used in vocabulary

The structure used throughout the nomenclature is based upon ISO 10241.

3 Abbreviated terms

ATD	anthropometric test device
PSD	postural support device
RLG	reference loader gauge
UDIG	universal docking interface geometry
WTORS	wheelchair-tiedown and occupant-restraint system

4 Terms and Definitions

4.1 Wheelchairs and related mobility devices

4.1.1 wheelchair

device to provide wheeled mobility with a seating support system for a person with impaired mobility

NOTE A walking aid with wheels is not a wheelchair.