



BESPOKEPLUS



"If your work speaks for itself don't interrupt"

Tractor Weight Limits



Yes, some folks call power additions tractors, and we can see where that comes from as tractors are usually pulling something along. One of our pet peeves is listening to folks talk in terms of weight limits for these products. Inevitably the conversations focus on the individual users' body weight, and we feel that is an important aspect to confirm the size of tractor you need to pull you along, but what else matters? Does the weight of the unit matter, the weight of the chair the individual has and has the manufacturer of the tractor done compatibility testing with it, the connection mechanism, what weight are the wheels tested to, the tires, the speed rating of all those parts and pieces, and although many end users may feel that braking is over rated, what kind of braking power do these tractors have?

All of these points are important, and it should be mandatory to have some sort of system in place to be able to have people compare products apples to apples.

Batec have a weight capacity of 110 kgs which includes "the users weight and any other object being carried" with an agenda to produce a heavier duty capacity product believed to include bariatric sizing.



PAWS have maximum weight of 120 kgs for the end user and when you include the chair, a maximum weight capacity ranging from 140.8 kgs to 148.8 kgs with a 160 kgs unit for the end user in the works.

Triride have maximum user weight limits of 80, 100, 120 kgs with the maximum towable weight including the end user, accessories, wheelchair, and Triride at 120 kgs. Then they offer 140 and 160 kgs maximum as per above with the

opportunity to build specific units for folks that require higher weight limits.

The Invacare E-Pilot has a maximum user weight of 100 kgs and overall weight that suggests the weight of the end user, the E-Pilot, the chair, and any other things carried not to exceed 135 kgs.

The Empulse from Sunrise suggests 110 kgs for the end user and does not factor in chair, accessories, the unit, etc.

Stricker has a maximum load of 120 kgs in their manual and note that if the wheelchair used is less than that to go with the weight capacity of that chair.

The Cheelcare Companion combined wheelchair and end user weight is not to exceed 136 kgs.

Batec Updates

We await a container of Batec products including Mini 2, E2, E2 Rapid, Scrambler, Hybrid 2 and all the parts and pieces needed to accommodate the 125 plus wheelchairs on the compatibility listing (10 more in testing right now). The



Batec Bloc has found a place on the compatibility listing and is working like a charm to cut down install time, make the chair portion of the docking system even lighter, and hopefully will see the option to

be included on wheelchair order forms to make life that much easier for the dealer network and ultimately the end user of the product.

Hot Battery UN3480 3481

We understand that it is a matter of (days was suggested to us) that IATA would be making some announcements as it relates to lithium type batteries. Regardless, if and when those changes come, rest assured that with the modern BMS protected lithium batteries they continually come up

with longer life expectancies, more watt hours, and higher reliability, and overall safe experiences.

However, there are a number of things all the manufacturers remind us of, and it can apply to a lot of other batteries in this industry. If you are not using the device, you should still continue to look after the battery. If our 36V and 48V systems are packed away for a number of months, they may over discharge. The suggestion is that if the individual cells fall below 2.5v you may not be able to salvage them. Make sure your battery is at least 50% charged before storage and not more than 85%.

Batteries should be stored and charged at room temperature (they can certainly be discharged in -20 C) but they should not be charged in hot weather and not immediately after the battery has been used and is warm or hot to the touch.

You do not run lithium batteries right down or you risk damaging them, but you don't need to fully charge each time either unless the full charge is going to be used in the immediate future. Battery life is prolonged by partial charging as required and the cycles are completed when a battery is charged four times at 25% per charge (ie: if the battery is at or below 50%, charge it up 25% and do that four times for a charge cycle as this will provide longer battery life).

Larger batteries will require less charging than smaller batteries and will therefore (all things being equal) have longer life expectancy. If you have two batteries try to have them used in parallel instead of sequential for longer life. Some products have battery management features built into their display and you can program the battery to charge to 85% for example, something that airlines require for transport.

But at the end of the day, lithium batteries are Class 9 dangerous goods. All batteries must be tested and meet the criteria as stated in the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Manual of Tests and Criteria Part III subsection 38.3. And, when shipped they must be packed in a



protective manner. If you are shipping lithium-ion batteries alone, use a battery label with UN3480. If you are shipping lithium-ion batteries contained in or packed with equipment, use a battery label with UN3481.

Lost Friends

It has been a tough month losing friends that have touched the lives of many folks in and around our community. In no way are we able to capture all their tremendous attributes, but we will say a few things and direct you to more information on-line; they are missed.

[Dana Chenette](#) left us March 25th. He was a tireless contributor to the Ottawa Carleton Wheelchair Sports Association, the Ottawa Royals, and the National Capital Sports Council for the Disabled. He was a man of many talents and loved to cook, read, fix anything, music, and he did it all with passion and looking after the needs of all.

[Carl Hiebert](#) left us March 26th and will be remembered by many for years to come but none more than his best friend and spouse, Deb Cripps Hiebert. Carl's lifelong focus was on making a difference and providing inspiration to others. He lived by example, touching the lives of thousands with a desire to motivate and empower leaving a legacy in the hearts of many and many that he wrote about in his poetry or pictured in his photography.

[Arley McNeney](#) passed away March 30th. She was a former national wheelchair basketball team member. She was a tireless advocate for disability rights, social justice, equity, and inclusion.

[Danny Brinton](#) died April 10th with his mom Sheila at his side. He was a long-time member of the Alberta Northern Lights Wheelchair Basketball Society and the Red Deer Rebels. He was a former national wheelchair basketball team player representing Canada at World and Paralympic Games. He is in the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 40th Defi Sportif Montreal, QC-April 21-30th, 2023;
- 49 Rugby Nationals May 5-7, 2023, Moncton, NB;
- 49 BrandonMobility Show May 11, 2023, Brandon, MB;
- 49 Pedaling Possibilities May, 18, 2023, Canada;
- 49 CSMC Sep 12-13, Toronto, ON;
- 49 Rehacare Sep 13-16, Dusseldorf, Germany;
- 49 OSOT Conference London, ON Oct 27-28, 2023
- 49 REE March 2024, Richmond Olympic Oval, BC.

BESPOKE PLUS is the newsletter of 49 Bespoke Inc., which markets products from around the world designed to better meet the needs of people with a disability.

We have grown up in sport, have a social service background, and have adopted an advocacy role in our business practice. **Comments are welcome.**