



Designation: F404 – 15

Standard Consumer Safety Specification for High Chairs¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F404; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification addresses high chair incidents that were identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

CPSC identified injuries to children associated with tray disengagement, falls resulting when children stood up on the seat of a high chair, entrapment between the tray and the seat, and tipover. By far the most common injury resulted from children falling when they were able to stand up on the seat of the high chair because they were not secured by the restraining system. In response to the incident data developed by the Commission, this consumer safety performance specification attempts to minimize the above listed problems.

This consumer safety performance specification does not cover high chairs that are either blatantly misused or are used in a careless manner that disregards the warnings and safety instructions that are provided with each high chair.

This consumer safety performance specification is written within the current state-of-the-art of high chair technology. It is intended that this specification will be updated whenever substantive information becomes available that necessitates additional requirements or justifies the revision of existing requirements.

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1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification covers the performance requirements and methods of test to ensure the satisfactory performance of the high chair and high chairs created by using a high chair conversion kit and component(s) from another product.

1.2 This consumer safety specification is intended to minimize injuries to children resulting from normal usage and reasonably foreseeable misuse or abuse of high chairs.

NOTE 1—This consumer safety specification is not intended to address accidents and injuries resulting from the interaction of older children with children in the high chair or the accidents resulting from abuse and misuse by persons over three years of age.

1.3 No high chair or high chair conversion kit produced after the approval date of this consumer safety specification shall, either by label or other means, indicate compliance with this specification unless it conforms to all requirements contained herein.

¹ This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.16 on Highchairs, Hook-On Chairs and Expandable Gates.

Current edition approved May 15, 2015. Published October 2015. Originally approved in 1975. Last previous edition approved in 2014 as F404 – 14a. DOI: 10.1520/F0404-15.

1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.5 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 7, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 2—This consumer safety specification includes the following sections:

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D3359 Test Methods for Measuring Adhesion by Tape Test](#)

[F406 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play Yards](#)

[F833 Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Carriages and Strollers](#)

[F963 Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety](#)

2.2 Federal Regulations:³

[16 CFR 1303 Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead-Containing Paint](#)

[16 CFR 1500 Hazardous Substances Act Regulations Including Sections:](#)

[16 CFR 1500.48 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Point in Toys or Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under Eight Years of Age](#)

[16 CFR 1500.49 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Metal or Glass Edge in Toys or Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under Eight Years of Age](#)

[16 CFR 1501 Method for Identifying Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under Three Years of Age Which Present Choking, Aspiration, or Ingestion Hazards Because of Small Parts](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *accessory*, *n*—component, included with a high chair or sold separately by the manufacturer of the high chair.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401.

3.1.2 *conspicuous*, *adj*—label that is visible, when the high chair is in a manufacturer's recommended use position and an occupant is sitting in the high chair, to a person standing near the high chair at any one position around the high chair but not necessarily visible from all positions.

3.1.3 *double action release mechanism*, *n*—mechanism requiring either two consecutive actions, the first of which must be maintained while the second is carried out or two separate and independent locking mechanisms that must be activated simultaneously to fully release the tray.

3.1.4 *fabric*, *n*—any woven, knit, coated, laminated, extruded, or calendared flexible material which is intended to be sewn, welded, heat sealed, or glued together as an assembly.

3.1.5 *flexible passive crotch restraint*, *n*—a passive crotch restraint made of flexible material, such as fabric or webbing.

3.1.6 *front torso support*, *n*—a barrier extending horizontally across the seat of the high chair that is the primary support intended to restrict forward movement of the occupant's torso when the tray is removed and creates a completely or partially bounded opening in front of the occupant.

3.1.7 *high chair*, *n*—a free standing chair for a child up to 3 years of age which has a seating surface more than 15 in. above the floor and elevates the child normally for the purposes of feeding or eating.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—A high chair may be sold with or without a tray and may be height adjustable to higher or lower use positions. It may also include a recline position for infants not able to sit up unassisted.

3.1.8 *high chair conversion kit*, *n*—an accessory or component sold by the manufacturer of a product or high chair and used to convert or modify a product so that it can be used as a high chair.

3.1.9 *key structural elements*, *n*—sub-assemblies such as seat assemblies, leg assemblies, base assemblies, or individual components such as footrests, stabilizing bars, front torso supports, passive crotch restraints, or other components designed to support the weight of the occupant, or a combination thereof.

3.1.10 *latch release surface*, *n*—any surface on the tray latch release mechanism that results in the tray releasing from its adjustment position when a force is applied perpendicular to that surface.

3.1.11 *manufacturer's recommended use position*, *n*—any position that is presented by the manufacturer in any descriptive or instructional literature as a normal, allowable, or acceptable configuration for the use of the product. This specifically excludes positions which the manufacturer shows in a like manner in its literature to be unacceptable, unsafe, or not recommended.

3.1.12 *nonpaper label*, *n*—any label material (such as plastic or metal) that either will not tear without the aid of tools or tears leaving a sharply defined edge or labels made from fabric.

3.1.13 *occupant*, *n*—that individual who is in a product in one of the manufacturer's recommended use positions.

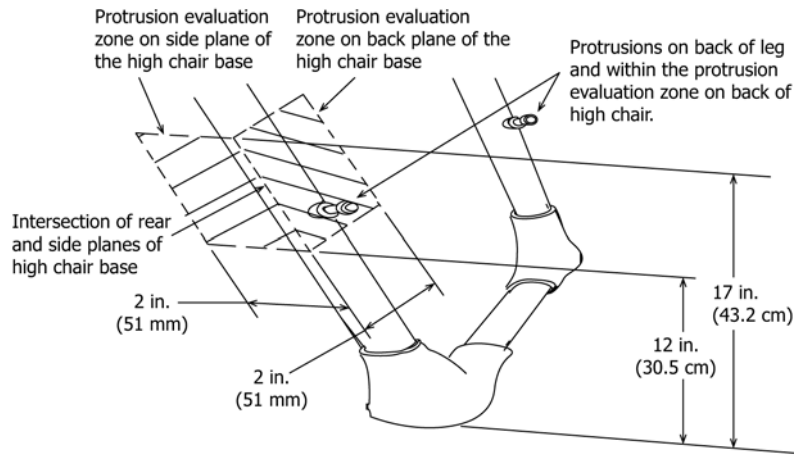


FIG. 1 Protrusion Evaluation Zones

3.1.14 *paper label*, *n*—any label material (except fabric) that tears without the aid of tools and leaves a fibrous edge.

3.1.15 *passive crotch restraint*, *n*—a component that separates the openings for the legs of the occupant into two separate bounded openings and requires no action on the part of the caregiver to use except to position one leg into each opening created by the component.

3.1.16 *protrusion*, *n*—a rigid projection that is elevated above the immediately adjacent surface.

3.1.17 *protrusion evaluation zone*, *n*—areas on the exterior planes of the high chair base at the rear corners which are within 2 in. from the corners formed by the intersection of the rear and side planes of the base and are located between 12 and 17 in. above the floor. See Fig. 1.

3.1.17.1 *Discussion*—This does not include surfaces inside the exterior plane of the high chair base.

3.1.18 *seam*, *n*—means of joining fabric components such as sewing, welding, heat sealing or gluing.

3.1.19 *seating surface*, *n*—seat support surface for the occupant that exists between the side surfaces, seat back surface, and the INNER SURFACE of the passive crotch restraint.

3.1.19.1 *Discussion*—For seats with open sides, the seat side surfaces are defined by a vertical plane tangent to the inside surface of the high chair armrest.

3.1.20 *static load*, *n*—vertically downward force applied by a calibrated force gauge or by dead weights.

3.1.21 *tether*, *n*—a means of attaching a component using flexible plastic, webbing, or cord.

3.1.22 *threaded fastener*, *n*—a discrete piece of hardware that has internal or external screw threads which are used for the assembly of multiple parts and facilitate disassembly.

3.1.23 *top corner*, *n*—an edge on the top side of the upper section of a protrusion created by the intersection of two surfaces that intersect at an angle less than 180°. See Fig. 2.

3.1.24 *tray latch release mechanism*, *n*—mechanism for releasing the latch that secures a tray onto a high chair or into an adjustment position, or both.

4. Calibration and Standardization

4.1 All testing shall be conducted on a concrete floor that may be covered with 1/8-in. (3-mm) thick vinyl flooring cover, unless test instructs differently.

4.2 The high chair shall be completely assembled, unless otherwise noted, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

4.3 No testing shall be conducted within 48 h of manufacturing.

4.4 The product to be tested shall be in a room with an ambient temperature of 73 ± 9°F (23 ± 5°C) for at least 1 h prior to testing. Testing shall then be conducted within this temperature range.

5. General Requirements

5.1 For products sold as a high chair, all components necessary for a high chair to comply with the requirements of this standard must be included when shipped from the manufacturer in the package with the product or one of the packages if multiple packages are used.

5.2 For high chair conversion kits sold separately or included with a product to convert a product into a high chair, all components necessary to comply with this standard must be included when shipped from the manufacturer in the package with the product or the conversion kit, or both, or one of the packages if multiple packages are used.

5.3 Compliance When Used With Conversion Kits:

5.3.1 When a conversion kit is used to convert a high chair to a different product which falls under the scope of another ASTM standard, it shall comply with the applicable requirements of that standard.

5.4 The high chair with any accessory(s) included or any accessories sold by the manufacturer of the high chair for use with the specific high chair model being tested shall, when installed in a manufacturer's recommended use position in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, comply with the requirements of this standard.

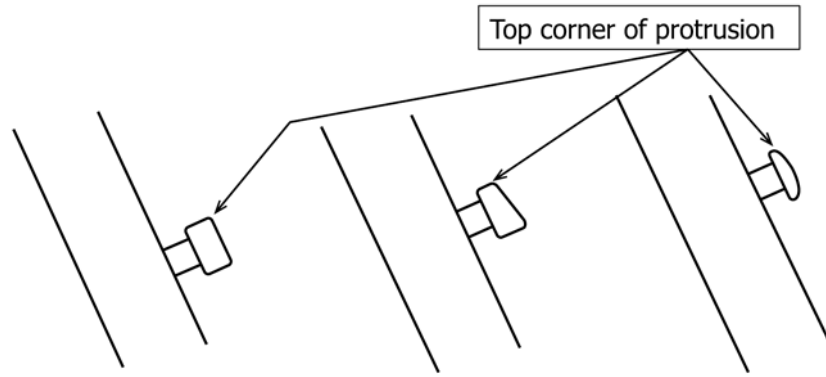


FIG. 2 Protrusion Examples

NOTE 3—Any accessory included with the high chair which per the manufacturer’s instructions is for use only when the high chair is converted into another product, are exempt from the requirement in 5.4.

5.5 Threaded Fasteners:

5.5.1 Wood Screws and Sheet Metal Screws:

5.5.1.1 Wood screws and sheet metal screws shall not be used by the manufacturer in the assembly of key structural elements of a high chair or other components that must be removed by the consumer in the disassembly of a high chair or conversion to a different use mode per the manufacturer’s instructions.

NOTE 4—Wood screws are permitted to be used as the primary fasteners or only fasteners when used to secure components or assemblies that are not key structural elements.

5.5.1.2 No high chair shall require consumer assembly of key structural elements using wood screws or sheet metal fasteners directly into wood components.

5.5.1.3 Factory assembly using wood screws on key structural elements is allowed if the wood screws are a second method of attachment or the wood screws include a lock washer, glue or other means to impede loosening or detachment.

5.5.1.4 Metal inserts, with external wood screw threads for screwing into a wood component and providing internal machine threads to accommodate a machine screw, that are used to secure key structural elements shall be glued or include other means to impede loosening or detaching.

5.5.2 Metal threaded fasteners, such as sheet metal screws and machine screws, secured into metal components and used to attach key structural elements shall have lock washers, self-locking nuts, or other means to impede loosening as defined in 6.10.1.5 or detachment during the testing required by this specification.

5.6 There shall be no hazardous sharp edges or points as defined by 16 CFR 1500.48 and 16 CFR 1500.49 before or after testing in accordance with this consumer safety specification.

5.7 There shall be no small parts, as defined by 16 CFR 1501, before testing or liberated as a result of testing to this specification.

5.8 Before the application of any test methods, any exposed wood parts shall be smooth and free of splinters.

5.9 Latching or Locking Mechanisms—Any unit that folds shall have a latching or locking device or other provision in a design that will prevent the unit from unintentionally folding when properly placed in the manufacturer’s recommended use position. During and upon completion of the testing in accordance with 7.1, the unit shall remain in its manufacturer’s recommended use position. If a unit is designed with a latching or locking device, that device shall remain engaged and operative after testing.

5.10 Labeling:

5.10.1 Warning labels, whether paper or non-paper, shall be permanent when tested per 7.9.1 – 7.9.3.

5.10.2 Warning statements applied directly onto the surface of the product by hot stamping, heat transfer, printing, wood burning, etc. shall be permanent when tested per 7.9.4.

5.10.3 Non-paper labels shall not liberate small parts when tested in accordance with 7.9.5.

5.11 Openings—Holes or slots that extend entirely through a wall section of any rigid material less than 0.375 in. (9.53 mm) thick and admit a 0.210 in. (5.33 mm) diameter rod shall also admit a 0.375 in. (9.53 mm) diameter rod. Holes or slots that are between 0.210 and 0.375 in. (5.33 and 9.53 mm) in diameter and have a wall thickness less than 0.375 in. (9.53 mm), but are limited in depth to 0.375 in. (9.53 mm) maximum by another rigid surface shall be permissible (see Fig. 3). The product shall be evaluated in all manufacturer’s recommended use positions.

5.12 Toy components provided with or attached to the high chair shall comply with the requirements of Consumer Safety Specification F963.

5.13 All paints and surface coatings on the product shall comply with 16 CFR 1303.

6. Performance Requirements

NOTE 5—The loading in this section may be simplified by the use of a simple test frame that will permit the loads to be applied by dead weights operating over a ball bearing pulley through a rope. Vertical force tests are greatly aided with the use of an overhead pulley.

6.1 Protective Components—If the child can grasp protective components between the thumb and forefinger, or teeth, (such as caps, sleeves, or plugs used for protection from sharp edges, points, or entrapment of fingers or toes), or if there is at

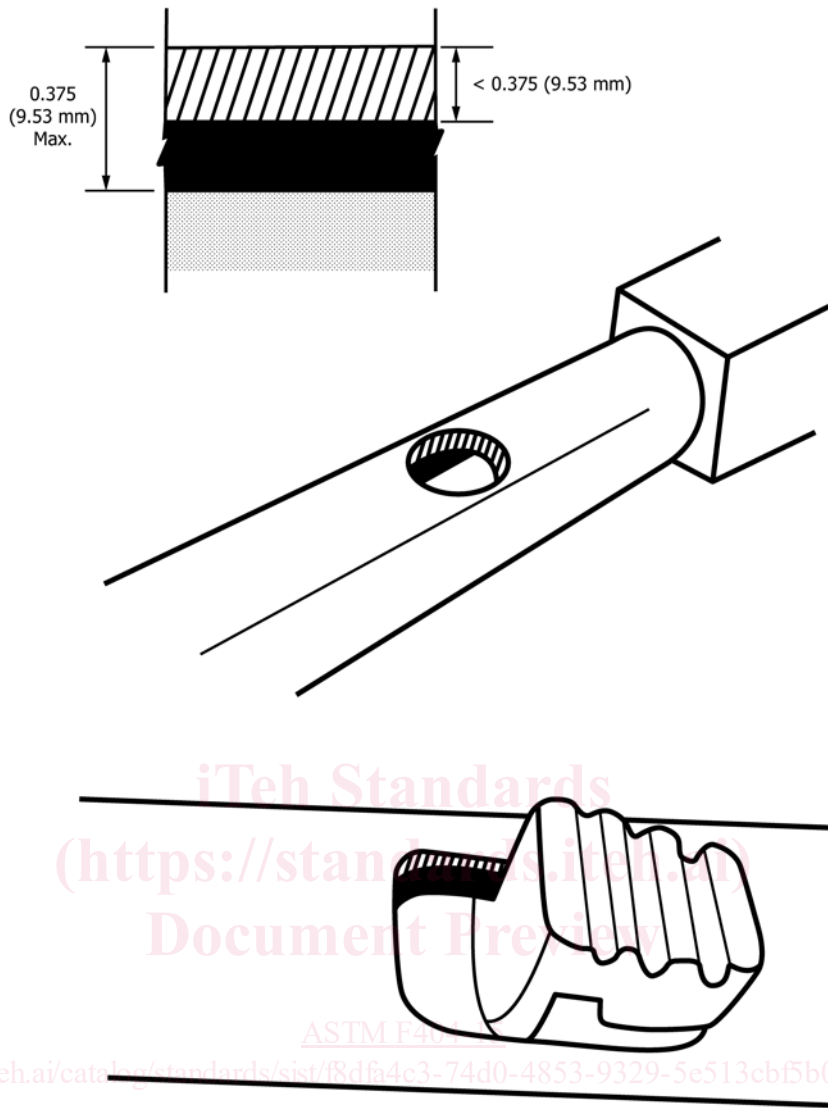


FIG. 3 Opening Example

least a 0.04 in. (1.0 mm) gap between the component and its adjacent parent component, such component shall not be removed when tested in accordance with 7.2. All protective components that are accessible to a child sitting in the high chair or accessible to a child from any position around the high chair shall be evaluated.

6.2 *Removable Tray or Front Torso Support Performance Integrity*—All removable trays and front torso supports shall remain functional with respect to the chair and exhibit no sharp points, sharp edges, or small parts when subjected to a drop test in accordance with 7.3. A tray or front torso support is considered removable if it can be removed from the high chair without the use of tools (for example, screw driver or wrench).

6.3 *Tray or Front Torso Support Performance – Pull Test*—The tray or front torso support shall not become disengaged or dislocated from its original adjustment position, when tested in accordance with 7.4 and 7.5. Components that do not function as a front torso support such as trays, tray inserts, or snack trays are exempt from this requirement.

6.4 *Static Load*—A chair shall support static loads without causing any hazardous conditions as identified within this consumer safety specification. Tests shall be conducted in accordance with 7.6.

6.5 *Stability*—A chair shall not tip over when forces are applied in accordance with 7.7.

6.6 *Exposed Coil Springs*—Any exposed coil spring which is accessible to the occupant, having or capable of generating a space between coils of 0.210 in. (5.3 mm) or greater during static load testing in accordance with 7.6 shall be covered or otherwise designed to prevent injury from entrapment.

6.7 *Scissoring, Shearing, and Pinching*—A high chair, when in the manufacturer’s recommended use position, shall be designed and constructed so as to prevent injury to the occupant from any scissoring, shearing, or pinching when members or components rotate about a common axis or fastening point, slide, pivot, fold, or otherwise move relative to one another. Scissoring, shearing, or pinching that can cause

injury exists when the edges of the rigid parts admit a probe greater than 0.210 in. (5.3 mm) and less than 0.375 in. (9.5 mm) in diameter at any accessible point throughout the range of motion of such parts.

6.8 *Restraint System:*

6.8.1 A restraint system shall be provided to secure a child in the seated position in any of the manufacturer's recommended use positions.

6.8.1.1 The restraint system shall include both waist and crotch restraint designed such that the crotch restraint's use is mandatory when the restraint system is in use.

6.8.2 The restraint system and its closing means (for example, buckle) shall not break, separate, or permit removal of the CAMI test dummy from the high chair when tested in accordance with 7.8.

6.8.2.1 If during test in 7.8.5.1, the posterior of the test dummy is pulled past the front edge of the seat, the dummy shall be considered removed.

6.8.2.2 If during test in 7.8.5.3, the dummy with the force applied reaches a vertical position with the bottom of its feet touching or off the seat, the dummy shall be considered removed.

6.8.3 The waist restraint shall be capable of adjustment with a positive, self-locking mechanism that is capable, when locked, of withstanding the forces of tests in 7.8 without allowing restraint movement or slippage of more than 1 in. (25.4 mm).

6.8.4 A connecting means and adjustment means for the waist restraint shall be capable of usage independent of one another. The connecting means shall not be an adjustment means but may have one integrally attached to it.

6.8.5 The restraint system anchorages shall not separate from their attachment points when tested in accordance with 7.8.6.

6.8.6 Before shipment, the restraint system should be completely attached to the high chair in the location for use in at least one of the manufacturer's recommended use position(s) and in such a manner as to not become detached through normal use.

6.9 Completely bounded openings forward of the occupant shall comply with 6.9.1 and 6.9.2.

6.9.1 Completely Bounded Leg Openings forward of the occupant that include a Passive Crotch Restraint:

6.9.1.1 High chairs that have completely bounded leg openings forward of the occupant in any position shall also have a passive crotch restraint which complies with 6.9.1.2, 6.9.1.3, and 6.9.1.4 in all such positions.

6.9.1.2 There shall be no vertical gap between the passive crotch restraint and either the tray, front torso support, or seating surface that allows free passage of a 1.5-in. (38-mm) diameter by 3-in. (76-mm) long rod from one leg opening to the other.

6.9.1.3 Adjust the seat back to the most upright position and the passive crotch restraint to the position furthest from the seat back. The distance between the front surface of the noncompressed seat back and the passive crotch restraint shall be less

than 8.5 in. (216 mm) when measured horizontally 2.0 in. (50 mm) above the lowest point on the noncompressed seating surface.

6.9.1.4 The leg openings on each side of the passive crotch restraint shall not allow complete passage of the wedge block when tested in accordance with 7.11.

NOTE 6—A passive crotch restraint does not meet the restraint system requirement of 6.8.1.1, which requires a crotch restraint as part of the restraint system.

6.9.1.5 A passive crotch restraint, except a flexible passive crotch restraint addressed in 6.9.1.5(1) or a passive crotch restraint per 6.9.1.5(2), shall be permanently attached to the high chair or tray before shipment such that it cannot be removed without the use of a tool. Permanent attachment requires either attachment in a manufacturer's recommended use position or attachment to the high chair or tray, including attachment by a tether, in a manufacturer's recommended use position, that requires some repositioning or final assembly, or both, by the end user, and the assembly can be completed without removal of the tether. In the case of a tether, the total exposed length of flexible material when measured in accordance with 7.15 shall be less than 7.4 in. (188 mm).

(1) A flexible passive crotch restraint shall be permanently attached to the high chair in the manufacturer's recommended use position such that it cannot be removed without the use of a tool.

(2) A passive crotch restraint that comes with a high chair or sold separately as an accessory shall be exempt from the assembly requirements in 6.9.1.5 if the tray and passive crotch restraint comply with both 6.9.1.5(2)(a) and 6.9.1.5(2)(b).

(a) The passive crotch must be assembled to the chair in order to attach a tray to the high chair.

(b) The passive crotch restraint must be assembled to the high chair for the passive crotch restraint and tray to create completely bounded openings forward of the occupant.

6.9.2 Completely bounded openings forward of the occupant that do not include a passive crotch restraint:

6.9.2.1 Completely bounded openings between the tray and other structural elements that are located forward of the occupant shall not allow complete passage of the wedge block when tested in accordance with 7.11.

6.10 *Structural Integrity:*

6.10.1 During and upon completion of the testing in accordance with 7.10, the high chair shall comply with all of the following:

6.10.1.1 The high chair shall not exhibit an instantaneous change in the height of the occupant seating surface above the floor of more than 3 in. (75 mm) during one cycle of the weight drop. During and after a change in the height of the seating surface, the high chair must comply with the requirements for openings as defined in 6.6 and scissoring, shearing, and pinching as defined in 6.7.

6.10.1.2 There shall be no breakage of any structural component.

6.10.1.3 Latching or locking devices which prevent folding of the high chair shall remain engaged.

6.10.1.4 The angle of the occupant seating surface relative to the floor shall not change more than 10°.