TECHNICAL REPORT STANDARD TITLE PAGE

1. Report No.	2. Government Acces	sion No. 3. R	ecipient's Catalog N	p.	
4 Tule on Schule		5 P	aport Date		
	Ma	y 1989			
CRASH TEST OF TEXAS T20	6. P	6. Performing Organization Code			
7. Author's		8. P.	erforming Organizatia	n Report No.	
T.J. Hirsch, C.E. Buth, Wanda Darrell Kaderka	L.Campise, and	3	Research Re	port 1179-2F	
9. Performing Organization Name and Addre	5 5	10. 1	Work Unit No.		
Texas Transportation Institute		11.	Contract or Grant No.		
Texas A&M University		Stu	dy No. 2-5-88	/89-1179	
College Station, Texas 77843-	3135	13. 1	Type of Report and P	eriod Covered	
12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address	o 8 Dublio Trong		Septe		
Transportation Planning Divisi	S & FUDIC TRIE		Augus	st 1989	
P. O. Box 5051	0.1	14. 5	ponsoring Agency Co	de	
Austin, Texas 78763					
15. Supplementary Notes	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u> </u>			
Research performed in coope Research Study Title: Crash	ration with DOT Test of Modified	FHWA. C202 Bridge Rail			
16. Abstract			······································		
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Unclassified	Unclassified		48		

Form DOT F 1700.7 (8-69)

CRASH TEST OF TEXAS T202 BRIDGE RAIL

by

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> > and

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Research Report 1179-2

on

Research Study No. 2-5-88/89-1179 Crash Test of Modified C202 Bridge Rail

Sponsored by

Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation

in cooperation with

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

May 1989

Texas Transportation Institute Texas A&M University College Station, Texas

METRIC (SI*) CONVERSION FACTORS

APPROXIMATE CONVERSIONS TO SI UNITS APPROXIMATE CONVERSIONS TO SI UNITS Symbol When You Know **Multiply By** To Find Symbol Symbol When You Know **Multiply By** To Find Symbol LENGTH LENGTH **HUMMINI** 2 տո millimetres 0.039 inches in 2.54 millimetres In inches mm metres 3.28 m feet ft 0.3048 ft feet metres m m metres 1.09 yards yd 0.914 yd vards metres m km kilometres 0.621 miles mi miles 1.61 2 mi kilometres : km -**WINNING WINNING** 5 AREA AREA -0.0016 mm² millimetres squared square inches in² -11 m² 10.764 metres squared square feet ft2 in* square inches 645.2 millimetres squared mm² km² 0.39 0.0929 kilometres squared square miles mi² ft² square feet metres squared m³ ي ha hectores (10 000 m²) 2.53 acres ac yd² square yards 0.836 metres squared m² -2.59 mi² square miles kilometres squared km² 0.395 ac acres hectares ha MASS (weight) Ξ in and the second s 2 grams 0.0353 g ounces oz MASS (weight) 12 kg kilograms 2.205 pounds IЬ Ma megagrams (1 000 kg) 1.103 short tons Т Ξ ounces 28.35 arams oz g ib pounds 0.454 kilograms kg 9 VOLUME т short tons (2000 lb) 0.907 Mg megagrams mL millilitres 0.034 fluid ounces fl oz L litres 0.264 gallons gal VOLUME m³ metres cubed 35.315 cubic feet ft³ m, metres cubed 1.308 cubic yards yd3 fl oz fluid ounces 29.57 millilitres mL gailons 3.785 litres gal L **TEMPERATURE** (exact) ftª cubic feet 0.0328 metres cubed m3 yd3 cubic yards 0.0765 metres cubed m³ °C Celsius 9/5 (then Fahrenheit °F NOTE: Volumes greater than 1000 L shall be shown in m³. temperature add 32) temperature ۰F ٩F 32 98.6 212 - 40 40 a 80 120 160 2001 **TEMPERATURE** (exact) 140 37 - 20 20 -40 ℃ 60 100 0 80 °C °F Fahrenheit Celsius °C 5/9 (after These factors conform to the requirement of FHWA Order 5190.1A. temperature subtracting 32) temperature

* SI is the symbol for the International System of Measurements

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DISCLAIMER

The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the opinions, findings, and conclusions presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Federal Highway Administration. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

KEY WORDS

Bridge Railings, Traffic Barriers, Highway Safety, Cars

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research study was conducted under a cooperative program between the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (SDHPT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Dean Van Landuyt (Design Engineer, SDHPT) and John J. Panak (Bridge Design Engineer, SDHPT) were closely involved in all phases of this study.

IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT

As of the writing of this report, none of the findings or conclusions presented have been implemented.

ABSTRACT

The Texas Type T202 concrete bridge rail is an extremely popular bridge rail in the state of Texas. The T202 rail consists of a concrete beam element 10 in. (25.4 cm) wide by 14 in. (35.6 cm) deep, mounted 27 in. (68.6 cm) high on concrete posts located 10 ft (3 m) apart, center-to-center spacing. The concrete posts are 7 in. (19 cm) thick by 5 ft (1.5 m) long concrete walls with 5 ft (1.5 m) openings between them. The beam element provides flexibility thus minimizing the need for frequent joints to control cracking. Thus, the T202 rail can be placed in long continuous lengths (up to 200 ft or more), giving good structural continuity and strength.

In 1979 the Modified T202 bridge rail (the T202 with an aluminum rail on top), was successfully crash tested with an 1,800 lb Honda at 59.4 mph (95.6 km/hr) and a 15 degree angle. The aluminum rail on top never contacted the Honda and thus had no influence on the test results. In order to qualify the T202 bridge rail for use on federal aid highways, it had to be crash tested with a 4,500 lb (2,045 kg) car at 60 mph (96.6 km/hr) and a 25 degree angle.

This report briefly summarizes the results of the Honda test conducted in 1979 and also presents the results of the 4,500 lb (2,045 kg) car at 60 mph (96.6 km/hr) and a 25 degree angle.

The bridge rail contained and smoothly redirected the test vehicle. This test and the Honda test met all the safety evaluation criteria of NCHRP Report 230.

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INTRODUCTION

The Texas Type T202 concrete bridge rail is an extremely popular bridge rail in the state of Texas. The T202 rail, shown by Figure 1, consists of a concrete beam element 10 in. (25.4 cm) wide by 14 in. (35.6 cm) deep mounted 27 in. (68.6 cm) high on concrete posts located 10 ft (3 m) apart, center-to-center spacing. The concrete posts are 7 in. (19 cm) thick by 5 ft (1.5 m) long concrete walls with 5 ft (1.5 m) openings between them. The beam element provides flexibility (as compared to a solid concrete wall), thus minimizing the need for frequent joints (every 35 to 40 ft) to control cracking. Thus the T202 rail can be placed in long continuous lengths (up to 200 ft or more), giving good structural continuity and strength.

In 1979 the Modified T202 bridge rail, shown by Figure 2 (the T202 with an aluminum rail on top), was successfully crash tested with an 1,800 lb Honda at 59.4 mph (95.6 km/hr) and a 15 degree angle (1). This test corresponds to Test No. 12 of NCHRP 230 (5). The aluminum rail on top never contacted the Honda and thus had no influence on the test results. Therefore, in order to qualify the T202 bridge rail for use on federal aid highways, it had to be crash tested with a 4,500 lb (2,045 kg) car at 60 mph (96.6 km/hr) and a 25 degree angle (NCHRP Test No. 10).

This report will briefly summarize the results of the Honda test conducted in 1979 and also present the results of the Oldsmobile (4,500 lb - 2,045 kg) test conducted in 1989.



Figure 1. Traffic Rail Type T202.





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DESCRIPTION OF BRIDGE RAIL

Figure 3 shows a cross section of the T202 bridge rail and deck and Figure 4 shows a plan view of the 52.5 ft length of bridge rail and deck as installed for crash testing. The concrete bridge deck was a typical 8 in. thick slab reinforced with No. 5 steel bars at 4.75 in. center-to-center spacing at the top and No. 4 bars at 9.5 in. center-to-center spacing on the bottom. The installation consisted of six posts and five 10 ft spans.

Figure 5 shows the bridge rail and Oldsmobile before the crash test. The automobile impacted the bridge rail midspan between post Nos. 2 and 3.





თ



Post No. 2

Figure 5. T202 Bridge Rail and 1981 Oldsmobile before Test 1179-3.

CRASH TESTS

OLDSMOBILE CRASH TEST 1179-3

The 1981 Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight was directed into the bridge rail using a reverse tow and guidance system. Test inertia mass of the vehicle was 4,500 lb (2,043 kg). The height to the lower edge of the vehicle bumper was 11.0 in. (27.9 cm), and it was 19.0 in. (48.3 cm) to the top of the bumper. Other dimensions and information on the test vehicle are given in Figure 6. The vehicle was free-wheeling and unrestrained just prior to impact.

The speed of the vehicle at impact was 59.2 mi/h (95.3 km/h) and the angle of impact was 26.0 degrees. The vehicle impacted the bridge rail approximately 18 ft (5.5 m) from the end. The right front wheel made contact with the bridge rail shortly after impact. The vehicle began to redirect at 0.057 seconds. By 0.113 seconds the vehicle had deformed to the A-pillar and the windshield broke. At 0.219 seconds, the vehicle began to move parallel with the bridge rail, traveling at a speed of 44.5 mi/h (71.6 km/h). The rear of the vehicle impacted the bridge rail at 0.224 seconds. The vehicle lost contact with the bridge rail at 0.373 seconds traveling at 42.8 mi/h (68.9 km/h) and a 9.0 degree exit angle. The brakes were then applied and the vehicle yawed clockwise and subsequently came to rest 125 ft (30.5 m) from the point of impact. Figure 7 shows the bridge rail and vehicle after the test. Sequential photographs are shown in Appendix B.

As can be seen in Figure 8, there were tire marks on the face of the bridge rail for a distance of 11 ft (3.4 m). There were also marks on post 3 just downstream of impact. Hairline cracks were also in evidence at various locations in the immediate vicinity of the collision, along the top, front and rear side of the rail, and also in the bridge deck itself (see Figures 9 and 10).

The vehicle sustained severe damage to the right side, as shown by Figures 11 and 12. Maximum crush at the right front corner at bumper height was 14.0 in. (35.6 cm). The right A-arm, the tie rod, and the upper and lower ball joints were damaged and the subframe was bent. The instrument panel in the passenger compartment was bent as well as the floor pan and roof, and the windshield was broken. The right front rim was bent and the tire damaged. There was damage to the hood, grill, bumper, right front quarter panel, the right front and rear doors, the right rear quarter panel and the rear bumper.

Date:	Test No.:	1179-3	······································	VIN:	1G3AX69NXBM23	5227
Make: <u>Oldsmobile</u>	Model: <u>Ninty</u>	<u>Eight</u>	Year: _	1981	Odometer: _	00847
Tire Size: <u>75R-15</u>	Ply Rating:	4	Bias	Ply:	Belted:	Radial: <u>x</u>
				I	Tire Condit	tion: good
	1 I	Acceler	ometers			fair <u>x</u>
Λ		\searrow		• •	l	badly worn
			26 '	eight:	22" Vehicle Geo	ometry - inches
			126"		a <u>75.75</u>	b <u>43.5</u>
<u>¥</u>		\Box	he	eight:	21.75c <u>119.0</u>	d* <u>58.0</u>
-	<i>l</i> >				e <u>56.5</u>	f <u>219.0</u>
Tire dia < r	158.25"	calaromot	tors		g	h <u>52.2</u>
Wheel dia					i	j <u>31.5</u>
→ S n					k <u>19.75</u>	l <u>33.5</u>
j [m] i		Ð		1 k	g ^m <u>19.0</u>	n6_0
	h				• <u>11.0</u>	P <u>61.75</u>
e b e	≯ 		e >		r <u>27.5</u>	s <u>16.5</u>
ı ^۳	f	∇^{H_2}			Engine Type	e: <u>V8</u>
					Engine CID:	<u>350 diesel</u>
				-	Transmissio	n Type:
4-wheel weight	07 mf 1040	PN :00			Automatic	or Manual
	87 11 1240	2198	<u>g rr_</u>	984	FWD or	RWD or 4WD
Mass - pounds Curb	Test Ine	ertial	Gross St	tatic	Body Type:	<u>4 door</u>
M 2/0E		7			Steering Co Mechanism	lumn Collapse
M] <u>2405</u>		./			Behind	wheel units
M ₂ <u>1637</u>	197	3			Convolu	ted tube
M _T 4122	450	0		. ·	Embedde	d ball
Note any damage to veh	icle prior to te	st:			NUT COT Other e Unknown	lapsible nergy absorption
					Brakes:	
	· ·		·····	<u></u>	Front: d	isc_x_drum
*d = overall height of	vehicle				Rear: d	iscdrum <u>x</u> _

Figure 6. Test Vehicle Properties (Test 1179-3).



Figure 7. Bridge Rail and Vehicle after the Crash Test.



Figure 8. Post 3 of T202 Bridge Rail after Test 1179-3.



Post 2





Figure 9. Cracks in Bridge Rail at Posts 2 and 4.



Figure 10. Cracks in bridge deck at post 3.



Figure 11. Damage to Windshield and Right Front of Vehicle after Test 1179-3.



Figure 12. Damage to Right Front Wheel of Vehicle.

TEST RESULTS

Impact speed was 59.2 mi/h (95.3 km/h) and the angle of impact was 26.0 degrees. The vehicle exited the rail at 42.8 mi/h (68.9 km/h) and 9.0 degrees. NCHRP Report 230 describes occupant risk evaluation criteria and places limits on these for acceptable performance for tests conducted at 15 degree impact angles. These limits do not apply to tests conducted at 25 degree impact angles but were computed and reported for information only. Occupant impact velocity was 29.4 ft/s (9.0 m/s) in the longitudinal direction and 23.6 ft/s (7.2 m/s) in the lateral direction. The highest 0.010-second occupant ridedown accelerations were -5.8 g (longitudinal) and 5.9 g (lateral). These data and other pertinent information from the test are summarized in Figure 13. Vehicular angular displacements and vehicular accelerations versus time traces filtered with Class 180 filters are presented in Appendix C. These data were further analyzed to obtain 0.050-second average accelerations versus time. The maximum 0.050-second averages measured at the center of gravity were -11.8 g (longitudinal) and 11.0 g (lateral).

CONCLUSIONS

The bridge rail contained and smoothly redirected the test vehicle with minimal lateral movement of the bridge rail. There was evidence of slight cracking in the bridge rail and the bridge deck in the immediate vicinity of the collision. The vehicle remained upright and relatively stable during the collision. The vehicle trajectory at loss of contact indicates minimum intrusion into adjacent traffic lanes (exit angle 9 degrees). This test met all the safety evaluation criteria of NCHRP Report 230.



0.000 s



0.311 s





Impact Speed . . . 59.2 mi/h (95.3 km/h) Impact Angle . . . 26.0 degrees Speed at Parallel . 44.5 mi/h (71.6 km/h) Exit Speed 42.8 mi/h (68.9 km/h) Exit Trajectory . . 9.0 degrees Vehicle Accelerations (Max. 0.050-sec Avg) Longitudinal . . -11.8 g Lateral 11.0 g Occupant Impact Velocity Longitudinal . . 29.4 ft/s (9.0 m/s) Lateral 23.6 ft/s (7.2 m/s)Occupant Ridedown Accelerations Longitudinal . . -5.8 g Lateral 5.9 g

Figure 13. Summary of results for test 1179-3.

HONDA CRASH TEST 2230-4

Figure 14 presents a summary of the Honda crash test conducted in 1980 and reported in Research Report 230-3 (reference 1). The 1,800 lb (817 kg) Honda impacted the bridge rail at 59.4 mi/h (95.6 km/h) and a 15.0 degree angle. The impact point was at midspan between two posts. The vehicle exit speed was 43.4 mi/h and 6.5 degrees.

The safety evaluation guidelines of NCHRP Report 230 (see Appendix D) apply to this particular test since it would be Test No. 12 in the recommended minimum test matrix.

The summary of the crash test data presented in Figure 14 meets these requirements with only one exception--vehicle trajectory--Item I. This item says, "In tests where the vehicle is judged to be redirected into or stopped while in adjacent traffic lanes, vehicle speed change during test article collision should be less than 15 mph and the exit angle from the test article should be less than 60 percent of test impact angle, both measured at time of vehicle loss of contact with test device." The exit angle was 6.5 degrees which is less than the 9 degrees recommended and the change in speed of the vehicle was 16 mph which is 1 mph greater than the 15 mph recommended overall. This test 2230-4 is considered to meet these safety evaluation criteria.



Figure 14. Summary of results for test 2230-4.

SUMMARY and CONCLUSIONS

The basic 27 in. high Texas Type T202 concrete bridge traffic railing has now been crash tested in accordance with NCHRP 230 Tests No. 10 and No. 12, the recommended minimum test matrix required for Service Level 2. The bridge rail contained and smoothly redirected the test vehicle and has met the safety evaluation criteria of NCHRP 230.

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0.088 s 0.000 s

0.264 s



Test No	1179-2
Date	12/01/87
Test Installation	C2O2 Bridge Rail
	with C4 Steel Rail
Length of Installation	101 ft (31 m)
Vehicle	1979 Cadillac
Vehicle Weight	
Test Inertia	4,400 lb (1,998 kg)
Vehicle Damage Classification	
TAD	01RFQ6
CDC	01RYAS4

Impact S	peed	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	59.4	mi/h	(95.6	km/h)
Impact A	ingle	•	•	• 1	•	•	•	•	•	•	25.9	deg		
Exit Spe	ed.	•		•		•		. •	•	•	44.5	mi/h	(71.6	km/h)
Exit Ang	le.		•			•	•	•	•	•	2.0	deg		
Vehicle	Accel	er	at	io	ns	a	t	C.	G.					
(Max.	0.050)-s	ec	A	ivg)		•						
Longit	udina	1			•	•		•		•	-9.7	g		
Latera	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	+14.3	ğ		
Occupant	. Impa	ict	V	el	00	it	y							
Longit	udina	1	• 2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	23.9	ft/s	(7.3	m/s)
Latera	1		•								27.3	ft/s	(8.3	m/s)
Occupant	Ride	do	wn	A		el	er	rat	ic	ns		•	•	
Longit	udina	1	•		•	• •				•	-4.9	g		
Latera	1	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	-16.7	g		

Figure 17. Summary of results for test 1179-2.

APPENDIX A

Instrumentation and Data Analysis

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INSTRUMENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

The vehicle was equipped with triaxial accelerometers mounted near the <u>center-of-gravity to measure x, y and z components of acceleration</u>. In addition, yaw, pitch, and roll rates were measured by on-board instruments. The electronic signals were telemetered to a base station for recording on magnetic tape and for display on a real-time strip chart. Provision was made for transmission of calibration signals before and after the test, and an accurate time reference signal was simultaneously recorded with the data.

Contact switches on the bumper were actuated just prior to impact by wooden dowels to indicate the elapsed time over a known distance to provide a measurement of impact velocity. The initial contact also produced an "event" mark on the data record to establish the instant of impact. Data from the electronic transducers were digitized, using a microcomputer, for analysis and evaluation of performance.

Analog data obtained from the electronic transducers were digitized and then analyzed on a microcomputer using three computer programs: DIGITIZE, VEHICLE, AND PLOTANGLE.

The DIGITIZE program uses digitized data from vehicle-mounted linear accelerometers to compute occupant/compartment impact velocities, time of occupant/compartment impact after vehicle impact, final occupant displacement, highest 0.010-second average of vehicle acceleration after occupant/compartment impact, and time of highest 0.010-second average. The DIGITIZE program also calculates a vehicle impact velocity and the change in vehicle velocity at the end of a given impulse period.

The VEHICLE program also uses digitized data from vehicle-mounted linear accelerometers to compute vehicle accelerations, areas enclosed by acceleration-time curves, changes in velocity, changes in momentum, instantaneous

A-1

forces, average forces, and maximum average accelerations over 0.050-second intervals in each of three directions. The VEHICLE program also plots acceleration versus time curves for the longitudinal, lateral, and vertical directions.

The PLOTANGLE program uses the digitized data from the yaw, pitch, and roll rate charts to compute angular displacement in degrees at 0.001-second intervals and then instructs a plotter to draw a reproducible plot: yaw, pitch, and roll versus time. It should be noted that these angular displacements are sequence dependent, with the sequence being yaw-pitch-roll for the data presented herein. These displacements are in reference to the vehicle-fixed coordinate system with the initial position and orientation of the vehicle-fixed coordinate system being that which existed at initial impact.

Still photography, real-time cine, and video were used to record conditions of the test vehicle and bridge rail before and after the test. Video and real-time and high-speed cine were used to document the test. One high-speed camera was placed to have a field of view parallel to and aligned with the bridge rail at the downstream end; one was placed over the bridge rail to have a field of view perpendicular to the ground; another was placed perpendicular to the front of the bridge rail; and one was placed behind the bridge rail. The films from these cameras were used to observe phenomena occurring during collision and obtain time-event, displacement and angular data.

A-2

APPENDIX B

Sequential Photographs of Test 1179-3



0.000 s





0.050 s



· · .



0.100 s





0.149 s

Figure B-1. Sequential photographs for test 1179-3.





0.199 s





0.249 s





0.311 s



0.373 s

Figure B-1. Sequential photographs for test 1179-3 (continued).

APPENDIX C

Electronic Accelerometer, Roll, Pitch, and Yaw Data Test 1179-3



Figure C-1. Vehicle angular displacements for test 1179-3.

Class 180 Filter-Near Center-of-gravity 50 40 Maximum 0.050-second Average = -11.8 g 30 · LONGITUDINAL ACCELERATION (G's) 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 TIME (SECONDS)

TEST 1179-3

Figure C-2. Vehicle longitudinal accelerometer trace for test 1179-3 (near center-of-gravity).

TEST 1179-3



Figure C-3. Vehicle lateral accelerometer trace for test 1179-3 (near center-of-gravity).



TEST 1179-3

Figure C-8. Vehicle longitudinal accelerometer trace for test 1179-3 (right rear of vehicle).



Figure C-9. Vehicle lateral accelerometer trace for test 1179-3 (right rear of vehicle).



Figure C-10. Vehicle vertical accelerometer trace for test 1179-3 (right rear of vehicle).



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APPENDIX D

Bridge Rail Safety Evaluation Guidelines

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 $\mathcal{L} = \{ \boldsymbol{\theta}_{i} \mid i_{i} \in \mathcal{L} \}$

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NCHRP 230 TABLE 6. SAFETY EVALUATION OUIDELINES

Evaluation Factors	Evaluation Criteria	Applicable to Minimum Matrix Test Conditions (see Table 3)
Structural Adequacy	A Test article shall smoothly redirect the vehicle; the vehicle shall not penetrate or go over the installation although con- trolled lateral deflection of the test article is accentable.	10, 11, 12, 30, 40
	D. The test article shall readily activate in a predictable man- ner by breaking away or yielding.	60, 61, 62, 63
	C. Acceptable test article performance may be by redirection, controlled penetration, or controlled stopping of the vehicle	41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54
· .	D) Detached elements, fragments or other debris from the test settle shall not penetrate or show potential for penetrating the passenger compartment or present undue hazard to other traffic.	All
Occupant Risk	(E). The vehicle shall remain upright during and after collision although moderate roll, pitching and yawing are accept- able. Integrity of the passenger compariment must be multiplied with steentiality no deformation or intrusion	Âİİ
	F. Impact velocity of hypothetical front scat passenger against vehicle interior, calculated from vehicle accelerations and 24 in. (0.61m) forward and 12 in. (0.30m) lateral displace- ments, shall be less than:	11, 12, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 54, 60, 61, 62, 63
	Occupant Impact Velocity-fps Longitudinal Lateral 40/i 30/F3	
	to Instant of hypothetical passenger impact should be less than: Occupant Ridedown Accelerations—g's	
- -	$\frac{1.ongitudinal}{20/F_3} \qquad \frac{1.ateral}{20/F_4}$ where F ₁ , F ₂ , F ₃ , and F ₄ are appropriate acceptance factors (see Table 8. Chapter 4 for supersted values)	
	O. (Supplementary) Anthropometric dummy responses should be less than those specified by FAIVSS 208, i.e., resultant chest acceleration of 60g, Head Injury Criteria of 1000, and femur force of 2250 lb (10 kN) and by FMVSS 214, i.e., resultant chest acceleration of 60 g, Head Injury Crite-	11, 12, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 54, 60, 61, 62, 63
Vehicle Trajectory	ria of 1000 and occupant lateral impact velocity of 30 fps (9.1 m/s). (11.)* After collision, the vehicle trajectory and final stopping po-	
	sition shall intrude a minimum distance, if at all, into adja- cent traffic lanes.	
	(1.) ^o In test where the vehicle is judged to be redirected into or stopped while in adjacent traffic lanes, vehicle speed change during test article collision should be less than 15 mph and the exit angle from the test article should be less than 60 percent of test inpact angle, both measured at time	10, 13, 12, 30, 40, 42, 44, \$3
	of vehicle loss of contact with test device. J. Vehicle trajectory behind the test article is acceptable.	41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 53, 54, 60, 61, 62, 63