



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 18, 2011

In Reply Refer To:
HSST/ CC-75D

Mr. Gerrit A. Dyke, P.E.
Vice President of Engineering and R & D
Barrier Systems, Inc.
3333 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 800
Vacaville, CA 95688

Dear Mr. Dyke:

This letter is in response to your request for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acceptance of a roadside safety system for use on the National Highway System (NHS).

Name of system:	Universal TAU-IIR Crash Cushion Systems
Type of system:	Redirecting Crash Cushion/Impact Attenuator
Test Level:	NCHRP Report 350 Test Levels 2 and 3 (TL-2 and TL-3)
Testing conducted by:	Safe Technologies, Inc.
Date of request:	December 30, 2010
Date initially acknowledged:	January 4, 2011
Task Force 13 designator:	SCT 01c

You requested that we find this system, in its various configurations, acceptable for use on the NHS under the provisions of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350.

Requirements

Roadside safety devices should meet the guidelines contained in NCHRP Report 350 if tested prior to December 31, 2010. Devices tested after that date must follow the guidelines contained in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Official's (AASHTO) Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH). The FHWA memorandum "ACTION: Identifying Acceptable Highway Safety Features" of July 24, 1997, provides further guidance on crash testing requirements of roadside features, including crash cushions.

Decision

The various configurations of the TAU-IIR crash cushion shown in Enclosure 1 are acceptable for use on the NHS at the impact speeds listed.

Description

The TAU-IIR crash cushion uses the same framework as that used in the TAU-II crash cushion configurations that were accepted by the FHWA in letters CC-75 through CC-75C. Specifically, the structural diaphragms, Thrie-beam side panels, slider bolts, backstop assemblies, cables, and anchoring systems are the same as those originally accepted for use on the NHS. The TAU-IIR design uses different energy absorbing cartridges that can be partially self-restoring after some impacts, thereby reducing the need for immediate repairs. These cartridges are made from proprietary hyperelastic (HE) polyurethane and are identified as Type 1, 2, or 3 depending on the wall thickness of the cylindrical elements. Dimensions for each type are shown in Enclosure 2. A typical TL-3 installation is shown in Enclosure 3.

Crash Testing

Since only the energy-absorbing elements were changed from the TAU-II design, it was mutually agreed that only the end-on tests were needed to verify acceptable crash performance. Tests were conducted on specific configurations to determine the occupant risk factors for narrow parallel designs, moderately flared designs and wide designs for TL-2 and TL-3 impact speeds. One test was run with an impact speed of 110 km/h (70 mph). Using finite element analysis (FEA) and the results of the full-scale tests that were run, a report prepared by Roadsafe LLC for Barrier Systems, Inc. concluded that the various configurations shown in Enclosure 1 were likely to produce acceptable compliance with Report 350 evaluation criteria for end-on impacts. The following summaries describe the tests that were conducted by Safe Technologies, Inc. on specific configurations of the TAU-IIR:

Narrow (parallel) at TL-2

NCHRP Report 350 tests 2-30 and 2-31 were conducted on a narrow unit at 70 km/h (42 mph) to assess the capacity and occupant risk factors associated with a lower speed impact by both test vehicles. For test 2-30, the unit was anchored to an AC base; in test 3-31, a concrete base was used. The TAU-IIR design for both tests consisted of a 4-bay unit with one Type 3 element nose piece, two Type 1 elements in bay 1, and two Type 2 elements in both bays 3 and 4. Enclosures 3 and 4 show the crash cushion design and the test summaries for the small car and the pickup truck, respectively.

Narrow (parallel) at TL-3

Tests 3-31 and 3-32 were conducted on a narrow, parallel-sided 8-bay design. The tested configuration consisted of a Type 3 element nose piece, three bays containing two Type 1 elements per bay, and five bays containing two Type 2 elements per bay. Enclosure 5 shows the tested crash cushion design and the summary sheets for both tests. This tested TL-3 configuration does not use any Type 3 elements in its interior bays.

Narrow (parallel) at TL-3

Test 3-30 was conducted on a narrow, parallel-sided crash cushion to determine its crashworthiness at an impact speed of 110 km/h (70 mph). The tested configuration was a 10-bay unit, consisting of a Type 3 nose piece, three bays containing two Type 1 elements per bay, four bays containing two Type 3 elements per bay, and three bays containing two Type 2 elements per bay. Enclosure 6 shows the tested design and the crash test summary sheet.

Flared at TL-3

Test 3-31 was conducted to verify the crashworthiness of a flared side-panel layout. The TAU-IIR configuration tested was a seven bay design consisting of a Type 3 nose piece, three bays containing two Type 1 elements per bay, one bay containing two Type 2 elements, and three bays containing four Type 2 elements per bay. Enclosure 7 shows the tested design and the crash test summary sheet.

Wide (flared) at TL-3

Tests 3-30 and 3-31 were conducted on a wide-flared unit. The tested design was a 7-bay unit with a Type 3 nose piece, three bays containing two Type 1 elements per bay and four bays containing four type2 elements per bay. Enclosure 8 shows the tested design and the crash test summary sheet.

Findings

Based on our review of the information you submitted, the TAU-IIR designs described above and detailed in the enclosed drawings are acceptable for use on the NHS under the range of conditions tested, when such use is acceptable to a highway agency. In addition, any of the configurations depicted in Enclosure 1 are also acceptable for use on the NHS. The five TAU-IIR configurations that were crash-tested were used to validate the FEA model from which the "family" of designs was created. In comparing the model results to the full-scale crash tests, it was seen that the model predictions were almost always conservative (i.e., they over-predicted the occupant risk factors). Consequently, the non-tested TAU-IIR configurations may be used with confidence that they will perform acceptably under the impact speeds listed.

Transportation agencies specifying the 10-bay 110 km/h (70 mph) design should be advised that this unit met all NCHRP Report 350 evaluation criteria only for a head-on impact with the 2000P pickup truck at that speed. The remaining high-speed configurations were developed through analysis and should be equally acceptable for the head-on crash with the pickup truck. However, no assumption should be made that the remaining Report 350 tests for a crash cushion would meet all appropriate evaluation criteria at a 110 km/h (70 mph) impact speed. There is no federal requirement to specify crash cushions that exceed TL-3 capacity.

Please note the following standard provisions that apply to FHWA letters of acceptance:

- This letter includes an AASHTO/ARTBA/AGC Task Force 13 designation that should be used when drafting new or revised Task Force 13 drawings.
- This acceptance is limited to the crashworthiness characteristics of the systems and does not cover their structural features, or conformity with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Any changes that may adversely influence the crashworthiness of the system will require a new acceptance letter.
- Should the FHWA discover that the qualification testing was flawed, that in-service performance reveals unacceptable safety problems, or that the system being marketed is significantly different from the version that was crash tested, we reserve the right to modify or revoke our acceptance.
- You will be expected to supply potential users with sufficient information on design and installation requirements to ensure proper performance.

- You will be expected to certify to potential users that the hardware furnished has essentially the same chemistry, mechanical properties, and geometry as that submitted for acceptance, and that it will meet the crashworthiness requirements of the FHWA and NCHRP Report 350.
- To prevent misunderstanding by others, this letter of acceptance is designated as number CC-75D and shall not be reproduced except in full. This letter and the test documentation upon which it is based are public information. All such letters and documentation may be reviewed at our office upon request.
- The Universal TAU-IIR family of crash cushions are patented products and considered proprietary. If proprietary devices are specified by a highway agency for use on Federal-aid projects, except exempt, non-NHS projects, (a) they must be supplied through competitive bidding with equally suitable unpatented items; (b) the highway agency must certify that they are essential for synchronization with the existing highway facilities or that no equally suitable alternative exists; or (c) they must be used for research or for a distinctive type of construction on relatively short sections of road for experimental purposes. Our regulations concerning proprietary products are contained in Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 635.411.
- This acceptance letter shall not be construed as authorization or consent by the FHWA to use, manufacture, or sell any patented system for which the applicant is not the patent holder. The acceptance letter is limited to the crashworthiness characteristics of the candidate system, and the FHWA is neither prepared nor required to become involved in issues concerning patent law. Patent issues, if any, are to be resolved by the applicant.

Sincerely yours,



Michael S. Griffith
Director, Office of Safety Technologies
Office of Safety

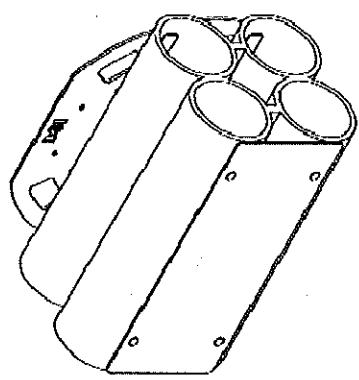
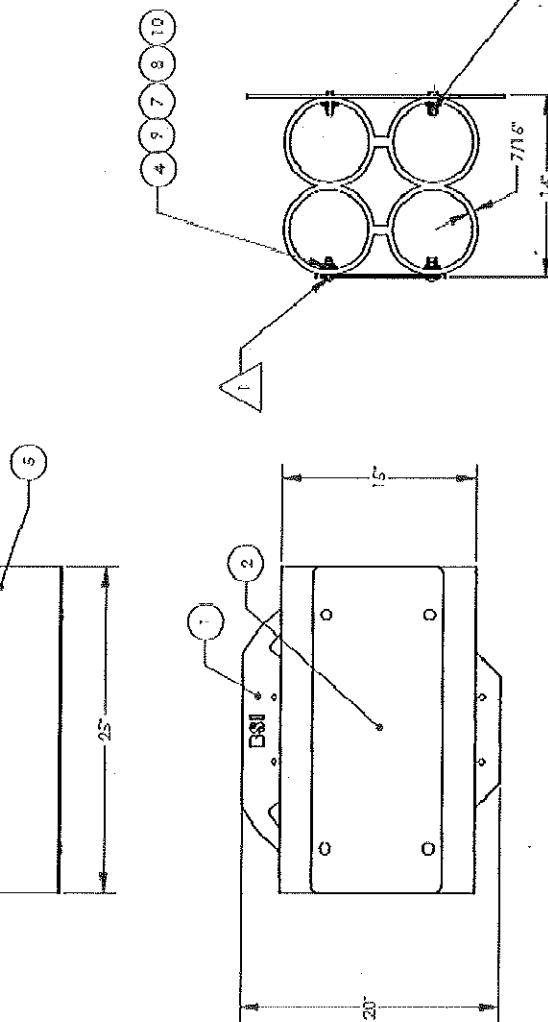
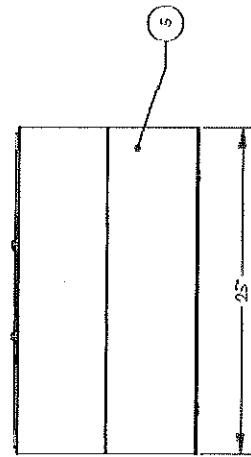
Enclosures

Enclosure 1

NOTES:

1. ALTERNATE BOLT PATTERN TOP POSITION IN BAY
2. ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT MATERIAL: CE7620 CAST URETHANE-FORMULATION

No.	QTY	DESCRIPTION	DRAWING REFERENCE	REF.
1	1	ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT, TOP	BSI-1012069-US	
2	1	FASTENERS, BOLTS, 1/4-20 X 1/2"	BSI-1012069-US	
3	1	FASTENERS, WASHERS, 1/4-20 X 1/2"	BSI-1012069-US	
4	1	FASTENERS, CLEVIS, 1/4-20 X 1/2"	BSI-1012069-US	
5	1	ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT, TOP	BSI-1012069-US	
6	1	SCREW, 1/4-20 X 1/2" SS, SD, PHD	BSI-1012069-US	
7	1	SCREW, 1/4-20 X 1/2" SS, CS, GR, HCS	BSI-1012069-US	
8	1	SCREW, 1/4-20 X 1/2" SS, CS, GR, HCS	BSI-1012069-US	
9	1	SCREW, 1/4-20 X 1/2" SS, CS, GR, HCS	BSI-1012069-US	
10	1	SCREW, 1/4-20 X 1/2" SS, CS, GR, HCS	BSI-1012069-US	

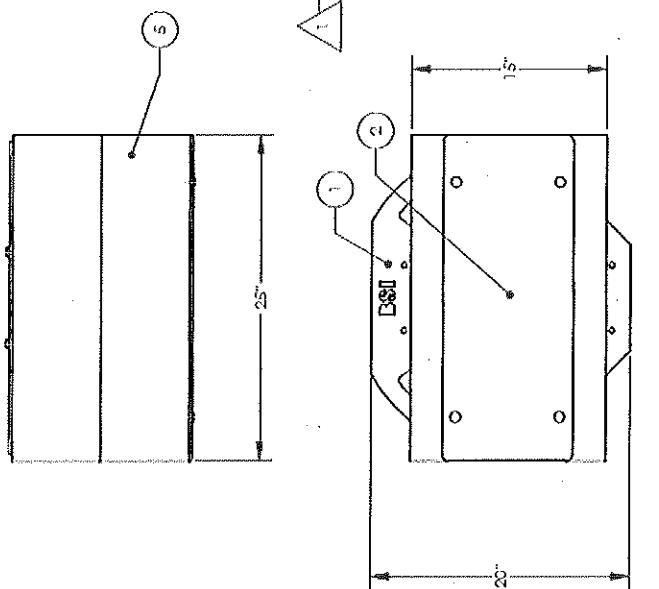


EXO BLASTER SYSTEM INC. 1000 WOODWARD AVENUE DETROIT, MI 48226-3000 TOLL FREE 1-800-243-0000 FAX: 313-227-1000 E-MAIL: info@exoblastersystem.com		2000 UNIVERSAL TAURUS SYSTEM EXO BLASTER SYSTEM INC. www.exoblastersystem.com	
UNIVERSAL TAURUS SYSTEM, TYPE-1			
ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT ASSY.			
PROJ. NO.	REV.	ECN#	DATE
B	1	0	12/16/10
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING			

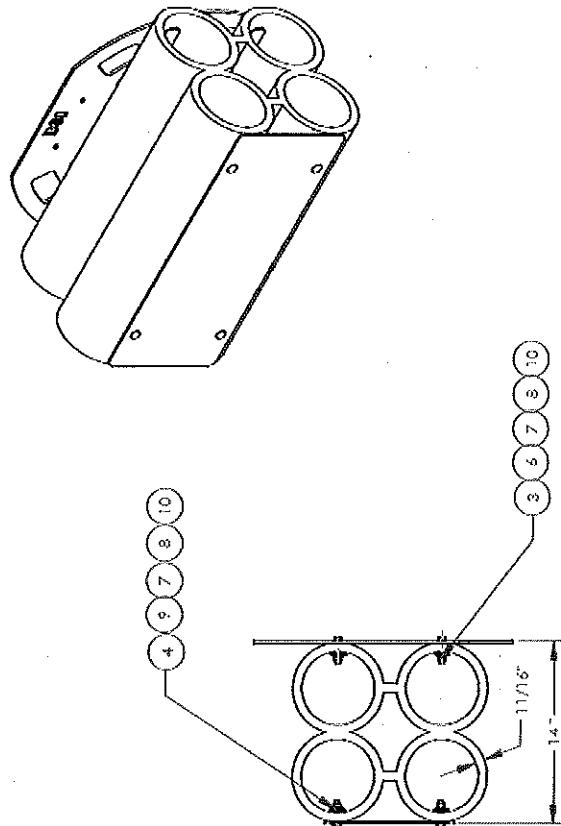
Enclosure 2 (1 of 3)

NOTES:

1. ALTERNATE BOLT PATTERN TOP/BOTTOM BASED ON POSITION IN BAY
2. ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT MATERIAL CE-762D CASTURETHANE-FORMULATION



LINE	QTY.	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN BY
1	1	ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT BACK PLATE	EACH
2	1	TAU-IIR EAC FACE PLATE	EACH
3	1	BATTEN LINE	EACH
4	1	REINFORCING CLOTH	EACH
5	1	ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT FIBER	EACH
6	4	C-SHAPED TORSION SPRINGS FOR PLATE	EACH
7	4	WIRE TIES FOR TORSION SPRINGS	EACH
8	1	VERTICAL BATTEN: 1st	EACH
9	1	VERTICAL BATTEN: 2nd	EACH
10	1	VERTICAL BATTEN: 3rd	EACH
		VERTICAL BATTEN: 4th	EACH



DRAWING NUMBER:		TITLE:		SCALE:					
		UNIVERSAL TAU-IIR SYSTEM		1:6					
ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT ASSY. TYPE-2									
http://www.dwgfactory.com									
APPROVALS									
DRAWN BY: S. DENNIS DRAWN DATE: 12/16/10 APPROV'D BY: G. DYE PE APPROV'D DATE: 12/16/10									
REV:		ECN#:	DATE:	Sheet: 1 OF 1					
B		BSI-1012070-US	0						

Enclosure 2 (2 of 3)

NOTES:

1. ALTERNATE BOLT PATTERN TOP/BOTTOM BASED ON POSITION IN BAY
2. ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT MATERIAL: CE7622 CAST-URETHANE-FORMULATION

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	AMOUNT
1	ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT	PCU	1
2	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
3	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
4	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
5	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
6	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
7	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
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9	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
10	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12

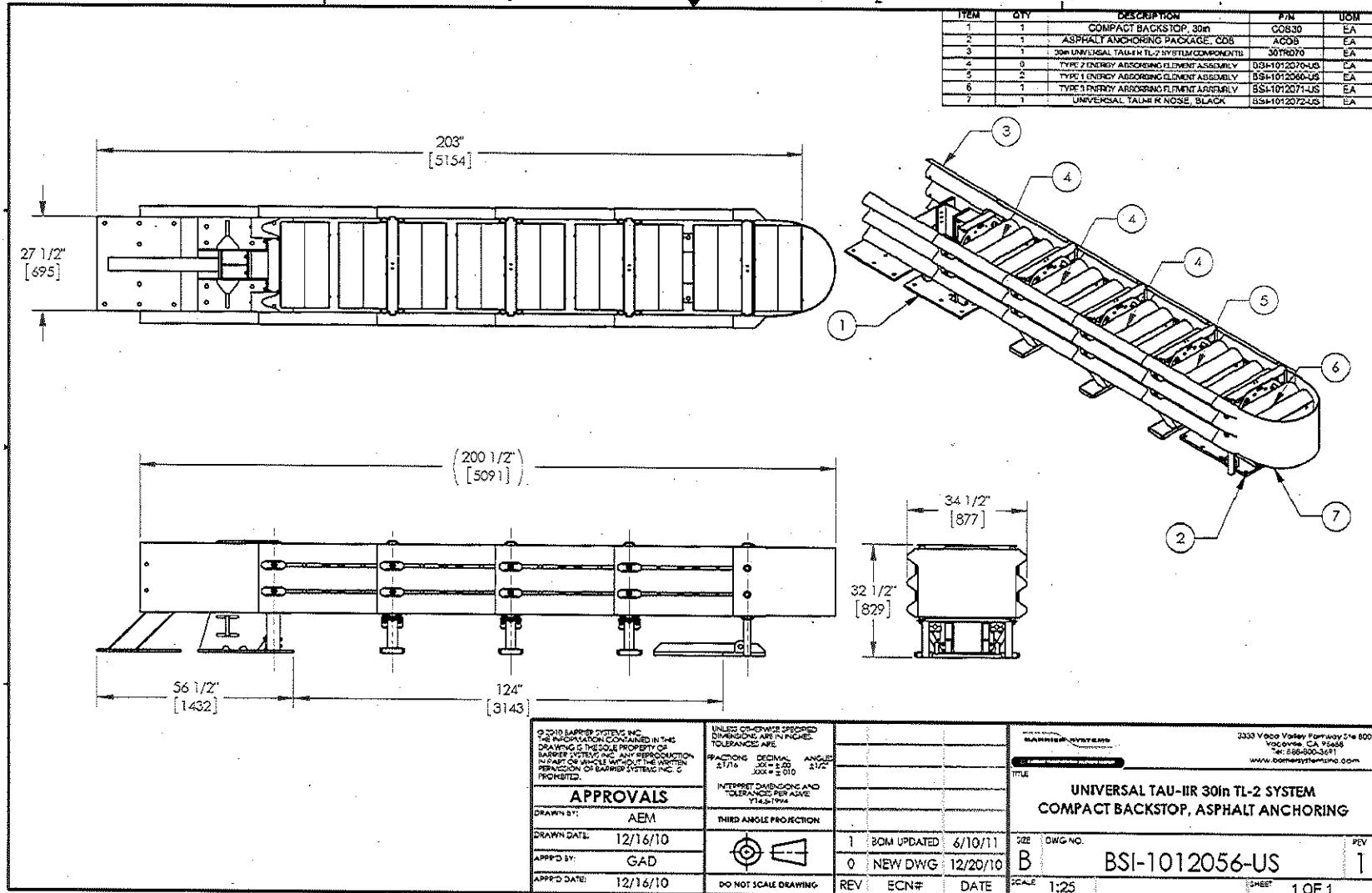
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	AMOUNT
1	INTERMEDIATE PLATE	PCU	1
2	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
3	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
4	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
5	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
6	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
7	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
8	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
9	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12
10	SCREWS, M6X16	PCU	12

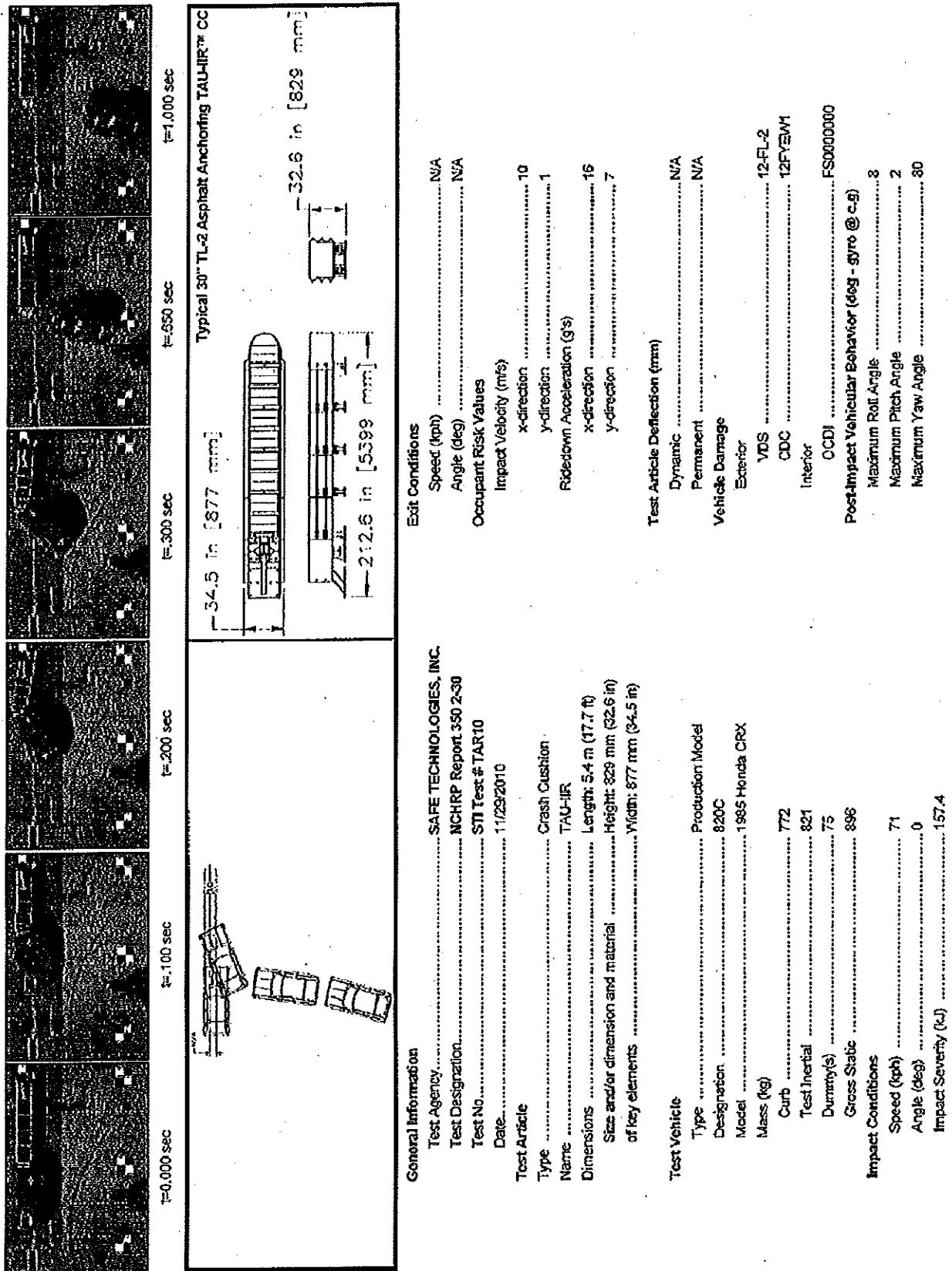
**UNIVERSAL TAU-NIR SYSTEM, TYPE 3
ENERGY ABSORBING ELEMENT ASSY.**

APPROVALS	REVIEWER	DATE	ECN#	REV
2. DENVIC	12/10/10	B	12/10/10	0
G. DYE PE	12/10/10		12/10/10	
APPRAISER	12/10/10		12/10/10	

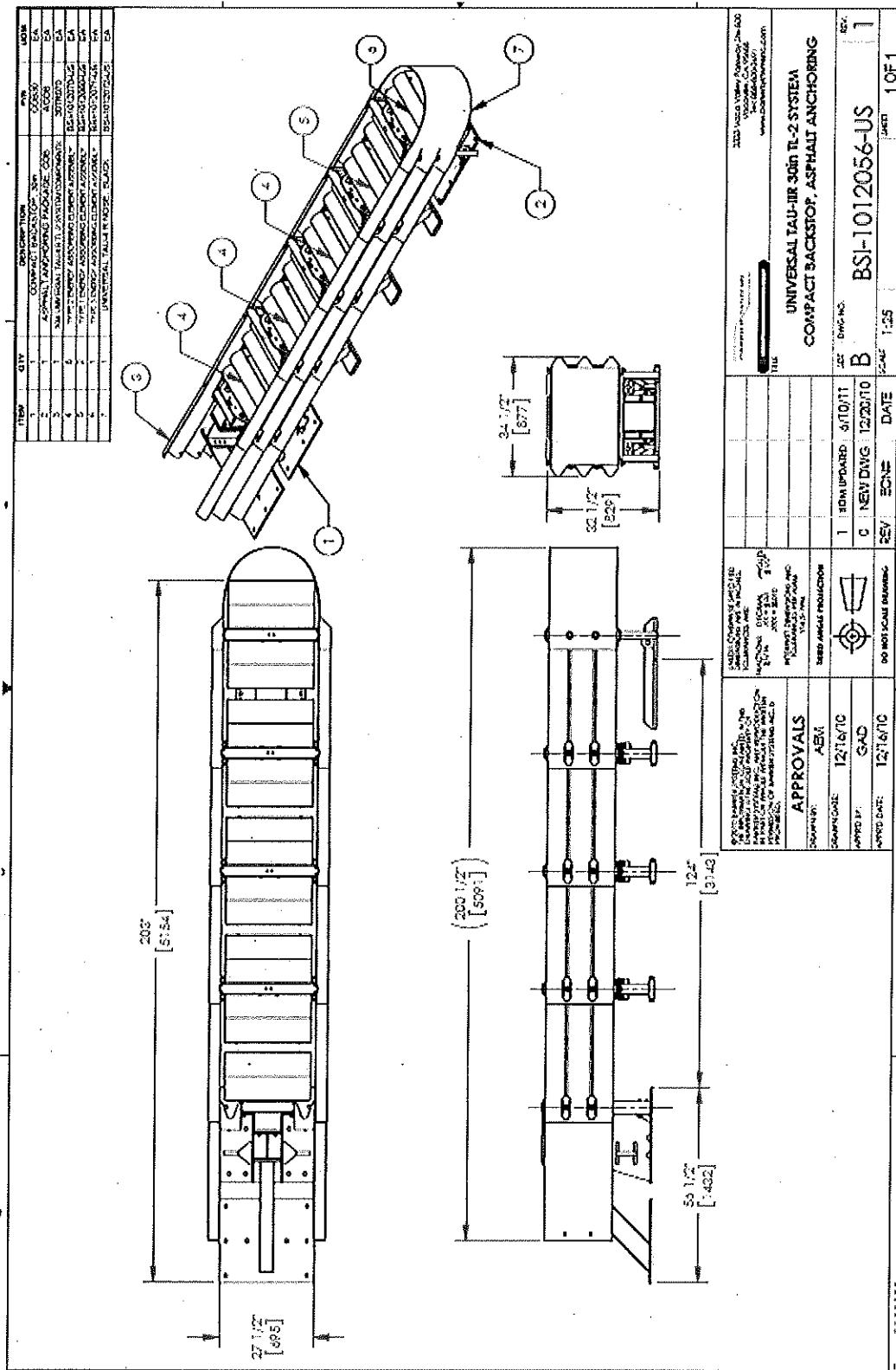
Enclosure 2 (3 of 3)

Enclosure 3 (1 of 2)

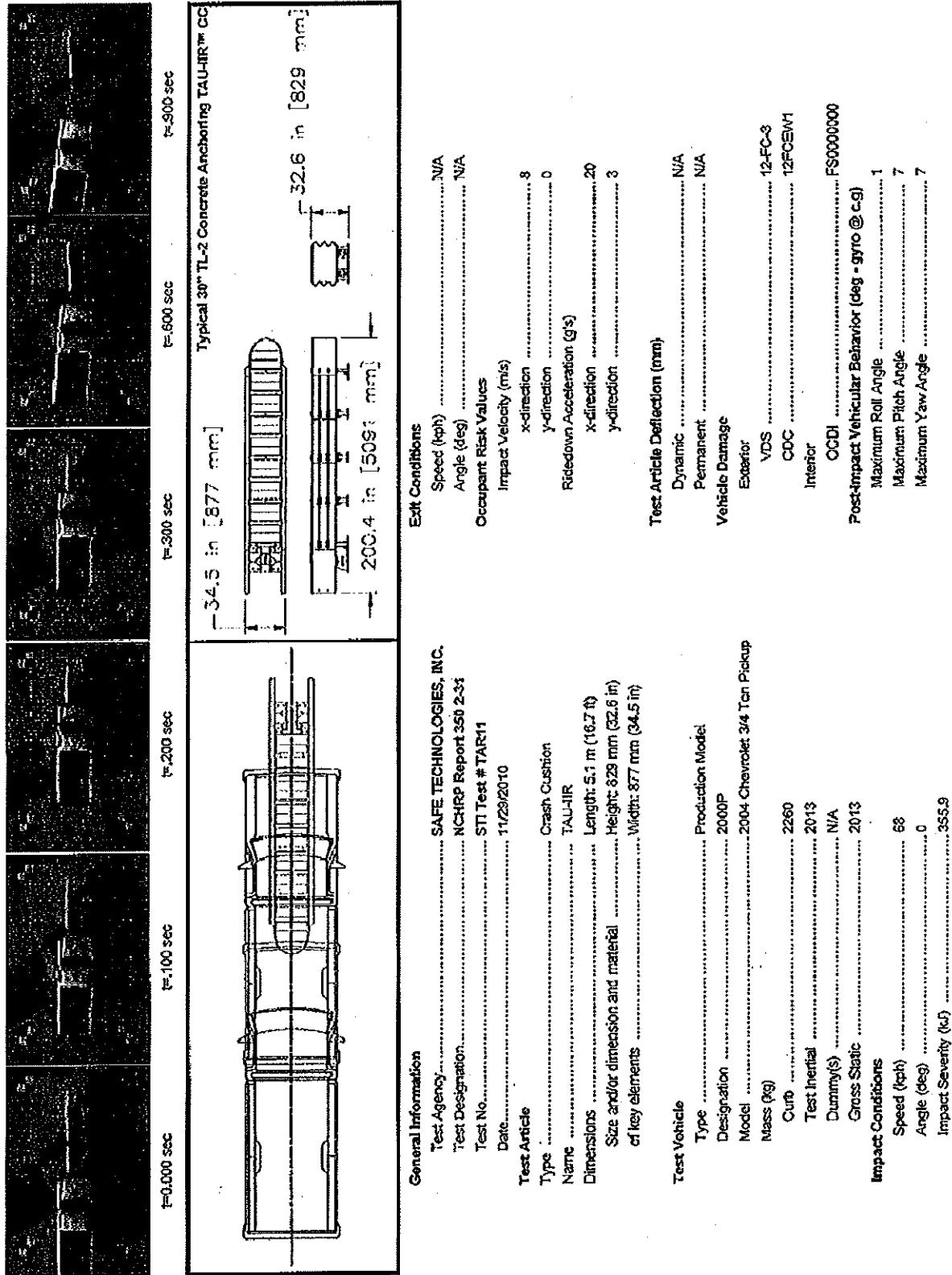




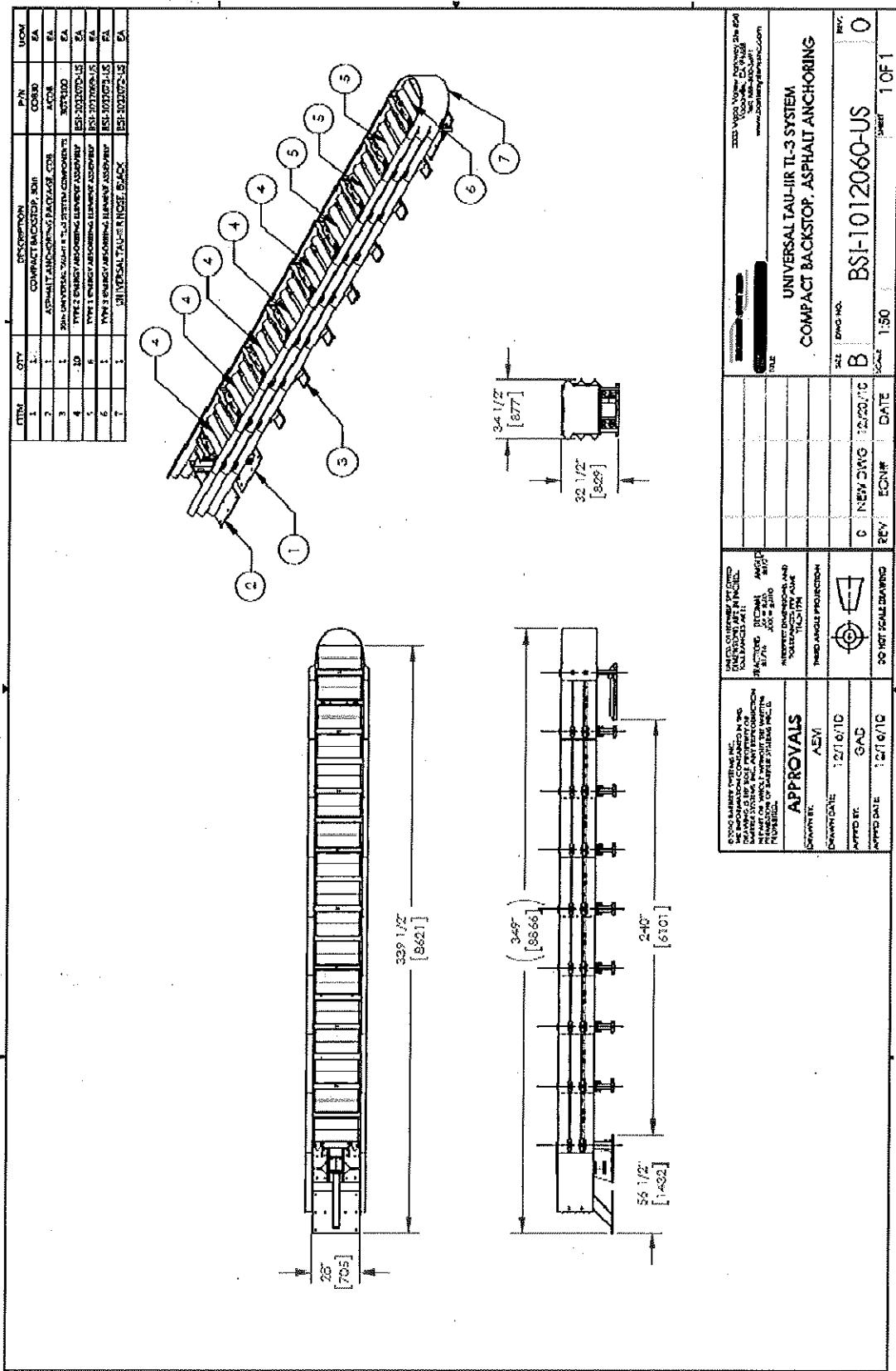
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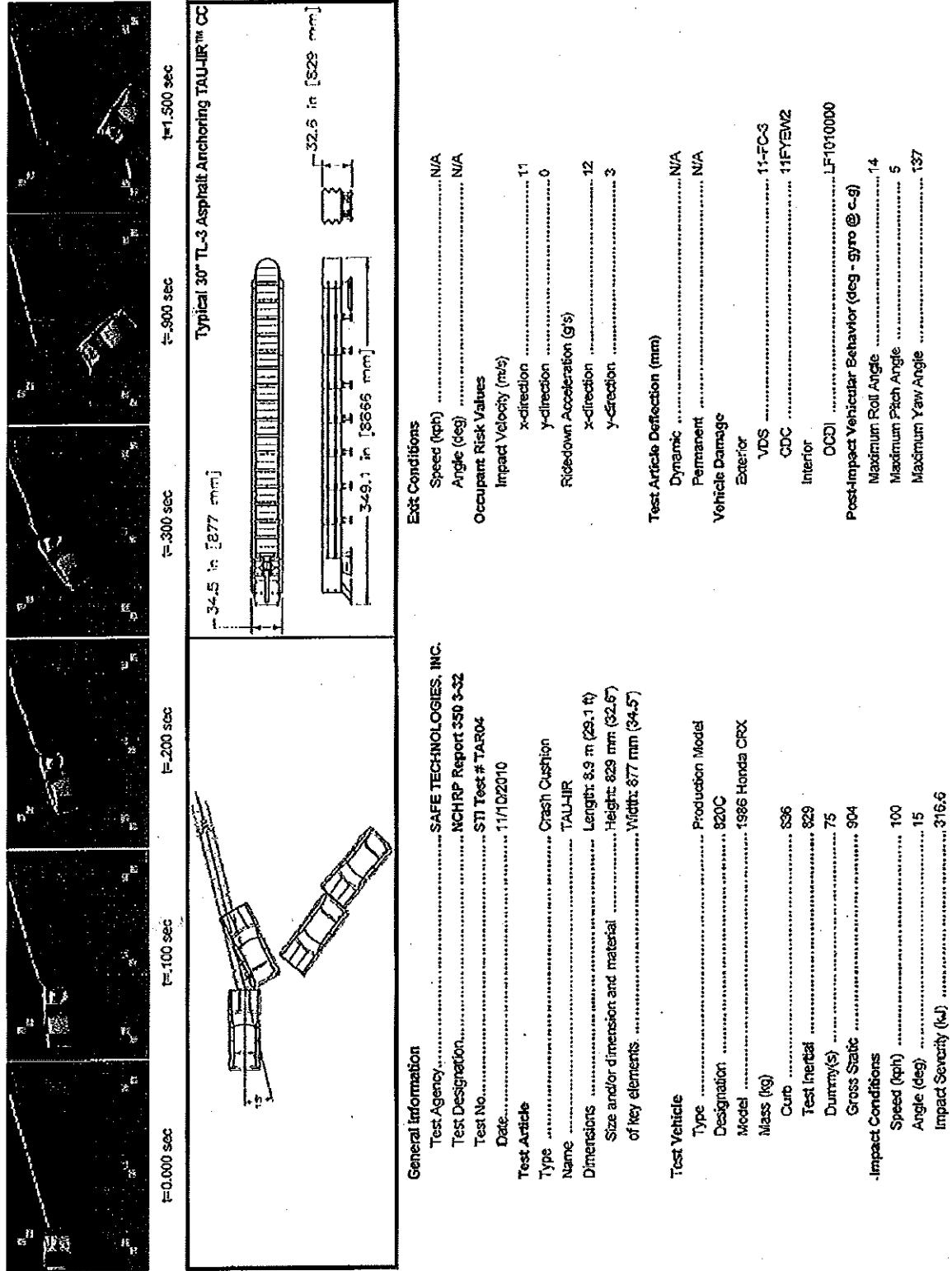
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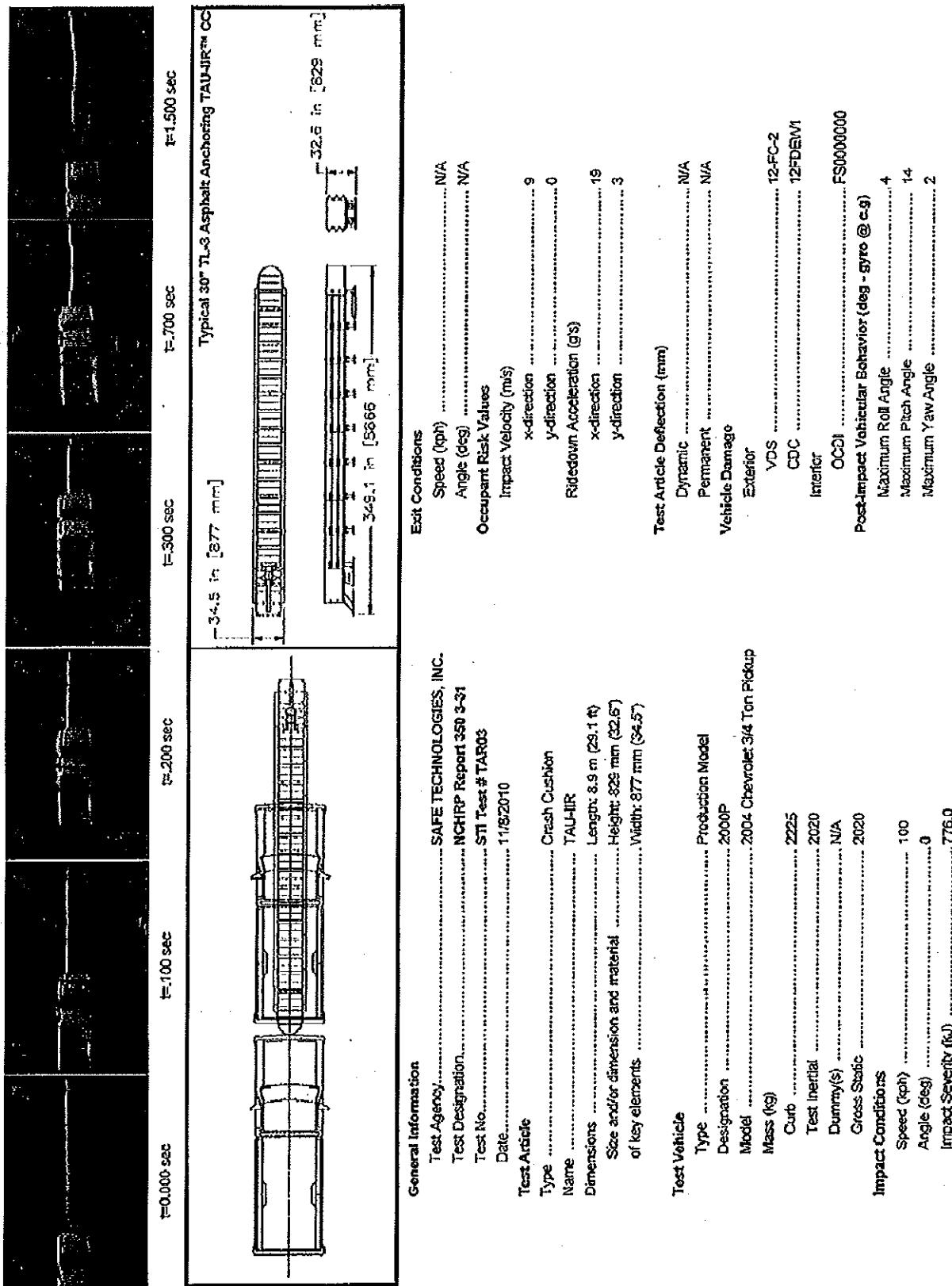
Enclosure 4 (2 of 2)



Enclosure 5 (1 of 3)

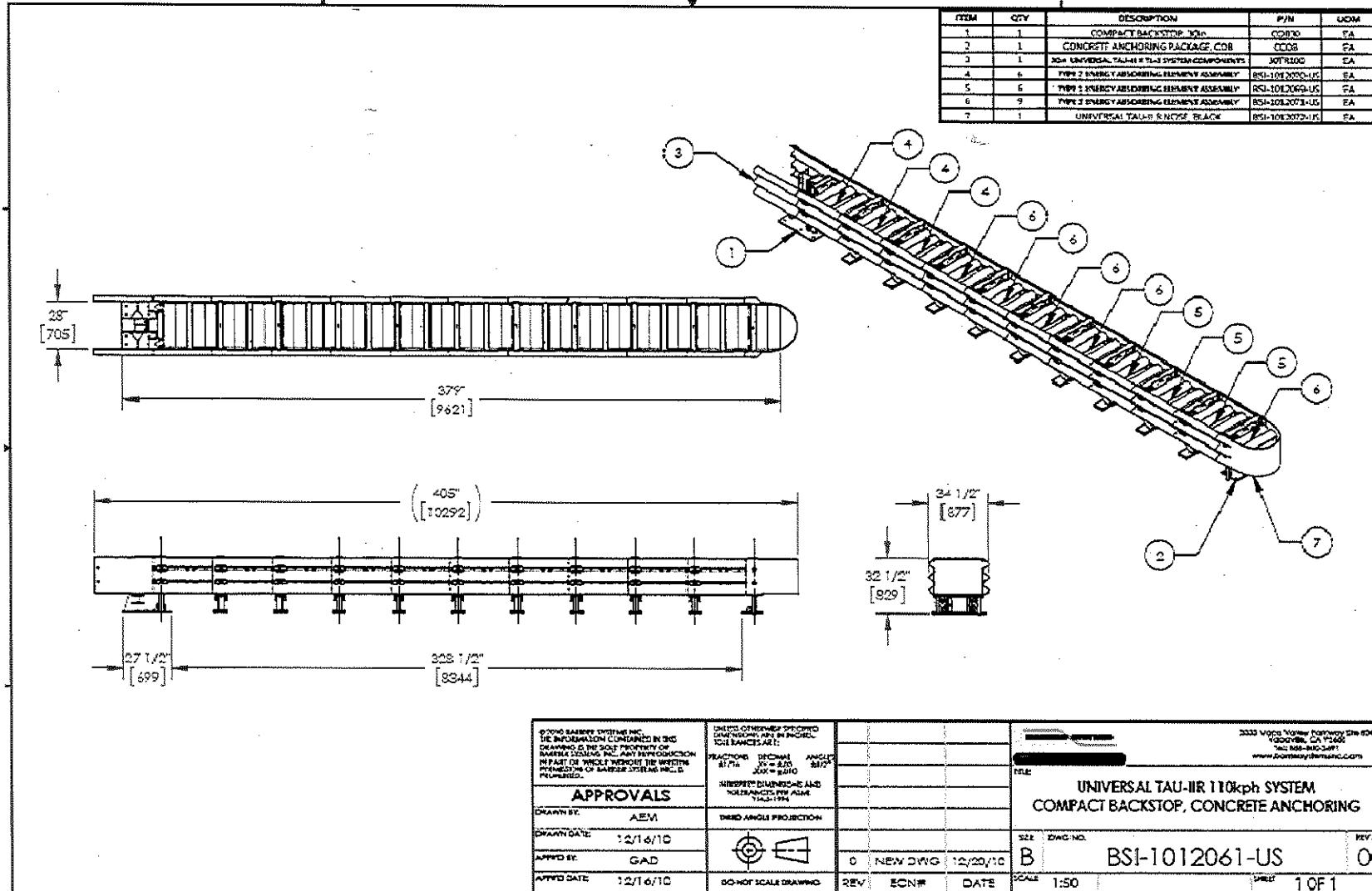


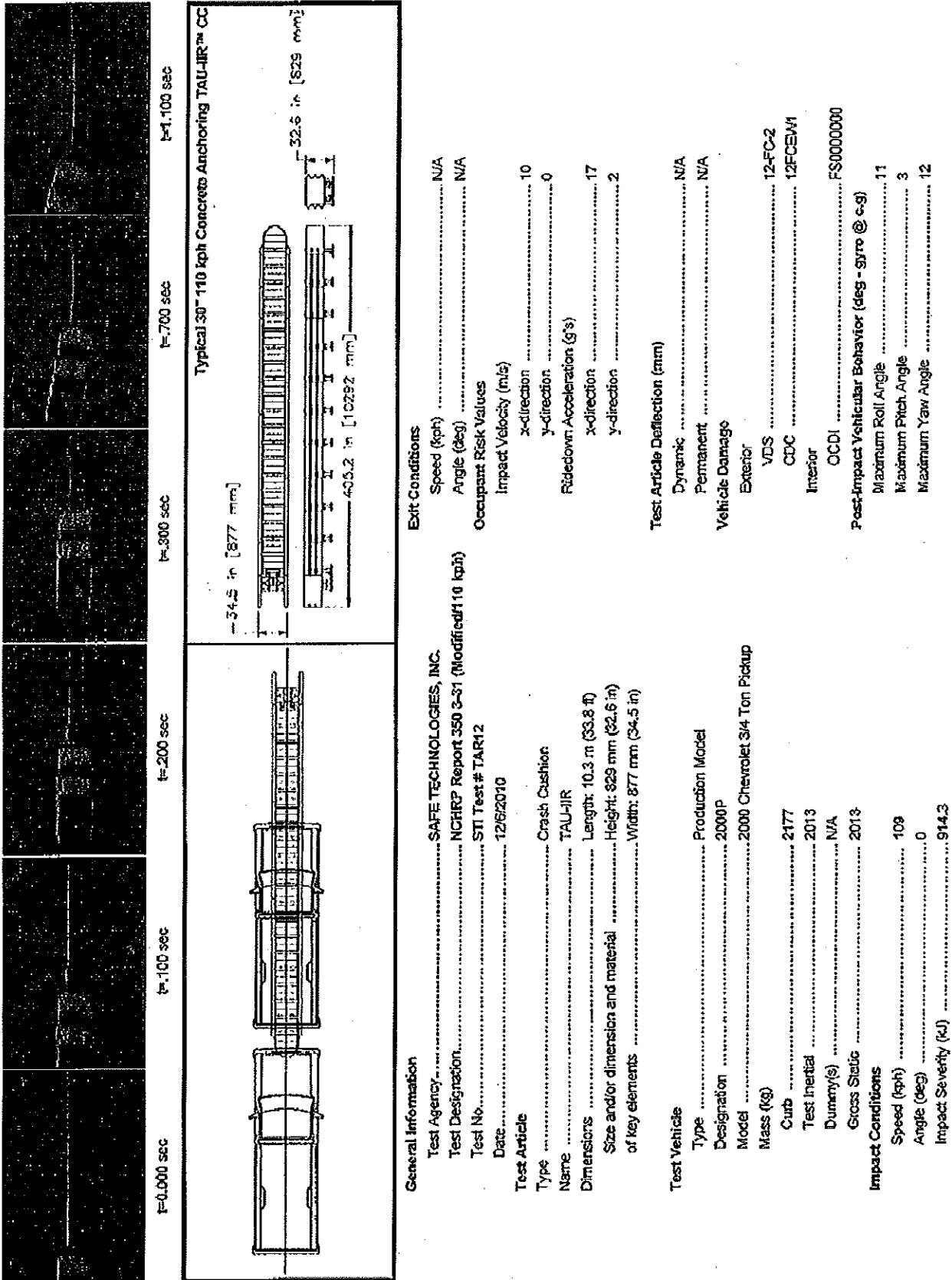
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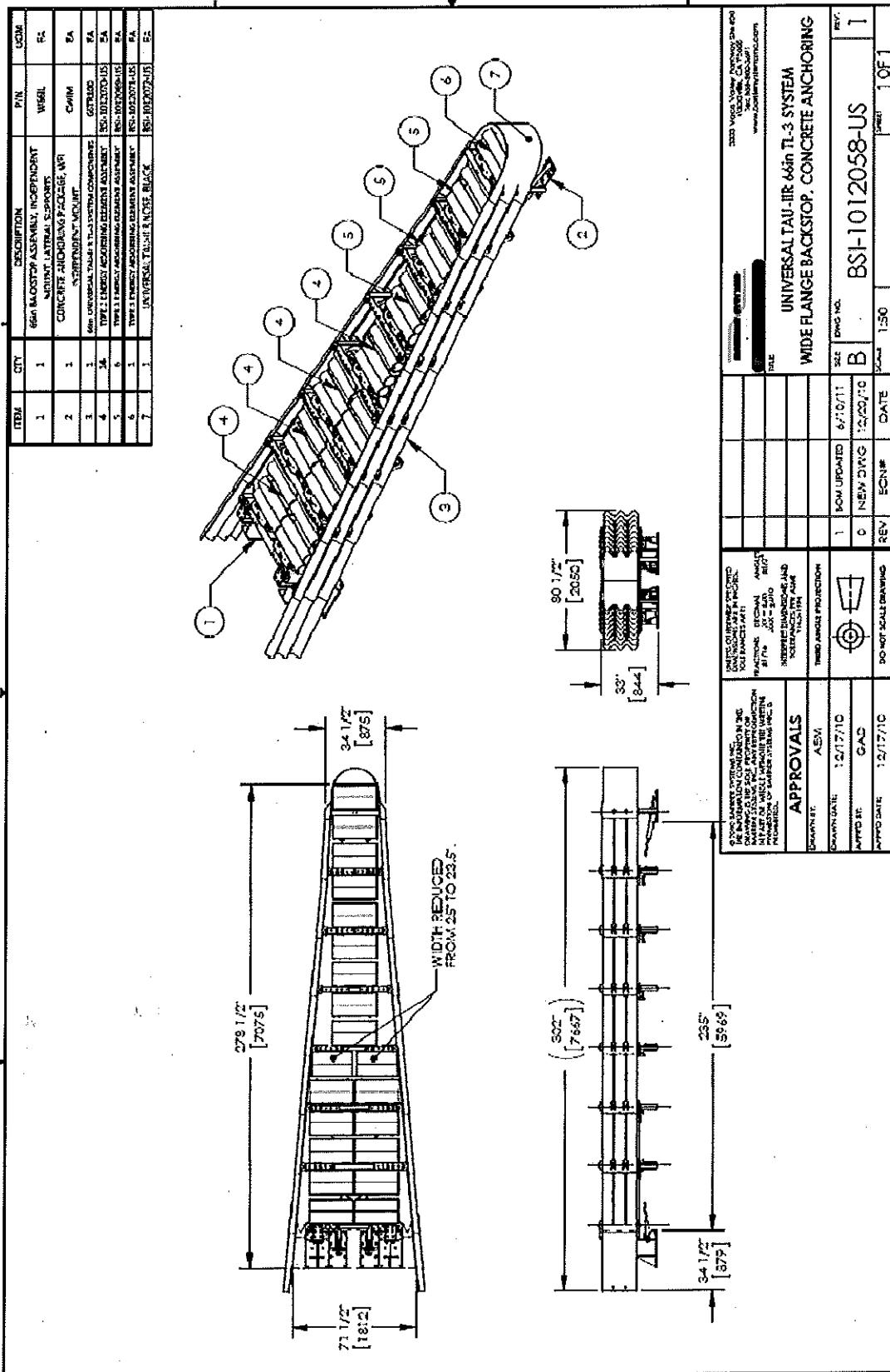
Enclosure 5 (3 of 3)

Enclosure 6 (1 of 2)

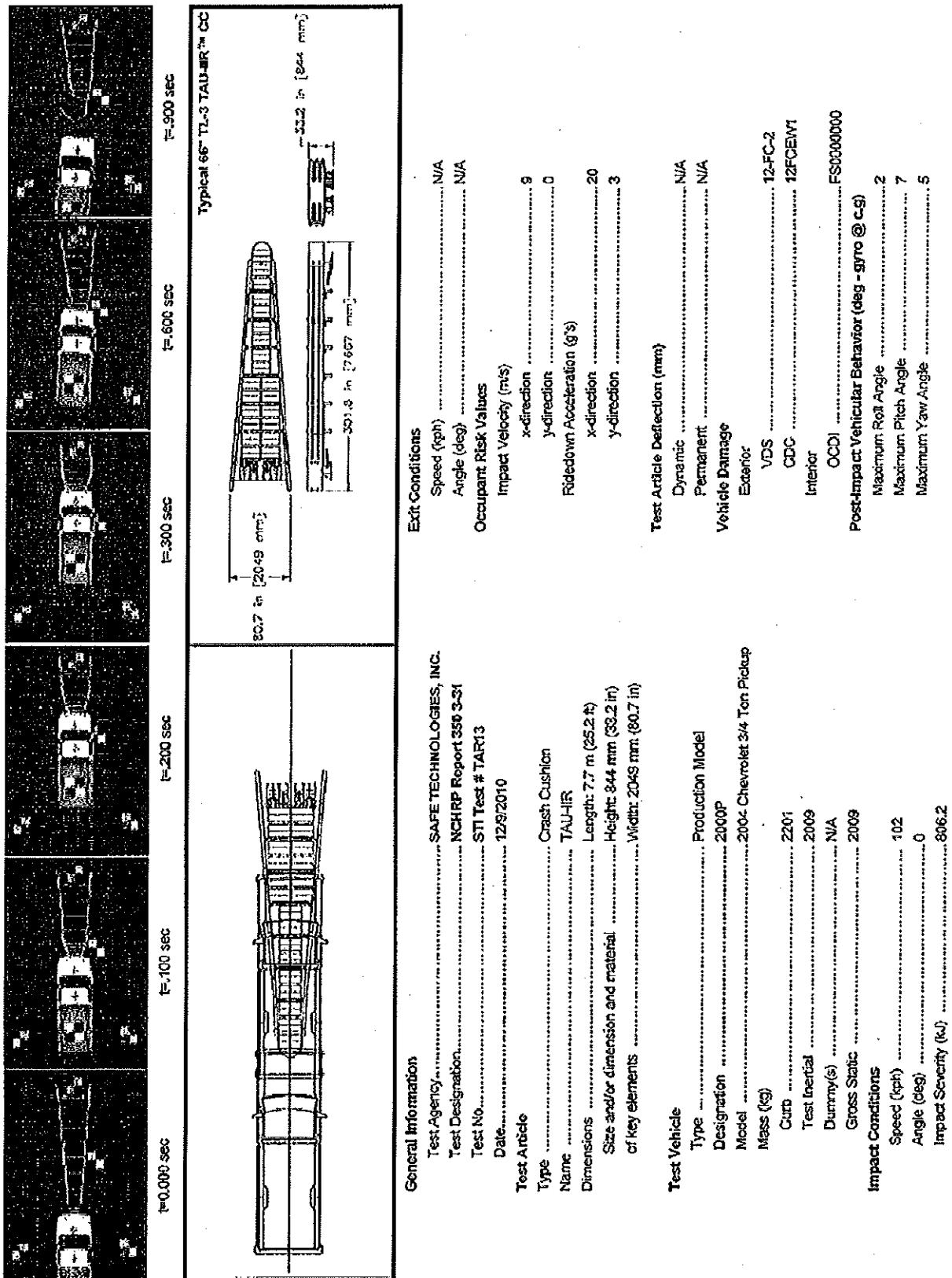




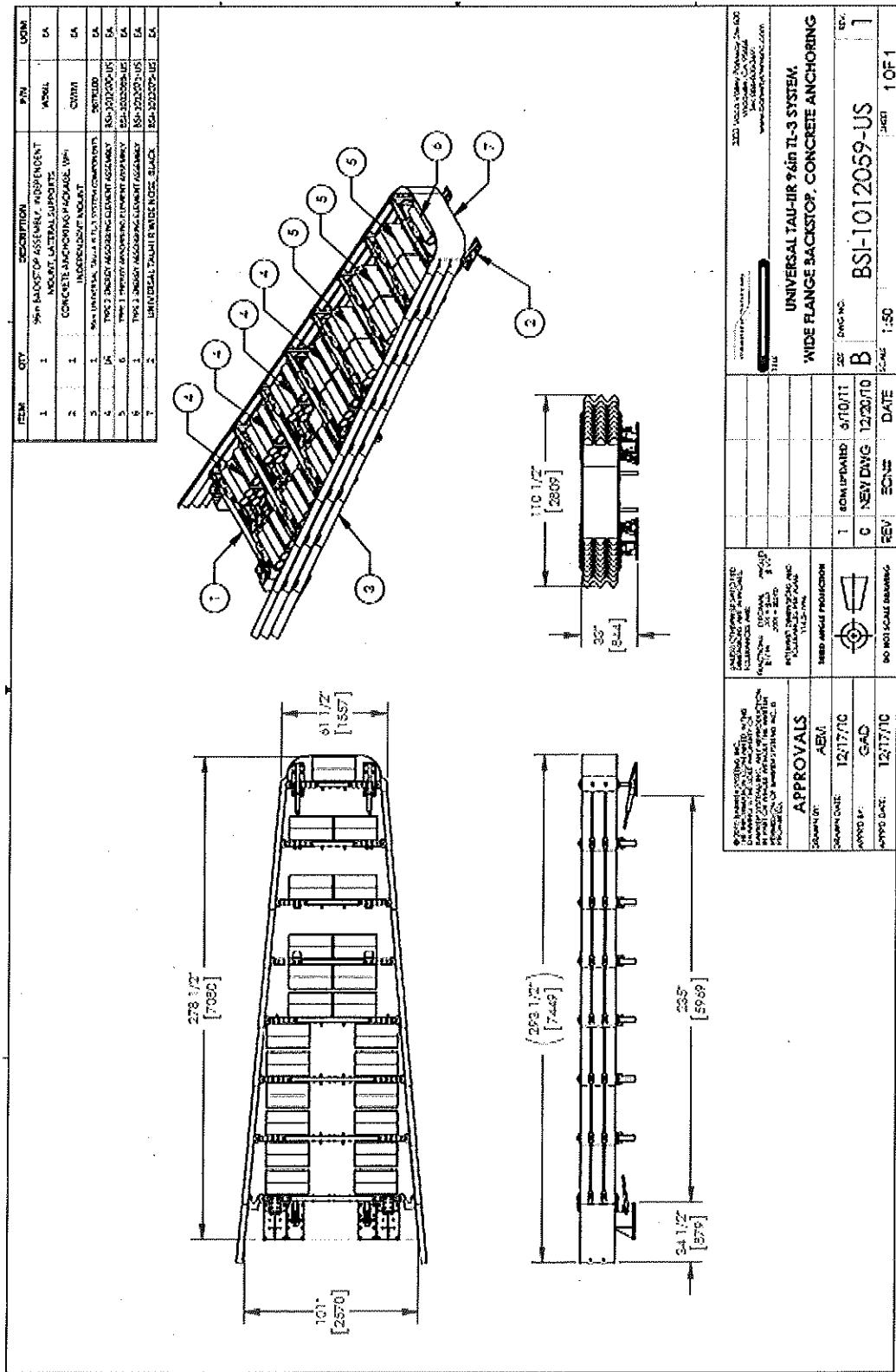
Enclosure 6 (2 of 2)



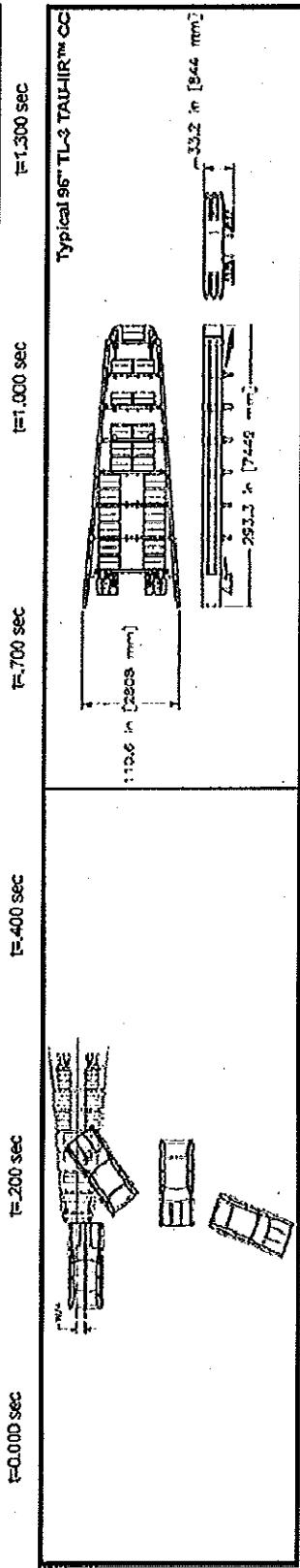
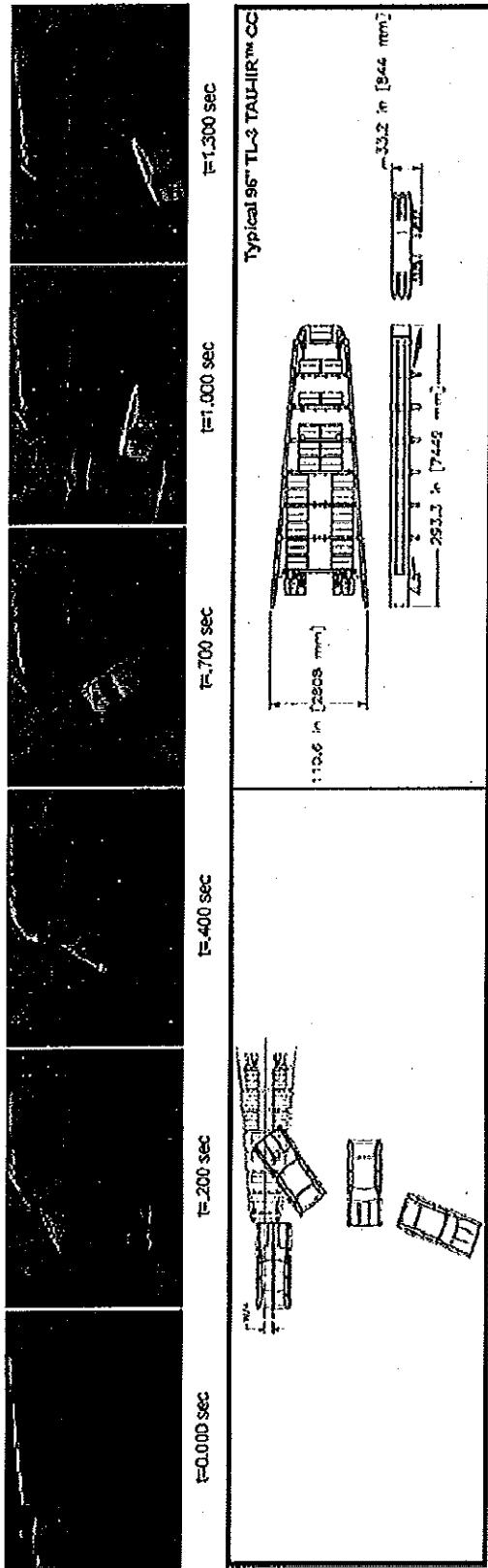
Enclosure 7 (1 of 2)



Enclosure 7 (2 of 2)



Enclosure 8 (1 of 3)



General Information

Test AgencySAFE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Test DesignationNCHRP Report 350-3-30
Test No.STI Test # TAR06
Date.1/17/2010

Test Article
TypeCrash Cushion
NameTAI-HIR
DimensionsLength: 7.4 m (24.4 ft)
Size and/or dimension and materialHeight: 344 mm (33.2 in)
of key elementsWidth: 2808 mm (110.6 in)

Test Vehicle

TypeProduction Model:
Designation320C
Model1998 Honda CRDX
Mass (kg)768

Curb768
Test Inertial817
Dummy(s)75
Gross Static892

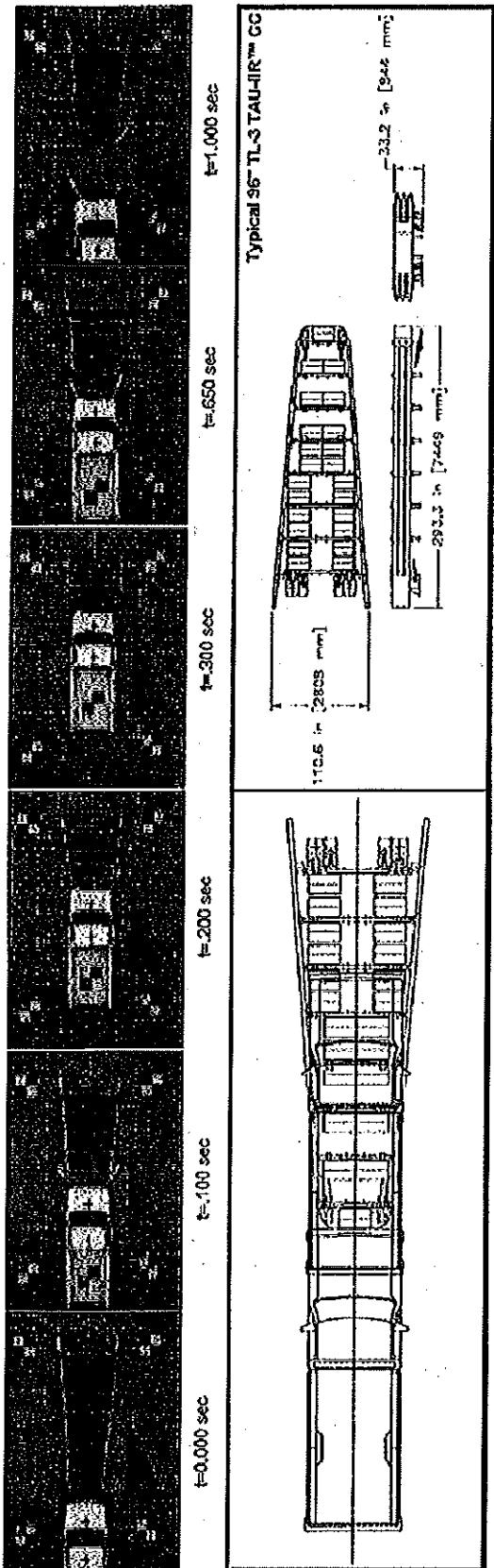
Impact Conditions
Speed (km/h)100
Angle (deg)0
Impact Severity (kJ)315.0

Exit Conditions

Speed (km/h)N/A
Angle (deg)N/A
Occupant Risk Values
Impact Velocity (m/s)
x-direction12
y-direction1
Ride-down Acceleration (g's)
x-direction17
y-direction7

Test Article Deflection (mm)

DynamicN/A
PermanentN/A
Vehicle Damage
ExteriorVDS12-FL-5
InteriorCDC12F/EWS
OCDILFD000000
Post-Impact Vehicular Behavior (deg - gyro @ c.g.)
Maximum Roll Angle14
Maximum Pitch Angle17
Maximum Yaw Angle162

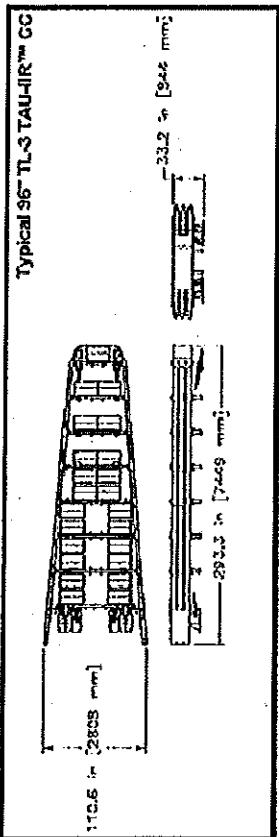


General Information

Test Agency NHTSA
 Test Designation NCHRP Report 350 3-31
 Test No. STI Test # TAR07
 Date 11/19/2010
 Test Article
 Type Crash Cushion
 Name TAU-IIR
 Dimensions Length: 7.4 m (24.4 ft)
 Size and/or dimension and material Height: 844 mm (33.2 in)
 of key elements Width: 2808 mm (110.6 in)

Test Vehicle

Type	Production Model	N/A
Designation	2000P	N/A
Model	2000 Chevrolet 3/4 Ton Pickup	
Mass (kg)	VDS	12-F-C-3
Curb	CDC	12FCEM1
Test Inertial	Interior	
Dummy(s)	OCDI	FS0000000
Gross Static		
Impact Conditions		
Speed (kph)	99	Maximum Roll Angle 3
Angle (deg)	0	Maximum Pitch Angle 22
Impact Severity (k)	751.7	Maximum Yaw Angle 2



Exit Conditions

Speed (kph)	N/A
Angle (deg)	N/A
Occupant Risk Values	
Impact Velocity (m/s)	
x-direction	10
y-direction	1
Ridesdown Acceleration (g/s)	
x-direction	17
y-direction	3

Test Article Deflection (mm)

Dynamic	N/A
Permanent	N/A
Vehicle Damage	
Exterior	
VDS	
CDC	
Interior	
OCDI	
Post-Impact Vehicular Behavior (deg - spiro @ e.g.)	
Maximum Roll Angle	3
Maximum Pitch Angle	22
Maximum Yaw Angle	2

Enclosure 8 (3 of 3)