



SEMI E47.1-0697

PROVISIONAL MECHANICAL SPECIFICATION FOR BOXES AND PODS USED TO TRANSPORT AND STORE 300-mm WAFERS

1 Purpose

This standard partially specifies the boxes and pods used to transport and store 300-mm wafers (which may or may not be in removable cassettes) in an IC manufacturing facility.

2 Scope

This standard is intended to set an appropriate level of specification that places minimal limits on innovation while ensuring modularity and inter-changeability at all mechanical interfaces. Most of the requirements given in this specification are in the form of maximum or minimum dimensions with very few required surfaces. Only the physical interfaces (other than the door mechanism and kinematic couplings) for boxes and pods are specified; no materials requirements or micro-contamination limits are given. The enclosure specified in this standard can be a sealed minienvironment, but it could also just be a box with well-defined interfaces.

This standard is provisional because of concerns about the kinematic coupling pins causing excessive wear on carriers and the usefulness of the robotic handling flanges and conveyor rails. Once box testing is done, this standard should be modified and upgraded from provisional status.

3 Referenced Documents

3.1 SEMI Documents

SEMI E1.9 — Provisional Mechanical Specification for Cassettes Used to Transport and Store 300-mm Wafers

SEMI E15 — Specification for Tool Load Port

SEMI E19 — Standard Mechanical Interface (SMIF)

SEMI E19.5 — Specification for 300 mm Bottom-Opening Standard Mechanical Interface (SMIF)

SEMI E44 — Guide for Procurement and Acceptance of Minienvironments

SEMI E47 — Specification for 150 mm/200 mm Pod Handles

SEMI E57 — Provisional Mechanical Specification for Kinematic Couplings Used to Align and Support 300 mm Wafer Carriers

SEMI S8 — Safety Guidelines for Ergonomics/Human Factors Engineering of Semiconductor Manufacturing Equipment

4 Terminology

4.1 *bilateral datum plane* — A vertical plane that bisects the wafers and that is perpendicular to both the horizontal and facial datum planes (as defined in SEMI E57).

4.2 *box* — A protective portable container for a cassette and/or substrate(s) (as defined in SEMI E44).

4.3 *carrier capacity* — The number of substrates that a carrier holds (as defined in SEMI E1.9).

4.4 *cassette* — An open structure that holds one or more substrates (as defined in SEMI E44).

4.5 *facial datum plane* — A vertical plane that bisects the wafers and that is parallel to the front side of the carrier (where wafers are removed or inserted). On tool load ports, it is also parallel to the load face plane specified in SEMI E15 on the side of the tool where the carrier is loaded and unloaded (as defined in SEMI E57).

4.6 *horizontal datum plane* — A horizontal plane from which projects the kinematic-coupling pins on which the carrier sits. On tool load ports, it is at the load height specified in SEMI E15 and might not be physically realized as a surface (as defined in SEMI E57).

4.7 *minienvironment* — A localized environment created by an enclosure to isolate the product from contamination and people (as defined in SEMI E44).

4.8 *nominal wafer center line* — The line that is defined by the intersection of the two vertical datum planes (facial and bilateral) and that passes through the nominal centers of the seated wafers (which must be horizontal when the carrier is placed on the coupling) (as defined in SEMI E57).

4.9 *pod* — A box having a Standard Mechanical Interface (SMIF) per SEMI E19 (as defined in SEMI E44).

4.10 *robotic handling flanges* — Horizontal projections on top of the box for lifting and rotating the box.



4.12 *wafer carrier* — Any cassette, box, pod, or boat that contains wafers (as defined in SEMI E15).

5 Ordering Information

5.1 *Intended Use* — This standard is intended to specify 300-mm boxes over a reasonable lifetime of use, not just those in new condition. For this reason, the purchaser needs to specify a time period and the number and type of uses to which the boxes will be put. It is under these conditions that the boxes must remain in compliance with the requirements listed in Section 6.

5.2 *Temperature Ranges* — The purchaser of 300-mm boxes needs to specify two sets of temperatures to which the boxes might be exposed. An operating temperature range is the set of environmental temperatures in which the boxes will remain in compliance with the requirements listed in Section 6. A temporary temperature range is the set of environmental temperatures to which the boxes can be exposed such that when the boxes return to the operating temperature range, the boxes will be in compliance with the requirements listed in Section 6. Limits on exposure times to elevated temperatures should be specified. Also, the purchaser needs to specify a range of temperatures for the wafers and cassettes that might be inserted in the boxes (if the cassettes are removable).

6 Requirements

6.1 *External Kinematic Couplings* — The physical alignment mechanism from the cassette to the box (if the cassette is removable) and from the box to the tool load-port (or a nest on a vehicle or in a stocker) consists of features (not specified in this standard) on the top entity that mate with three or six pins underneath as defined in SEMI E57. Most of the dimensions of the box are determined with respect to the three orthogonal datum planes defined in that standard: the horizontal datum plane, the facial datum plane, and the bilateral datum plane. All of the dimensions for the box are bilaterally symmetric about both the bilateral and facial datum planes with the following exceptions:

- The features that mate with the kinematic coupling pins and the box sensing pads are symmetrical only about the bilateral datum plane.
- The front-opening box has a door only on the front and conveyor rails on the left and right sides that are required to extend all the way to the front.

- The orientation notches on the robotic handling flange are different for each of the four sides.

The three features that mate with the kinematic coupling pins must provide a lead-in capability that corrects a box misalignment of up to 10 mm (0.4 in.) in any horizontal direction, although 15 mm (0.6 in.) is recommended for ergonomic reasons.

6.2 *Internal Kinematic Couplings* — If the cassette is removable, the horizontal position of each of the three primary kinematic coupling pins on the inside bottom of the box must be within 0.01 mm (0.0004 in.) of the horizontal positions of the corresponding pin on which the box is set, so that the vertical datum planes defined by the two sets of kinematic couplings must be nearly identical. Each of the three pins on the inside bottom of the box must be about 25 mm (0.98 in.) higher than the corresponding pin on which the box is set, so that the horizontal datum planes defined by the two sets of kinematic couplings will be parallel and separated by dimension z44.

6.3 *Nonremovable Cassettes* — If the cassette is nonremovable, there need not be a kinematic coupling between the box and cassette. However, the interior of such a box must have the interior dimensions of the cassette specified in SEMI E57. Many of these dimensions are measured from a horizontal datum plane, so an internal horizontal datum plane is still specified to be z44 above the horizontal datum plane under the box.

6.4 *Door* — There are two options for the location of the box door. In the Bottom Door Option, the box door is on the bottom of the box (so the door is parallel to the wafers and the horizontal datum plane) and the door and its frame must be designed to mate with a port that conforms to SEMI E19.5. In the Front Door Option, the box door is on the front side of the box (corresponding to the front side of the cassette where wafers are accessed so the door is perpendicular to the wafers and parallel to the facial datum plane) and the door and its frame must be designed to mate with a port that conforms to the specification for a front-opening box currently under development.

6.5 *Wafer Capture and Centering* — When the box is closed, the cassette and the wafers must be captured in the box to prevent movement during transport. Wafer capture must include gently pushing the wafers to the rear of the cassette to center them.



6.6 *Internal Dimensions* — If the cassette is removable, the interior of the box (other than the kinematic coupling pins or the devices to capture the cassette and the wafers) must not intrude on any of the cassette domains defined in SEMI E1.9. Furthermore, the cassette must have a clearance of at least 6 mm (0.24 in.) in any direction while it is being inserted into the box. The interior of any front-opening box must also not intrude on the end effector exclusion zone, and the inside of the door must not intrude more than 51 toward the facial datum plane.

6.7 *External Dimensions* — Figures 1 through 4 respectively show the side view, rear view, top view, and bottom view for the bottom-opening box, and Figures 5 through 8 show the same views of the front-opening box. Table 1 defines all of the dimensions. In this and following figures, the heaviest lines are used for surfaces that have tolerances (not surfaces that have only maximum or only minimum dimensions). If a box identification tag is used, it must be located to the rear of the facial datum plane.



(numbers in parentheses are for 25-wafer cassettes, if different)
[numbers in square brackets are for removable cassettes, if different]

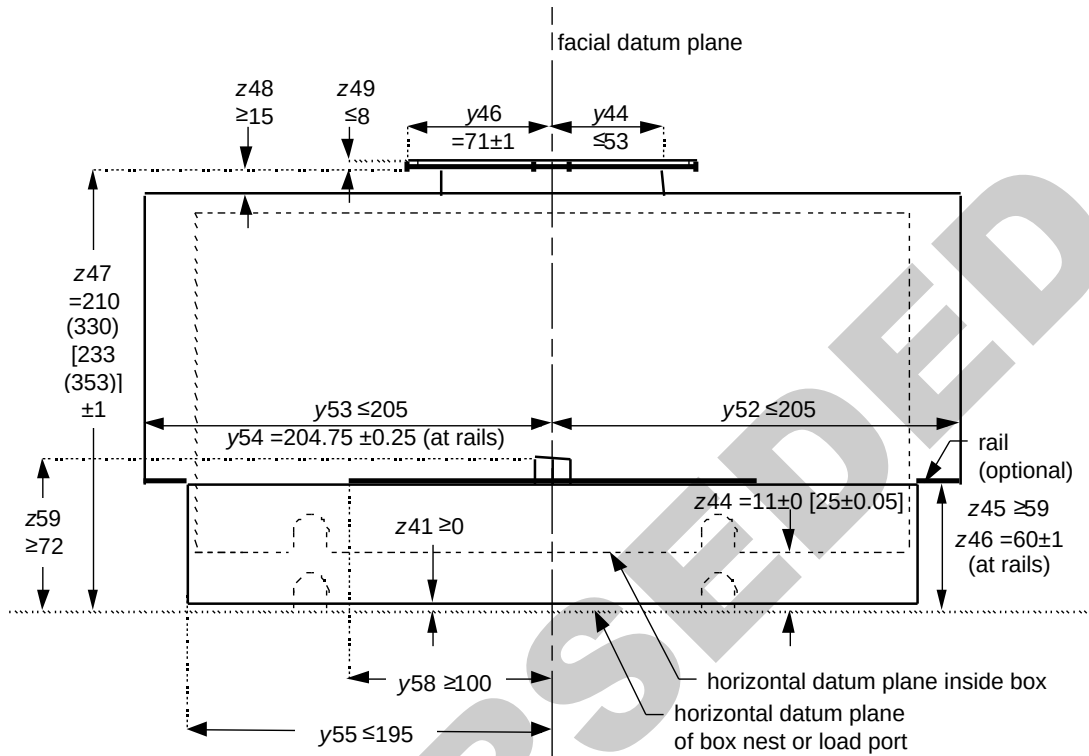


Figure 1
Side View of Bottom-Opening Box



(numbers in parentheses are for 25-wafer cassettes, if different)
 [numbers in square brackets are for removable cassettes, if different]

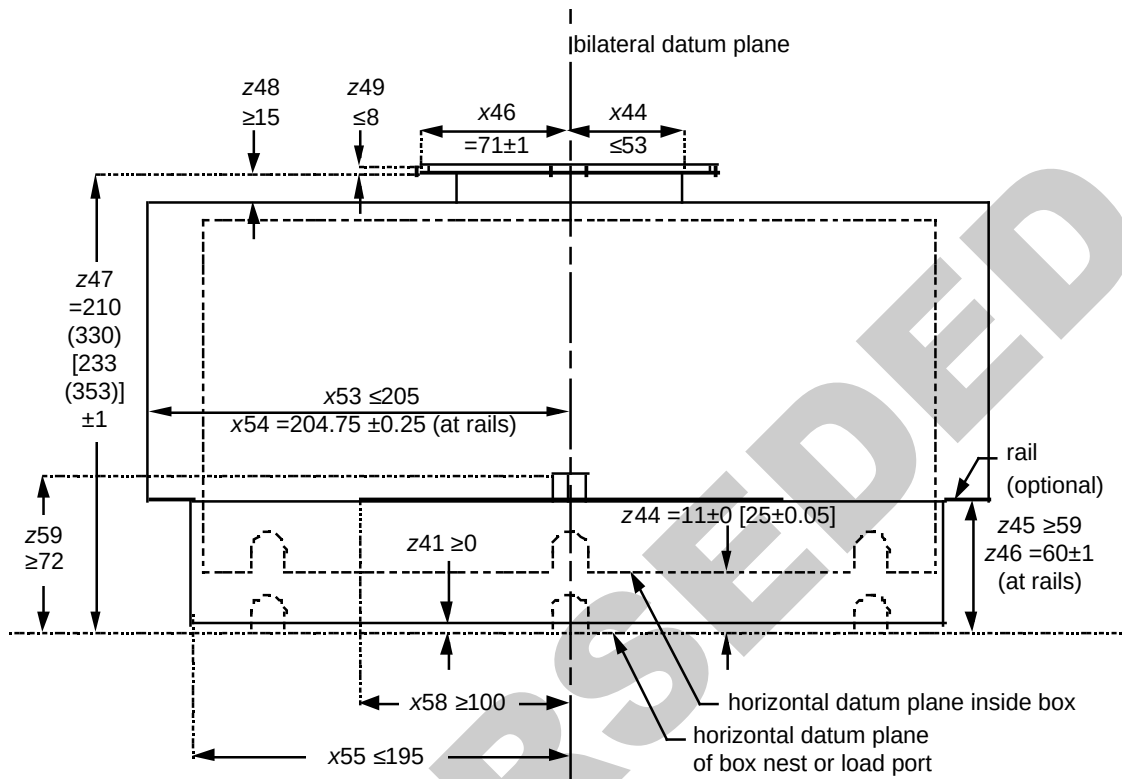


Figure 2
Rear View of Bottom-Opening Box

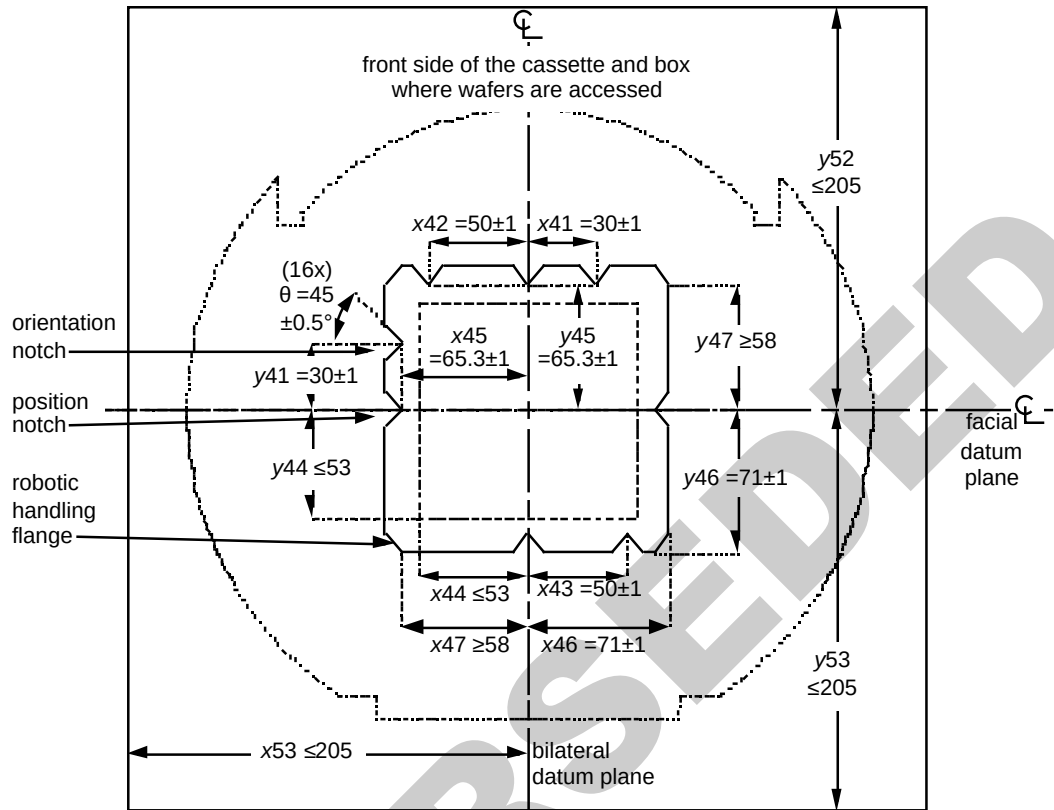


Figure 3
Top View of Bottom-Opening Box