

Safer travel for passengers using wheelchairs on public transport

This information is prepared to enhance the safety and accessibility of our customers.

The Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (2002) outlines the rights and responsibilities for operators, providers and passengers.

Operators and providers will strive to respect and promote the dignity and independence of all passengers.

Passengers should accept the constraints that are part of the safe and effective operation of public transport services and also accept that there are limits on what may be possible for providers and operators to supply.

Having the right wheelchair

Because of the motion involved in travel on public transport, passengers and their mobility aids need to be capable of tolerating acceleration, deceleration, cornering and pitching.



Safety requirements

- > Mobility aids must have effective braking systems to maintain stability. Users must be able to apply the brakes and be competent in the use of their aid.
- > Mobility aids should be stable under normal travel conditions when in operation.
- > Passengers must ensure that their wheelchairs comply with relevant safety requirements such as criteria for belt anchorage points to travel in access taxis.
- > Sealed batteries should be adequately secured and contained with a gel or solid state (not powered with internal or external combustion).
- > All taxi passengers need to be able to negotiate a door height of 1500mm.

Manoeuvrability

- > Passengers are responsible for the safe manoeuvring and operation of their mobility aids.
- > Need to be able to turn their aid in a space that is 2070mm long x 1540mm wide.
- > Ramps support a maximum total weight of 300kg – including mobility aid, person's weight and companion - if the companion is required on the ramp at the same time.
- > Passengers need to negotiate ramps up to 1:8 gradient unassisted where the ramp length is less than 1520mm.
- > Negotiate up to 1:14 gradient unassisted where the ramp is longer than 1520 mm.

Further information

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Breathing apparatus requirements for public transport travel

The oxygen cylinder and breathing apparatus must be medically prescribed as a disability/medical aid.

The cylinder shall weigh no more than 5kg when full (small B or C type) and have its own travel packs or trolley with restraining devices.

Public Transport Services staff and contractors cannot be responsible for the cylinder/ apparatus in any way, other than deploying the ramp to enable the passenger to alight or disembark.

A person travelling with an oxygen bottle needs to be aware of other regulatory controls in transporting this equipment so as not to endanger themselves or other passengers.

Fast Facts for Disability aids on public transport

- > Mobility aids and fittings need to fit in a space that is 800mm wide x 1300mm long.
- > Mobility aids and fittings need to be able to turn in a space that is 2070mm long and 1540mm wide.
- > Mobility aid ramps support a maximum total weight of 300kg - this includes all people using or helping with the mobility aid.
- > Mobility aids need to be able to handle the following ramp specifications without assistance:
 - Ramp shorter than 1520mm with an 1:8 gradient.
 - Ramp longer than 1520 with an 1:14 gradient.
- > Oxygen cylinders being carried on public transport need to weigh less than 5kg and be restrained in a travel pack or trolley.



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