

Information sheet

Carriage of mobility aids in wheelchair accessible taxis Victoria

This Information Sheet has been prepared as a guide to assist people with disabilities and their carers, and the taxi industry, to identify which mobility aids are suitable for in-vehicle transport while the user remains seated on the mobility aid and those that are not suitable for that purpose.

As indicated below, the standard types of electric and manual wheelchairs are generally suitable for occupied carriage in wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs).

Other mobility aids, including scooters, princess chairs, tub chairs (and similar high care type chairs) and other variations of a standard wheelchair are typically not suitable as an in-vehicle seat. These mobility aids may be carried in a WAT but only if they are unoccupied and then only if they can be properly and safely restrained by the taxi driver to prevent movement and possible injury to passengers if the WAT is involved in a collision. This means that passengers must transfer off these types of mobility aids and travel in a fixed seat and use the seat belt provided for that position.

Examples of mobility aids where the passenger can remain seated while travelling in a WAT

Electric and manual wheelchairs



Department of Transport

Victorian Taxi Directorate, Level 23, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 GPO Box 2797, Melbourne VIC 3001

Phone: 1800 638 802 (toll-free) www.taxi.vic.gov.au

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Victorian Taxi Directorate

Examples of mobility aids that may be carried in WATs but the passenger **CANNOT** remain seated

Scooter



Wheeled walking frame – with seat



Electric go-chair



Air comfort chairs/beds



Note:

1. Passengers must transfer off these mobility aids into a fixed seat and use the seat belt provided for that position.
2. These mobility aids may only be carried unoccupied in a WAT if they can be properly and safely restrained by the taxi driver to prevent movement and possible injury to passengers if the WAT is involved in a collision.
3. If any mobility aid has specifically been designed, tested and approved for use as a seat in transport (as per AS/NZS 3696.19.2009 wheeled mobility devices for use as seats in motor vehicles or an equivalent international standard) then they may be suitable for carrying passengers. In this circumstance, the VTD should be notified of the make/model of mobility aid together with a copy of the test results.

This list is not comprehensive and does not contain all the various types of mobility aids. Consequently, there could be some existing, or new mobility aids that may be suitable for occupied carriage in a WAT but which are not included in this document.

Further information can be found in:

- (i) Appendix A of Australian Standard - AS2942:1994 Wheelchair occupant restraint assemblies for motor vehicles provides guidance on suitability of various mobility aids being carried in taxis in the interest of passenger safety, and
- (ii) Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 3696.19:2009 (*Wheeled mobility devices for use as seats in motor vehicles*) which is modelled on an international standard and specifies a set of procedures for dynamically testing wheelchairs to evaluate their crashworthiness performance for acceptability for use as a seat in a motor vehicle.

Enquiries about mobility aids and their suitability for WAT transportation can be directed to the Victorian Taxi Directorate on telephone 1800 638 802.

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