



# Wheelchair Accessible Taxi and Small Passenger Vehicle Requirements

Operators of wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs) must ensure their vehicles comply with a wide array of requirements which are detailed within legislation.

## Documents of particular interest include:

- Passenger Transport Act 1994
- Passenger Transport (General) Regulations 1994
- Road Traffic Act 1961
- Australian Design Rules
- Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002
- AS2942-1994 Wheelchair occupant restraint assemblies for motor vehicles
- AS3696.13-1991 Ramp surface finish
- AS/NZS 3856.1&.2:1998 Hoists and ramps for people with disabilities – vehicle-mounted.

## Requirements for Certificate of Inspection

Because it is unlawful for a WAT to be operated without a current certificate of inspection, it is important that the aspects listed below be carefully considered before the vehicle is presented for inspection. It is equally important that no subsequent changes to the vehicle are made which would make the vehicle non-compliant with the requirements.

## Body Dimensions

The interior shall have a workable floor area capable of accommodating at least one wheelchair, scooter or other large ride-on mobility aid. (4500 series licence – minimum of 2 wheelchairs)

The minimum allocated space for each wheelchair or other mobility aid is 800mm by 1300mm.

The minimum headroom in an allocated space is 1410mm.

The wheelchair entry/exit doorway must have an unobstructed vertical height of at least 1400mm.

## Seating

Seating should be designed to be capable of folding clear of the area designated for wheelchair passengers. However, seating should be retained to accommodate passengers travelling with the wheelchair user.

## Stowage Area

A storage area shall be provided for wheelchair restraint systems when not in use.

## Wheelchair Hoists and Ramps

The minimum requirement for a taxi fitted with a hoist or ramp shall be compliant with Australian Standards.

Refer to AS/NZS 3856.1:1998 and AS/NZS 3856.2:1998.

Where a wheelchair hoist is fitted, the hoist shall meet the standards required under the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002*.

Where a wheelchair ramp is fitted, the ramp shall meet the standards required under the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002*.

## Wheelchair and Occupant Restraint Assemblies

Wheelchair and occupant restraints must comply with AS2942.

Wheelchair restraints must be attached to each of the four corners of the wheelchair. They must be attached to the wheelchair frame and restrict any horizontal movement to less than 25mm when under stress.

Wheelchair restraint components must not pass through the wheels of the wheelchair.

The restraints must be adjustable, be able to attach and detach without the use of tools and incorporate captive hooks.

Wheelchair restraints must not be able to be partially fitted or capable of inadvertent release.

The restraints must have the provision for rapid release in the case of an emergency.

A minimum of a lap belt is required for each wheelchair occupant, although a lap/sash belt or harness is preferred.

A wheelchair should be secured into a position where the occupant is facing forward. Under no circumstances shall the wheelchair and occupant be positioned to face the side.

All seatbelts and wheelchair restraint webbing must be labelled and meet the Australian Standards. The webbing must be clean and undamaged.

## Heating and Air-Conditioning

Vehicles shall be fitted with effective heating and air-conditioning that provides for both the driver and passenger needs.

## Interior Lighting

Interior lighting shall be provided and must be adequate to provide illumination to the wheelchair lift or ramp area.

## Vehicle Conversion

Any changes to the vehicle seating configuration must be approved by Transport Services Regency Park, telephone 1300 882 247.

## Further information

Contact the Department for Transport,  
Energy and Infrastructure:  
Vehicle Services  
Kateena Street, Regency Park  
PO Box 1 Walkerville SA 5081  
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