



# PRIVATE HIRE (SPECIAL NEEDS) VEHICLE SPECIFICATION

## FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

This specification will only apply to vehicles that are wheelchair accessible and to be used for hire under a written contract.

### 1. General Requirements

- (a) Any vehicle that has been modified to accommodate the carriage of mobility impaired passengers shall have been retested after modification and will be required to produce a UK Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) certificate in respect of all such modifications and must comply with the passenger compartment specifications detailed below.
- (b) All vehicles must be capable of complying with the Private Hire (Special Needs) Vehicle Conditions of Licence.
- (b) Vehicles must be right hand drive.
- (c) Fire retardant material should be used for all fittings and trim used in the vehicle.
- (d) All windows in the vehicle (with the exception of those covered by Statutory Regulations) shall have a visual transmission of light of not less than 70% (subject to a 5% tolerance).

### 2. Passenger Compartment

- (a) The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor and roof must be not less than 52” (1.32 metres)
- (b) There shall be sufficient space, at footrest height of a wheelchair occupant’s feet, to facilitate the wheelchair being loaded and positioned ready for the vehicle to drive off.
- (c) The passenger compartment shall have a minimum of two means of access/egress, which shall be unobstructed.
- (d) Interior lighting of the passenger compartment must be sufficient to light the whole of that area.
- (e) The passenger compartment shall have windows fitted on both sides; one on each side must be capable of being opened.
- (f) A non-slip material must be used for the surface of the flooring in the passenger compartment.
- (g) Any tracking fitted to the floor of the vehicle shall not present a trip hazard and must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s (of the tracking) instructions and capable of meeting SVA standards
- (h) Any new vehicle presented for licensing should be fitted with heavy duty flush mounted tracking capable of meeting SVA standards.
- (i) Passengers must be able to communicate with the driver.

### 3. Doorways

- (a) The clear height of the rear passenger entrance doorway must be not less than 49” (1245mm) when measured directly between the highest and lowest points of the doorway.
- (b) The clear width of the rear passenger entrance at its widest point must be not less than 31” (787mm). Interior fittings shall not intrude into the doorway to a degree that would prevent reasonable wheelchair access.
- (c) High visibility grab handles must be placed at passenger entrances to aid access and egress from the vehicle
- (d) If the floor height of the passenger compartment exceeds 12” (305mm) from the ground when the vehicle is unladen then an intermediate step must be provided at the side entrance. Further steps will be required for each additional 9” of floor height. The step(s) must have a minimum depth of 6” (152mm) and must be covered with a non-slip material and have high visibility markings. The step must be attached in such a manner that the vehicle cannot be driven off while the step is deployed and in a position where it extends beyond the vertical line of the bodywork.
- (e) All entrance steps into the passenger compartment shall be illuminated and switched such that they automatically operate when the door is opened.
- (f) The edge of the floor at the passenger entrance and the vertical part of any intermediate step must be marked with high visibility material.

### 4. Seating

- (a) Only forward facing seats will be allowed.
- (b) All seats must have a minimum cushioned area of 16” (406mm) width and 14” (355mm) from front to rear.
- (c) All forward facing passenger seats shall be provided with lap and diagonal all age seat belts.

### 5. Facilities for Wheelchair Users

- (a) Any tail lift used to assist wheelchair users to enter or exit the vehicle must be of an approved type and finished with a non-slip material and have a minimum safe working load of 250 kg.
- (b) If the vehicle is fitted with a tail lift this must be capable of under floor storage or if stored in the rear part of the passenger compartment shall not prevent access to and use of the rear door opening mechanism from the inside.
- (c) If ramps are provided to facilitate the loading of passengers in wheelchairs then these shall only be used at the rear entrance, must be capable of being fixed to the vehicle and must not exceed a gradient angle of 11% when deployed.
- (d) A system for the effective anchorage of a wheelchair, which complies with ISO 10542 standards and provides 4 points of securing the wheelchair to the vehicle, must be provided. Seat belts for the wheelchair occupant will be of the lap and diagonal type. Where possible, a ‘cant rail’ should be fitted to provide an upper anchorage point for wheelchair user’s seat belts. Where fitted, a ‘cant rail’ should be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and capable of meeting ISO 10542 standards.
- (e) A minimum space of not less than 1000mm x 600mm will be provided in respect of each wheelchair space within the vehicle with an unrestricted gangway of 350mm to an exit.

### 6. Ancillary Equipment

If the vehicle is fitted with sliding doors the interior door handle must be clearly visible and easily accessible to passengers. All doors must have approved reflective strips on both the front and rear edge of the door