



Victoria Government Gazette

No. S 235 Friday 29 July 2016
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Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983

DETERMINATION OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXI-CABS

1. I, Aaron De Rozario, Chief Executive Officer of the Taxi Services Commission (TSC), acting under delegation and pursuant to regulation 15(1) of the Transport (Buses, Taxi-Cabs and Other Commercial Passenger Vehicles) Regulations 2016, hereby:
 - (a) revoke the Determination of Specifications for Taxi-cabs published in the Government Gazette as Special edition No. S 284 on 28 September 2015; and
 - (b) determine that the specifications outlined in this instrument apply to taxi-cabs licensed under the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983** to operate as wheelchair accessible taxi-cabs, on and from the date that this instrument is published in the Government Gazette.
2. For the avoidance of any doubt this instrument does not apply to taxi-cabs which are not wheelchair accessible taxi-cabs.
3. The Australian Design Rules prevail over these Specifications to the extent of any inconsistency.

Dated 30 June 2016

AARON DE ROZARIO
Chief Executive Officer
Taxi Services Commission

Specifications for Wheelchair Accessible Taxi-Cabs

1. Definitions

ADRs means the Australian Design Rules that apply to motor vehicles, made under the **Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989** (Cth).

Approval Certificate means a technical assessment certificate issued by a participant in the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS).

Note: A list of VASS Signatories is available on the VicRoads website at: www.vicroads.com.au

AS and AS/NZS means the Australian Standard and Australian/New Zealand Standard.

Specification means this Determination of Specifications for Taxi-Cabs.

Taxi-cab has the same meaning as in section 86 of the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**.

TSC means the Taxi Services Commission.

VSI means the Vehicle Standards Information bulletins as published by VicRoads – see www.vicroads.com.au

Wheelchair accessible taxi-cab (WAT) means a taxi-cab with provision to accommodate and secure at least one occupied wheelchair.

SPECIAL

2. Allocated Floor Space /Access

- 2.1 Each wheelchair position in a WAT (allocated floor/ceiling space) must be allocated at least 1300 mm (length) x 800 mm (width) x 1500 mm (height) as required by the Commonwealth Government's 'Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport' – see Diagram 1.
- 2.2 All WATs must have door entry dimensions (i.e. where wheelchairs enter) of at least 1500 mm high and 800 mm wide.

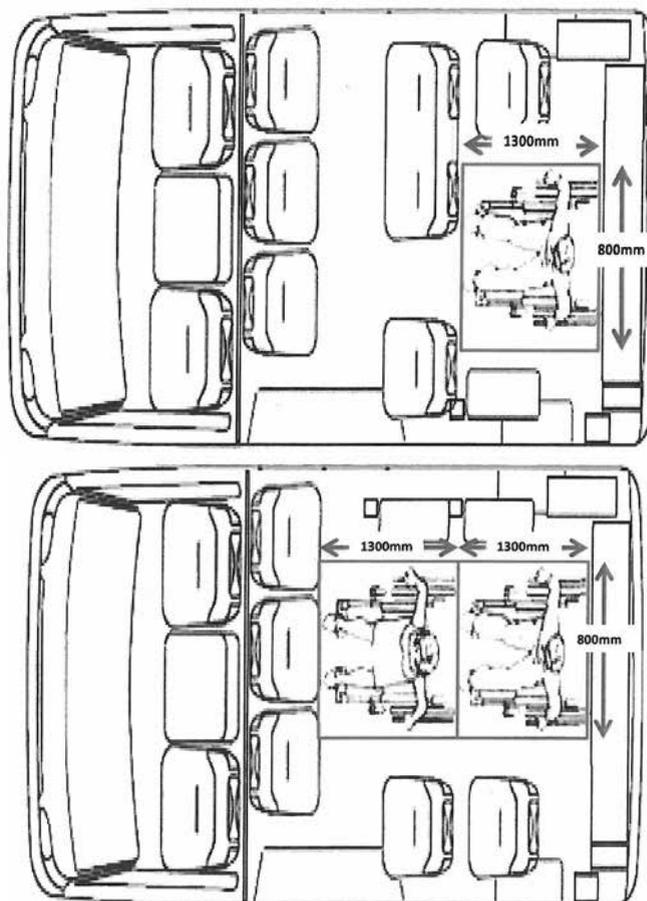


Diagram 1

3. Wheelchair/Occupant restraint systems

- 3.1 Each wheelchair position in a WAT must be fitted with a:
- occupant restraint system (seat belts); and
 - wheelchair restraint system
- in accordance with this clause.
- 3.2 Seat belts must be a:
- lap and sash emergency locking retractor type; or
 - lap and harness type assembly.

Note: A lap only seat belt is not a compliant restraint system for people in wheelchairs.

- 3.3 Wheelchairs must be secured to the WAT using at least four (4) tie-down points with approved wheelchair restraints. The number of complete sets of restraints must equal the number of wheelchair positions. For example, a Toyota Hiace with two wheelchair positions must have two sets of restraints in the vehicle at all times to secure the wheelchairs and occupants.
- 3.4 Wheelchair restraints must be free from fraying, tears and knots.
- 3.5 All restraints fitted must comply with the applicable Australian/New Zealand standards, including:
 - (a) 'AS/NZS 10542 Parts 1 and 2 Wheelchair tie down and occupant-restraint systems'; and
 - (b) any requirements contained in 'AS2942 – 1994/Amendment 1-1998 Wheelchair Occupant Restraint Assemblies for Motor Vehicles' which are not covered in AS/NZS 10542 Parts 1 and 2 must also be complied with.

4. Hoists and Ramps

- 4.1 Hoists fitted to WATs must:
 - (a) be securely mounted to the vehicle;
 - (b) have a skid resistant loading surface;
 - (c) have approach edges with an outer roll stop that is effective when the hoist is raised off the ground; and
 - (d) not have a vertical distance exceeding 12 mm between the horizontal surface of the hoist platform, in its fully raised position and the horizontal surface of the vehicle entrance (i.e. at floor level).
- 4.2 Any ramp fitted to a WAT licensed must have a gradient (slope) no steeper than one in six (1 in 6) and a width of no less than 800 mm. Any WAT previously approved with a one in four (1 in 4) gradient ramp prior to 28 September 2015 is exempted from this requirement.
- 4.3 Hoists and ramps must comply with the applicable Australian/New Zealand Standards, including 'AS 3856 – Hoists and Ramps for people with disabilities – Vehicle mounted; Parts 1 and 2'.

5. General

- 5.1 An approval certificate issued by an engineer who is a signatory to the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS) administered by VicRoads, must be presented to show that a modified WAT meets the relevant standards for registration, if:
 - (a) modifications are carried out that could adversely affect:
 - (i) the structural integrity of the vehicle, such as major body or chassis modifications;
 - (ii) the vehicle's handling characteristics;
 - (iii) any primary safety system, such as steering system modifications; or
 - (b) modifications are carried out that affect the vehicles compliance with the standards for registration;
 - (c) seats are added or moved and seat belts are required for the additional or remaining seats; or
 - (d) child restraint anchorages are added to the vehicle.
 - 5.2 Child restraint anchorages must be provided for at least two (2) forward facing rear seating positions. Anchorages must be the clip type and compliant with applicable ADRs.
 - 5.3 A fully maintained fire extinguisher of at least a 20B rating must be securely mounted in the WAT and be readily available for use.
 - 5.4 All equipment relevant to the operation of the WAT must be maintained in good working order.
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Level 2, 1 Macarthur Street
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