

Specification for Replacement Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Vehicle requirements, safety and comfort

- a) All vehicles will be licensed on their individual merit and designed or adapted to the London Public Carriage Office Specification, Eurocab M1 Specification or such other nationally accepted specification as is agreed by the council.
- b) The vehicle must be capable of accommodating at least one “reference wheelchair”¹ in either a forward or rear facing position whilst they remain seated in the wheelchair allowing adequate space to ensure the safety and comfort of the wheelchair user, and without interfering with the safety and comfort of any other passengers.
- c) Be silver in colour (as identified on the vehicle’s registration document).
- d) Be right-hand drive.
- e) Be less than 5 years from date of manufacture (as identified in the vehicle’s registration document).
- f) Be fitted with an approved roof sign bearing the word “TAXI” (integrated or freestanding).
- g) Be manufactured to EU Emissions Standard 5 or a higher standard.
- h) Be fitted with a meter of an approved type with the fares charged as determined by the council.
- i) Be capable of carrying not less than 4² and not more than 8 passengers with the provision of a seatbelt and head restraint for each passenger.
- j) Windows must be provided at the rear and sides along with means of opening and closing not less than one window on either side.

Access

- k) In the case of all vehicles which are built or adapted for disabled passengers, the design of the vehicle should ensure that any wheelchair is loaded from the side or the rear of the vehicle.
- l) Should have a minimum 4 doors, which are capable of being opened from the inside. The rear passenger compartment must have an openable door on either side of the vehicle.
- m) The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor and the roof in the wheelchair passenger area must be no less than 1.3 metres.
- n) Rear doors to have mechanism to positively hold them open.

¹ As defined in Schedule 1 of the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000

² The exception to the minimum of 4 passengers will be when the vehicle is carrying a wheelchair

Anchorage & Restraints

- o) Approved anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair. These anchorages must be either chassis or floor linked and capable of withstanding approved dynamic or static tests.
- p) The anchorage must be of the manufacturer's design and construction and secured in such a position as not to obstruct any emergency exit.
- q) Wheelchair internal anchorage must be installed and fitted by a competent person able to verify in a professional capacity that it has been fitted in accordance with all relevant legislative safety standards and requirements.
- r) Restraints for the wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other.
- s) All passenger seats to have three point lap fully operational diagonal seatbelts, one for each passenger carried, fully compliant with British Standards except where the law specifically exempts.
- t) Access to and exit from the wheelchair position must not be obstructed in any manner at any time except by wheelchair loading apparatus.

Ramps

- u) A single ramp must be of a suitable design to ensure that it does not slip or tilt when in use and provide a suitable gradient when in use.
- v) Ramps and lifts must be securely stored in the vehicle before it may move.