

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

APPLICATION

This inspection applies to all buses, which have been issued with an Accessibility Certificate or a (DDA) Special Authorisation. These are PSV buses and coaches having a capacity to carry more than 22 passengers and used on scheduled (timetabled) services. These will be fitted with various accessibility features and be certified in compliance with the PSV Accessibility Regulations.

The regulations refer to 3 separate technical schedules. Each individual schedule identifies the various features that are to be fitted to the specific vehicle types.

- *Schedule 1* - Wheelchair accessibility features required for buses and coaches
- *Schedule 2* - General accessibility features required for buses
- *Schedule 3* - General accessibility features required for coaches

NOTE: For the purposes of this section only:

- A **bus** is defined as 'a public service vehicle designed and constructed for the carriage of both seated and standing passengers, with a capacity exceeding 22 passengers, in addition to the driver'
- A **coach** is defined as 'a public service vehicle designed and constructed for the carriage of seated passengers only, with a capacity exceeding 22 passengers, in addition to the driver'.

Table showing which vehicles this section applies to:

Bus or Coach carrying more than 22 passengers on scheduled journey only	Schedule 1 <i>Wheelchair Accessibility for Buses and Coaches</i>	Schedule 2 <i>General Accessibility for Buses</i>	Schedule 3 <i>General Accessibility for Coaches</i>
Single or Double Deck Bus	Required	Required	N/A
Single or Double Deck Coach first used on or after 1 September 2007	Required	N/A	Required
Single or Double Deck Coach first used on or after 31 August 2003 and before 1 September 2007	Required From 1 st September 2022	N/A	Required
Single or Double Deck Coach first used before 31st August 2003	Required From 1 st September 2022	N/A	Required From 1 st September 2022

As an alternative to Schedules 1, 2 or 3 some vehicles with accessibility certificates will be vehicles type approved in compliance with Directive 2001/85/EC (including Annex 7) or UNECE Regulation 107.02 (including Annex 8) and the route and destination requirements of Schedule 2 or 3.

Note restraints: Wheelchair and wheelchair user restraints may form part of a combined restraint system.

Note padded backrest: On type approved accessible vehicles the backrest need not be padded and, as an alternative to a backrest, a device which acts as a support for the wheels of the wheelchair may be provided.

Note ramp operation: For operation, the ramp or lift can be deployed or lowered to the surface on which the vehicle is sitting. On a type approved accessible vehicle a ramp need not lower to the surface on which the vehicle is sitting but must lower to within 150mm above that surface.

Note band of contrasting colour: On a type approved accessible vehicle this is only required on a powered ramp and it may be red and white striped or a single band of contrasting colour.

Note stowage system: any means to retain the device in the stowed position can easily be released and if the means requires any form of power, the device can be easily released in the event of a power failure, if necessary with the use of a tool carried on the vehicle.

Note portable ramp: Any portable ramp with a positive means to prevent the ramp being easily detached from the vehicle when driven (e.g. locating pins) must comply with this requirement. Portable ramps without this positive means to prevent easy detachment do not have to meet this requirement.

Note power operated lift and ramp:

- Correct operation, this includes all internal and external controls relating to the operation or stopping of the lift or ramp. Where controls are available adjacent to the lift or ramp check that controls that initiate operation can be isolated by a control in the driver's cab.
- If there is more than one lift or ramp only one needs to operate manually.
- In the case of a lift, once stopped it must be capable of being reversed. Safety devices are not required for a ramp if the force of the ramp is unlikely to cause injury or a lift if the operating control is adjacent to the lift.

Note Entrance and exits: Where fitted with a power operated lift or ramp that is not within the driver's direct field of vision, and where the operating control is not adjacent to the lift or ramp. The driver when seated in the driver's seat has a clear unobstructed view of the inside and outside of the door area in which the lift or ramp operates either through mirrors or another optical device such as CCTV or optical cable.

Note Signs and markings: For each wheelchair space there is a sign or instruction indicating the direction a wheelchair and user should face during travel. In the case of a type approved accessible vehicle a sign need not indicate the direction that a wheelchair should face. There are safety instructions explaining the use of the wheelchair space including any wheelchair restraint system and wheelchair occupant restraint system. This does not apply to Type approved accessible vehicles.

Note lighting: The operation of this lighting may be operated by the general interior lighting control(s), separate control(s) or automatically by opening the doors.

Note Steps: In the case of a step which projects beyond the body of the vehicle and is likely to injure pedestrians, check that the step can fold or retract and the vehicle is not capable of being driven normally unless the step is folded or retracted. In the case of Type approved accessible vehicles this last requirement is only for vehicles fitted with power operated steps.

In the case of a power operated step check that the step is incapable of being operated with the vehicle in motion and the function of any safety device, which stops the motion of the step to prevent injury. Safety devices are not required if the force of the step is unlikely to cause injury.

Note Kneeling systems (if applicable). This is a visual inspection for obvious defects, there is no requirement to move the vehicle to prove the interlocks work.

Note kneeling suspension: Kneeling requirements apply for the purpose of accessibility on or off the vehicle only.

PROCEDURE AND STANDARDS

A: Vehicles which comply with Schedule 1 (Wheelchair Accessibility) of The PSV Accessibility Regulations (NI) 2003 or with Type approved

1. For each wheelchair space designed for a forward facing wheelchair check:
 - a. wheelchair restraints for presence, condition, security and function including ease of release.
 - b. wheelchair user restraint for presence, security, condition and function including ease of release. This is not required on Type approved vehicles if the passenger seats in the vehicle are not required to be fitted with any form of occupant restraint.
2. Check each wheelchair space designed for a rearward facing wheelchair for:
 - a. presence, security and condition of a padded backrest.
 - b. presence, security, function and condition of any stanchion, fixed rail retractable rail/movable device, partition or panel relating to the wheelchair area.
3. Check boarding lifts and boarding ramps for:
 - a. presence, security and condition. (Security should be excluded when considering portable ramps.)
 - b. functionality and operation.
 - c. sharp edges or other protrusions.
 - d. a band of contrasting colour around the abutting edges of the ramp surface.
 - e. the surface having an effective device for preventing wheelchairs from rolling off and any device is effective.
 - f. operation and safety of the stowage system.
 - g. an effective safety device to prevent the vehicle from being driven when the device is not correctly stowed (see notes).
4. Check power operated lift or ramp for (additional requirements)

- a. correct operation so that it is unlikely to injure passengers, pedestrians or other road users (see note).
 - b. operation of an audible warning device.
 - c. operation of a yellow warning light on an Type approved vehicle fitted with a powered ramp.
 - d. operation manually in the event of a power failure. Not applicable if a portable ramp is carried.
 - e. an effective safety device to prevent the lift or ramp operating whilst the vehicle is in motion. (This is a visual inspection and does not require movement of the vehicle.)
 - f. operation of the safety device to stop extension or retraction of a ramp or lift.
5. Check Portable Ramp (additional requirements) for:
- a. suitable position for storage.
6. Check entrance and exit optical device (see note on Entrance and Exits) to allow driver to view wheelchair entrances and exits for:
- a. presence, security, condition and operation.
 - b. effective
7. Check signs, markings and instructions for:
- a. presence and legibility.
8. Check communication devices:
- a. for any wheelchair space is present and operates. (This may be Visual or audible.)
 - b. every entrance for a wheelchair user outside the direct view of the driver must have an external communication device check for presence and operation.
9. Check lighting specifically intended for wheelchair users to board or alight in safety for:
- a. presence and operation

B: Vehicles, which comply with Schedules 2 or 3 (General Accessibility) of The PSV Accessibility Regulations (NI) 2003 and Type approved vehicles

10. Check floors and gangways for:
- a. an effective slip resistant surface.

11. Check steps for:

- a. an effective slip resistant surface.
- b. presence, condition and visibility of a band of contrasting colour on the front edge of each step. Bus Directive and ECE Regulation vehicles will have had this checked under section 'Interior of Body, Passenger Entrances, Exit Steps and Platforms'.
- c. operation of an interlock

12. Check kneeling suspension for:

- a. any operating controls are adequately marked.
- b. controls which are capable of stopping and reversing the lowering process.
- c. has an effective interlock to prevent the vehicle from being driven at speeds in excess of 5km/h with the vehicle lower than normal height. (see note)

REASONS FOR FAILURE

	Deficiency Category
1. Wheelchair spaces:	
a. any wheelchair restraint components deteriorated, insecure or defective but not likely to affect its function.	MINOR
b. any wheelchair restraint components missing, or badly deteriorated, insecure and or defective to such an extent the function is obviously affected.	MAJOR
c. any wheelchair user restraint components deteriorated, insecure or defective but not likely to affect its function.	MINOR
d. any wheelchair user restraint components missing, or badly deteriorated, insecure and or defective to such an extent the function is obviously affected.	MAJOR
2. For each wheelchair space designed for a rearward facing wheelchair:	
a. any padded backrest missing, insecure or in a condition which is likely to cause injury to passengers (see note).	MAJOR
b. any stanchion, fixed rail, retractable/movable device,	MAJOR

partition or panel relating to the wheelchair area missing, insecure or in a condition which is likely to cause injury to passengers.

3. Boarding lifts and boarding ramps:

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| a. a lift or ramp missing, insecure or the strength of the lift or ramp is significantly impaired. | MAJOR |
| b. a lift or ramp which does not function as intended or does not operate through the required range of movement. | MAJOR |
| c. there are sharp edges or other protrusions on a lift or ramp which are likely to cause injury. | MAJOR |
| d. the band of contrasting colour on a lift or ramp surface edge is missing or has deteriorated to the extent that it is visually ineffective. | MINOR |
| e. a lift surface does not have an effective device for preventing wheelchairs from rolling off or the device is ineffective. | MAJOR |
| f. cannot be stowed or failure or malfunction of any stowage retaining device including failure to release without power supplied where appropriate but safety not affected. | MINOR |
| g. cannot be safely stowed or failure or malfunction of any stowage retaining device that affects safety. | MAJOR |
| h. the safety device intended to prevent the vehicle being driven normally when the lift or ramp is not in its intended position for vehicle travel is ineffective. | MAJOR |

4. A power operated lift or ramp (additional requirements):

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| a. defective in operation to the extent that it is likely to injure passengers, pedestrians or other road users. | MAJOR |
| b. with an audible device missing or inoperative (except a Type approved accessible vehicle with a powered lift). | MAJOR |
| c. on a Type approved accessible vehicle with a powered ramp the yellow warning lights are defective. | MINOR |
| d. on a Type approved accessible vehicle with a powered ramp the yellow warning lights are missing. | MAJOR |

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| e. | incapable of being operated manually and the vehicle does not have a portable ramp. | MINOR |
| f. | without an effective safety device to prevent the lift or ramp from operating with the vehicle in motion. | MAJOR |
| g. | safety device to stop the extension or retraction of a ramp or lift on meeting an obstruction inoperative and is likely to cause injury. | MAJOR |
| 5. | Portable ramp (additional requirements) with no suitable storage stowage position and likely to cause injury to any passenger or crew. | MAJOR |
| 6. | Entrance and exit optical device to allow driver to view wheelchair entrances and exits: | |
| a. | missing, insecure or defective. | MAJOR |
| b. | ineffective. | MAJOR |
| 7. | A required sign/markings or safety instruction missing or illegible. | MINOR |
| 8. | Communication devices: | |
| a. | any internal wheelchair space communication device missing or inoperative. | MAJOR |
| b. | any external communication device missing or inoperative. | MAJOR |
| 9. | Lighting specifically intended for wheelchair users to board or alight in safety missing, inoperative or deteriorated to the extent that the illumination is significantly reduced (see note). | MAJOR |
| 10. | Floor and gangways slip resistant material deteriorated to the extent that it is no longer effective. | MAJOR |
| 11. | Steps with: | |
| a. | slip resistant material deteriorated to the extent that it is no longer effective. | MAJOR |

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| b. band of contrasting colour is missing or deteriorated to the extent that it is no longer visually effective. | MINOR |
| c. any interlock and/or safety device applicable to folding, extendable and/or power steps is inoperative. | MAJOR |

13. Kneeling suspension which:

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| a. has an operating control which is inadequately marked. | MINOR |
| b. has controls which are incapable of stopping and reversing the lowering process. | MAJOR |
| c. does not have an effective interlock to prevent the vehicle from being driven at speeds in excess of 5km/h with the vehicle lower than normal height. | MAJOR |