

## Mobility Information Sheet 13.

### General Information on Travelling in a Wheelchair

Guidelines from the UK Department for Transport's 'Ricability' Research group include the following:

- If your wheelchair is no larger than 1200mm length, including footplates
- a width of no more than 700mm
- a sitting height of no greater than 1350mm, from the ground to the top of your head
- and the foot plates are no lower to the ground than 150mm,

**you should be able to fit into all wheelchair accessible buses.**

However, if your chair is bigger than this size the bus operator will generally help in accommodating you on the vehicle.

Generally:

- if the 'chair is higher you should be able to fit into most vehicles except taxis – you may have to duck your head to get in
- On some trains the tables may be too low to allow you to get under the table top
- if your 'chair is wider you may have to steer very accurately to get into the wheelchair space
- if the 'chair is longer (because you travel with the back reclined or the footrests extended) manoeuvring into the space may be more difficult

Most buses, coaches and trains have a padded backrest for wheelchairs to park against.

- Place the back of your 'chair against the padded backrest. Your 'chair's backrest should be in an upright position so that it fits against this pad
- Put your brakes on when in position
- Only powered 'chairs with sealed batteries can be carried. Turn off your power when in place
- **Do not travel facing sideways! Especially in TAXIS!**

A transport operator can refuse to carry you if they have reasonable grounds for thinking that your 'chair may be a safety risk to other passengers. Avoiding this is just a matter of following some common sense rules. Make sure that;

- The chair has been correctly maintained
- Tyres are the right pressure
- The back of the 'chair is not loaded with bags which could cause it to tip over backwards on a ramp
- Batteries on a powered 'chair are secure
- Kerb climbers are adjusted so that they do not catch on a ramp

(We are obliged to the UK Department for Transport and to Ricability Research for their permission to reproduce this information here.

Further details of Ricability publications can be found on [www.ricability.org.uk](http://www.ricability.org.uk). Ricability can also be contacted at: 30 Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1V 2PT, or on email: [mail@ricability.org.uk](mailto:mail@ricability.org.uk))

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