

Vehicle Examiners



Introduction;

This bulletin is to provide information relating to the minimum dimensions required of vehicles intending to be used as wheelchair accessible taxis (WAT). And to provide advice on what to do if a non-compliant vehicle is identified during an inspection.

Background;

Section 15.8 of the Light Vehicle Inspection Manual (LVIM) specifies the reason for rejection relating to a compliant WAT and includes minimum dimensions that must be achieved.

This includes the operational width of the ramp, allocated space for a stationary wheelchair and unobstructed wheelchair entry space.

This SIB is to clarify the minimum dimensions required and must be reached at all points within the nominated zone.

Actions;

When inspecting a vehicle modified with WAT features, the following minimum dimensions must be achieved.

- A minimum ramp width dimension of 800mm measured inside any boundary guide and is required along the entire length of the ramp.
- The minimum head room within the clear floor space allocated for each wheelchair shall be;
 - for a vehicle in service prior to 1/1/2013, at least 1410mm.
 - for a vehicle in service post 1/1/2013, at least 1500mm.
- The clear floor space minimum dimension of 800mm wide by 1300mm in length is required to accommodate a stationary wheelchair. This length dimension must be parallel to the vehicle's centreline. The clear floor space is to be flat and level.
 - In addition, the clear floor space must be able to accommodate a rectangular prism with the minimum dimensions of 1300 mm (length) x 800 mm (width) x 1500 mm high for a vehicle in service post 1/1/2013 (or at least 1400mm high for a vehicle in service prior to 1/1/2013).
 - No intrusions into this allocated space are permitted, other than for adjustable restraint devices excluding the restraint anchorages.
- The height is defined as the perpendicular distance from the top surface of the floor covering to the underside of the vehicle's headlining at all points over the allocated floor space.

- The vehicle must have a wheelchair entry doorway with an unobstructed vertical height at least 1400mm high for vehicles in service prior to 1/1/2013 or 1500mm high for those in service or proposed to be in service post 1/1/2013.
The relevant dimension is required at all points within the wheelchair entry doorway zone.

If a VE identifies a proposed WAT vehicle, or a current in service WAT vehicle as non-compliant with these minimum dimensions or other standards specific to a WAT vehicle, please contact Vehicle Standards on 61663263 prior to completing the inspection.

Questions?

Any further questions regarding this Special Information Bulletin should be directed to Vehicle Standards on vehicle_standards@stategrowth.tas.gov.au or Ph. 6166 3263.