



WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Vehicle Licensing Policy 2019 – 2024

Summary Document

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Introduction

This is a summary document. The details listed below do not replace the clause or conditions contained in the Vehicle Licensing Policy 2019-2024. This document lists the basic requirements in order for potential applicants to make an initial decision concerning the licensing of a particular vehicle. It is not comprehensive and should not be relied upon as such.

Additional requirements, conditions and further information are available to read in separate documents, particularly the Vehicle Licensing Policy 2019-2024, and we strongly advise you to read these documents before purchasing any vehicle and before submitting an application for a vehicle licence.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

In additions to other policy sections within the Vehicle Licensing Policy 2019-2024 the following applies to wheelchair accessible vehicles:

Type Approval and design

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles must be professionally constructed or converted and tested conforming to M1 type approval under EWVTA, NSSTA or statutory 'normal' IVA.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles can be side or rear loading.

Restraints

A three-point seatbelt assembly together with suitable wheelchair restraints must be provided for the use of wheelchair occupants in vehicles capable of carrying passengers in their wheelchairs.

Anchorage must be provided for the both the wheelchair and wheelchair user to the latest industry standard. Restraints for wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other.

Ramps

A ramp(s) for the (un)loading of wheelchair passengers must be available at all times for the safe access and egress of passengers. Adequate locating device(s) must be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip or tilt when in use. The ramp(s) must be of sufficient strength and stability such that they will not bend and will remain stable during use and must be of a safe working limit of at least 300 kg over its entire length. The ramp(s) must be capable of being stowed away securely and safely when not in use.

Ramps which are removable must be permanently legibly marked with the registration mark of the vehicle for which they are provided.

Lifting Mechanism

Lifting mechanisms fitted to any licensed vehicle must conform and be tested in accordance with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulation 1998 (LOLER). Any costs associated with this requirement are the responsibility of the vehicle proprietor.

A valid compliance report conform to LOLER must be kept in the vehicle and be available for inspection.

Training

Where a vehicle is capable of carrying a passenger sitting in a wheelchair in the vehicle, the driver of the hackney carriage or private hire vehicle must demonstrate at time of vehicle inspection on application an ability to use the equipment provided for the carriage of passengers. All drivers must attend a disability awareness course approved by the Council.