

INFORMATION BULLETIN



PT 601/03.05

Disability Standards For Accessible Public Transport 2002

What are the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (referred to in this information bulletin as the Transport Standards)?

The Transport Standards form part of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) and are designed to remove discrimination from public transport services for people with a disability.

Who will the Transport Standards help?

Once the Transport Standards are met by public transport providers, everybody, including the one in five people with a disability, will be helped. These people include:

- the mobility impaired
- people with a vision or hearing impairment
- parents with prams
- the frail elderly.

How do the Transport Standards affect you?

- Between now and the year 2022, there are certain parts of the Transport Standards that **must be met** by vehicles operating as public transport.
 - **All new vehicles** (including second-hand vehicles that are new to your operation) need to comply with the Transport Standards.
 - Vehicles currently in operation (that were purchased before the Transport Standards were enacted) need to comply with the Transport Standards by the target dates (see over).
 - If an operator is unable to meet the exact specifications set out in the Transport Standards, you may provide **equivalent access without discrimination** as far as is possible.
 - Equivalent Access means that you can provide alternative means of access to your public transport service, with equivalence of amenity, availability, comfort, convenience, dignity, price and safety.
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Who do the Transport Standards apply to?

- The Transport Standards apply to **all operators** and the **conveyances** (ie. vehicles) they use to provide public transport services. They also apply to providers and supporting premises and infrastructure.
- The Transport Standards do not apply to **dedicated school buses** and certain community transport services.

What happens if you don't comply with the Transport Standards by the target dates?

- The Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) makes it **unlawful** to discriminate against a person (directly or indirectly) because of their disability.
- If a person with a disability tries to access your services and cannot because you do not comply with the Transport Standards, they can make a complaint to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC). If a complaint is successful, it could mean a fine for your business. Outcomes are on a case-by-case basis.

Are there any exemptions for not complying with the Transport Standards?

- If implementing the Transport Standards would cause **unjustifiable hardship**, it would not be unlawful to fail to comply with them.
- In this case, you may apply to HREOC for a temporary exemption.
- As stated above, you can also provide equivalent access without exactly complying with the Transport Standards.

What about action plans?

- The DDA makes a provision for providers of services to prepare and implement an **action plan**. An Action Plan may help your case in the event of a complaint to HREOC.
- An Action Plan outlines how you are planning on meeting the Transport Standards. You can lodge it with HREOC as proof of your intentions, and may help in the event of a complaint.

Additional Information

This is a general information sheet only and is published by Queensland Transport in good faith. Readers of this information sheet should seek independent advice concerning the interpretation and application of the provisions of the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* and the relevant legislation.

The State of Queensland disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs any person might incur as a result of the information contained in this information sheet being inaccurate or incomplete in any way.

Copies of the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 with Guidelines* can be purchased from CanPrint (Ph: 02 - 6295 4422). Additional information about public passenger services is available on Queensland Transport's internet site at www.transport.qld.gov.au/Information_bulletins.

Target Dates for Implementation of the Transport Standards

Part	Part No	Percentage of compliance required by target date			
		31 Dec, 2007	31 Dec, 2012	31 Dec, 2017	31 Dec, 2022
Alarms	19	100%			
Belongings	30	100%			
Booked Services	28	100%			
Food and Drink Services	29	100%			
Hearing Augmentation	26	100%			
Information	27	100%			
Lighting	20	100%			
Priority Seating	31	100%			
Signs	17	100%			
Symbols	16	100%			
Handrails and Grabrails	11		100%		
Payment of Fares	25		100%		
Surfaces	10		100%		
Access Paths	2	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Allocated Space	9	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Boarding Devices	8	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Controls	21	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Doorways and Doors	12	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Manoeuvring Areas	3	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Ramps	6	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Stairs	14	25%	55%	90% 80% (buses only)	100%
Toilets (or stops)	15	25%	55%	90%	100%