

# Accessibility standards for public service vehicles

*Standards for disabled access apply to certain buses and coaches used on local or scheduled services. To make life simpler for our readers, we've put together a table explaining which standards apply to which vehicles.*

A PSV may have to have access for disabled people, depending on the age of the vehicle and what it is used for. In general, the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) 2000 apply to all buses and coaches running on a local or scheduled service introduced since 31 December 2000. Very small buses and coaches (that can carry no more than 22 passengers) are excluded, as are vehicles used for holiday or touring services, day trips or private hire – for example to a theatre or theme park.

## Grandfather rights

The Government understands that many vehicles cannot be modified to meet the requirements or that it is not cost effective to do so. These vehicles are allowed to continue in service for a period representing the end of their economic life. Vehicles do not have to be retro-fitted to meet accessibility requirements unless an operator wishes to continue to run a vehicle on a local or scheduled service beyond the date from which all vehicles in such use must comply.



## The requirements

The requirements include:

- space for a wheelchair, with suitable safety provisions depending on whether the wheelchair is carried facing forwards or backwards
- a boarding device to enable wheelchair users to get on and off vehicles
- priority seats for disabled passengers
- criteria for steps
- handrails to assist disabled people

## Which regulations apply to your vehicle?

Vehicle type	Schedule(s)	New vehicles – applies now	All vehicles (any age) – applies as shown below
Single-deck buses weighing more than 7.5 tonnes	1 and 2	First used on or after 31 December 2000 (does not apply if manufactured before 1 October 2000)	In use on or after 1 January 2016
Single-deck buses weighing 7.5 tonnes or less	2	First used on or after 31 December 2000 but before 1 January 2005 (does not apply if manufactured before 1 October 2000)	In use on or after 1 January 2015 must comply with Schedules 1 and 2
	1 and 2	First used on or after 1 January 2005 (does not apply to Schedule 1 if manufactured before 1 October 2004)	
Double-deck buses	1 and 2	First used on or after 31 December 2000 (does not apply if manufactured before 1 October 2000)	In use on or after 1 January 2017
Single-deck and double-deck coaches	3	First used on or after 31 December 2000 but before 1 January 2005 (does not apply if manufactured before 1 October 2000)	In use on or after 1 January 2020 must comply with Schedules 1 and 3
	1 and 3	First used on or after 1 January 2005 (does not apply to Schedule 1 if manufactured before 1 October 2004)	

- visual contrast of features such as handrails and steps to help partially sighted people
- easy-to-use bell pushes throughout the vehicle
- audible and visible signals to stop a vehicle or to request a boarding device
- external equipment to display the correct route and destination.

Alternatively, vehicles may comply with European Directive 2001/85/EC or UNECE Regulation 107.02, which contain similar provisions, as long as they also comply with the route and destination requirements of the PSVAR.

## More information

The PSVAR can be found on the Department for Transport website at [www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/buses/pubs/psvar](http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/buses/pubs/psvar)

Guidance on the UK legislation is available from the Department for Transport at [www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/buses/legislation](http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/buses/legislation)

UK regulations and amendments are available on the Office of Public Sector Information website at [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

European directives are available from the European Commission at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu> > Select the appropriate language (EN is English) > Official Journal > 2002 > L 042

UNECE regulations are available from the United Nations at [www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29regs/r107r2e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29regs/r107r2e.pdf)