
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2001 No. 264

Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001

Facilities for disabled persons in wheelchairs

Wheelchair spaces

14.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) a regulated rail vehicle which does not form part of a train shall contain not less than one wheelchair space.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where a train consists of a number of regulated rail vehicles shown in column A there shall be in that train not less than the number of wheelchair spaces shown in column B opposite that number of vehicles:

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
2 to 7 vehicles	2 wheelchair spaces
8 to 11 vehicles	3 wheelchair spaces
12 or more vehicles	4 wheelchair spaces

(3) Where one or more regulated rail vehicles in a train are provided for a different class of passenger accommodation from another regulated rail vehicle in that train there shall be not less than one wheelchair space in each class of passenger accommodation in that train.

Wheelchair space specifications

15.—(1) A wheelchair space shall comply with the following specifications—

- (a) the space shall be not less than 1,300 millimetres long measured in the longitudinal plane of the regulated rail vehicle and not less than 750 millimetres wide measured in the transverse plane of that vehicle;
- (b) subject to regulation 17 there shall be no obstruction of the space between the floor and the ceiling of the regulated rail vehicle, other than an overhead luggage rack or an openable window (if fitted);
- (c) at one end of the space there shall be a structure or fitting which shall have a minimum width of 700 millimetres and shall be capable of preventing a reference wheelchair, which has been positioned with its back against the structure or fitting, whether or not that movement or tip includes a sideways movement or tip;
- (d) no magazine rack or other fitting for the use of other passengers shall be accessible through the space, other than an overhead luggage rack or an openable window (if fitted);
- (e) the space shall be fitted with a device, which shall—
 - (i) enable a disabled person in a wheelchair to communicate with a person who is in a position to take appropriate action in an emergency;
 - (ii) be placed within reach of a person in a reference wheelchair;
 - (iii) be operable by the palm of a person's hand; and

- (iv) not require a force greater than 30 newtowns for operation; and
- (f) a sign conforming to diagram C in the Schedule shall be placed immediately next to, or in, the wheelchair space so as to identify the space as a wheelchair space.
- (a) (2) (a) If a wheelchair space is not needed by a disabled person in a wheelchair, folding or tip-up seats may be used in that space;
- (b) when folded or tipped up, those seats shall not project into the space.

Sleeping accommodation

16.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) a regulated rail vehicle with sleeping accommodation for passengers shall have not less than one wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment.

(2) If there is more than one regulated rail vehicle with sleeping accommodation for passengers in a train, there shall be not less than two wheelchair compatible sleeping compartments in the train.

(3) The doorway into a wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment and the space beside the bed in such a compartment shall be not less than 850 millimetres wide.

Tables

17.—(1) If tables or trays (whether fixed or folding) are fitted for the use of passengers at not less than 10 per cent of the seats (excluding priority seats) in a regulated rail vehicle a similar table or tray shall be available for use in any wheelchair space in that vehicle by a disabled person in a wheelchair.

(2) The operator of a regulated rail vehicle shall provide assistance to erect a removable or folding table or tray in a wheelchair space at the request of or on behalf of a disabled person in a wheelchair.

(3) There shall be no obstruction in the space beneath the table-top other than a table-leg positioned so that the unobstructed space beneath the table is not less than 700 millimetres wide when measured at a right angle to the direction in which the wheelchair faces when facing the table.

(4) The lowest point on the underside of the tabletop shall be not less than 720 millimetres vertically above the floor of the regulated rail vehicle.

Wheelchair-compatible doorways

18.—(1) A regulated rail vehicle in which there is a wheelchair space or wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment shall be fitted with a wheelchair-compatible doorway on each side of the vehicle in which there is a door for the use of passengers.

(2) The width of the opening of a wheelchair-compatible doorway shall be not less than 850 millimetres.

(3) A sign conforming to Diagram C in the Schedule shall be marked on the exterior of the regulated rail vehicle on not less than one side of the wheelchair-compatible doorway, or on the door, in such a position that it will be visible both before and after the door has opened.

(4) There shall be no step, or slope with a gradient exceeding five per cent measured when the vehicle is on a straight and level track, in or between the wheelchair-compatible doorway and the wheelchair space or wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment.

(5) The passageway between the wheelchair-compatible doorway and the wheelchair space or wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment shall be not less than 850 millimetres wide at any point, and shall provide a turning space adjacent to the wheelchair space or sleeping compartment for the disabled person in the reference wheelchair to turn the wheelchair around through one hundred and eighty degrees, which turning space may incorporate the wheelchair space.

Toilets for disabled persons in wheelchairs

19.—(1) If a regulated rail vehicle or train is equipped with toilets the nearest toilet cubicle to a wheelchair space or wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment shall comply with the requirements in regulation 13 and with the following requirements—

- (a) the exterior of the toilet cubicle door shall be marked with a sign conforming to Diagram C in the Schedule;
- (b) the width of the doorway shall be not less than 850 millimetres;
- (c) the surface of the toilet seat when lowered shall be not less than 475 millimetres and not more than 485 millimetres vertically above the floor of the toilet cubicle;
- (d) the toilet cubicle shall be equipped with facilities to enable a disabled person in a wheelchair to wash and dry his hands without moving from the seat of the toilet;
- (e) there shall be sufficient space inside the toilet cubicle for a reference wheelchair to be positioned in front of the toilet and to be positioned at one side of the toilet so that it is possible for a disabled person to move from a reference wheelchair on to the toilet seat from the front or the side of the toilet;
- (f) there shall be a hinged handrail beside the toilet, which shall—
 - (i) be on the same side of the toilet as the space for the reference wheelchair;
 - (ii) comply with the requirements in paragraph (2)(a), (c), (d) and (e) of regulation 10; and
 - (iii) comply with the specifications in Diagrams D1 and D2 in the Schedule;
- (g) beside the toilet and on the opposite side to the space for the reference wheelchair there shall be a horizontal handrail, which shall comply with the requirements in paragraph (2) of regulation 10;
- (h) the toilet cubicle shall be fitted with not less than two devices to enable a disabled person to communicate in an emergency with a person who is in a position to take appropriate action, one to be placed not more than 450 millimetres above the floor measured vertically from the surface of the floor to the top of the control device and the other to be not less than 800 millimetres and not more than 1,200 millimetres above the floor measured vertically to the top of the control; and
- (i) each such control shall be operable by the palm of a person's hand exerting a force not greater than 30 newtons.

(2) The passageway between the wheelchair space or wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment and that toilet cubicle shall be not less than 850 millimetres wide at any point and provide a space adjacent to that toilet cubicle for the disabled person in the reference wheelchair to turn the wheelchair around through one hundred and eighty degrees.

Wheelchair access to on board facilities

20. There shall be no obstruction to prevent or cause unreasonable difficulty to, a reference wheelchair being manoeuvred to, from, into or out of any wheelchair space, any toilet cubicle complying with regulation 19 or any wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment in a regulated rail vehicle.

Telephones

- 21.** If a regulated rail vehicle or train is fitted with telephones for the use of passengers then—
- (a) the vehicle or train shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (2), or

- (b) the operator shall assist a disabled person in a wheelchair by providing on request a mobile telephone for use in that person's wheelchair space.
- (2) The requirements are—
 - (a) at the telephone nearest to a wheelchair space the top of the telephone equipment shall be not more than 1,400 millimetres vertically above the floor; and
 - (b) the passageway between the wheelchair space and that telephone shall be not less than 850 millimetres wide at any point and provide a space adjacent to that telephone for the disabled person in the reference wheelchair to turn the wheelchair around through one hundred and eighty degrees.

Internal doorways

22.—(1) A doorway (other than an external doorway in the side or end of a regulated vehicle) through which a disabled person in a wheelchair must pass to reach a wheelchair space, a wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment or the nearest toilet or telephone to that space or compartment shall be not less than 85 millimetres wide.

(2) A doorway in the end of a vehicle through which a disabled person in a wheelchair must pass to reach a wheelchair space, a wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment or the nearest toilet or telephone to that compartment or space shall be not less than 750 millimetres wide.

Boarding devices

23.—(1) When a wheelchair-compatible doorway in a regulated rail vehicle is open at a platform at a station a boarding device must be fitted between that doorway and the platform if a disabled person in a wheelchair wishes to use that doorway, unless the gap between the edge of the door sill of that doorway and the edge of the platform is not more than 75 millimetres measured horizontally and not more than 50 millimetres measured vertically.

- (2) The surface of a boarding device shall be slip-resistant.
- (3) No boarding device other than a lift or ramp shall be used.
- (4) If a regulated rail vehicle is fitted with a lift it shall comply with the following requirements—
 - (a) the lift-platform shall be not less than 750 millimetres wide measured parallel to the side of the vehicle and not less than 1,200 millimetres long measured at a right angle to the side of the vehicle;
 - (b) the lift-platform shall be capable of supporting a weight of not less than 300 kilograms (excluding its own weight);
 - (c) the surface of the lift-platform shall be marked by a strip of colour, which shall abut the edges of that surface, be not less than 50 millimetres wide and contrast with the remainder of the surface, and the platform shall be coloured on each side with that colour;
 - (d) the lift-platform shall not travel up or down at a speed in excess of 150 millimetres per second;
 - (e) the lift-platform shall rest on the surface of the platform of the station when it has been fully lowered;
 - (f) unless the lift-platform is in its fully lowered position the wheelchair shall be prevented from rolling off the platform by a device with a height of not less than 100 millimetres above the surface of the lift-platform;
 - (g) the lift-platform shall be fitted with sensors capable of stopping the movement of the lift-platform if it comes into contact with any thing or person whilst it is in motion; and

- (h) the lift shall be operable only by persons (other than passengers) who are authorised to operate it by the operator of the vehicle and who shall provide assistance by operating it for disabled persons in wheelchairs.
- (5) If the regulated vehicle is fitted with a power-operated ramp—
 - (a) if the ramp is to be operated by a disabled person in a wheelchair the control button for that ramp shall be adjacent to the wheelchair-compatible doorway and within reach of a person in a reference wheelchair;
 - (b) the ramp shall be fitted with a sensor along the edge furthest from the vehicle capable of stopping the movement of that ramp if it comes into contact with any thing or person whilst the ramp is in movement;
 - (c) the ramp shall be incapable of movement in any plane if the surface of the ramp is subjected to a load of 15 kilograms or more;
 - (d) the operator of the vehicle shall provide assistance to the disabled person in a wheelchair using the ramp unless the gradient of the ramp above the horizontal plane is eight per cent or less; and
 - (e) the ramp shall not be operable by a passenger unless the vehicle has stopped at a station.
- (6) If the regulated rail vehicle is not fitted with a lift or a power-operated ramp, the operator of the vehicle shall provide assistance in deploying and using a separate ramp.
- (7) A ramp (whether power-operated or not) shall when in use—
 - (a) be fixed securely to the regulated rail vehicle;
 - (b) be not less than 800 millimetres wide and not wider than the opening of the wheelchair-compatible doorway;
 - (c) have along each side which is not to be crossed by the wheelchair a protective rim standing at least 50 millimetres higher than the surface of the ramp;
 - (d) be capable of supporting a weight of not less than 300 kilograms (excluding its own weight);
 - (e) rest its outer edge securely on the surface of the platform of the station; and
 - (f) be marked on its upper surface by a strip of colour, which shall abut the edge of that surface, shall be not less than 50 millimetres wide and shall contrast with the remainder of that surface and be coloured on each side with that colour.
- (8) A boarding device, which is power-operated, shall also be operable manually, and the operator shall provide assistance for such manual operation if the power-operation fails.
- (9) A boarding device, which is power-operated, shall not be capable of being deployed unless the vehicle to which it is fitted is stationary.
- (10) A boarding device which is carried by a rail vehicle and which is not in use shall be fixed securely to that vehicle so that it does not endanger the safety of persons in that vehicle.

Catering

24. If catering facilities are provided in a regulated rail vehicle or on a train but there is no passageway for a reference wheelchair from a wheelchair space or a wheelchair-compatible sleeping compartment to those facilities the operator of that vehicle or train shall assist a disabled person in a wheelchair by providing a reasonably equivalent catering service to that person in that space or compartment.