

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment & Use) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

**SR 2011 No. 302**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 66(1) and 218(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and Articles 55(1) and (6) and 110(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to allow the prescribed statutory requirements contained within the Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 ("the 1995 Regulations") to be alternatively met by a vehicle satisfying the requirements of ECE Regulations No. 52.01 (concerning the approval of M2 and M3 small capacity vehicles with regard to their general construction), 107.01 or 107.02 (concerning the approval of M2 and M3 vehicles with regard to their general construction) as apply to it.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. These Regulations amend the 1995 Regulations to insert definitions of the ECE Regulations and UNECE Agreement.
- 3.2. ECE Regulation 52 governs the design and construction of single-deck minibuses and smaller buses, with a capacity not exceeding 22 passengers. ECE Regulation 107 governs the interior layout and access to minibuses, buses and coaches and affects many areas of bus construction, including access for passengers with reduced mobility including those with disabilities. Their requirements are optional and sit alongside national requirements for vehicle standards.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The Environment Committee requested a summary of responses to the consultation. Only one response was received, seeking further clarity on the detail of the proposals, which was provided. No further response was received.

#### **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1. An equality impact screening exercise was completed on 6th January 2010. No equality impact was identified.

## **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1. No impact assessment was carried out due to the lack of measurable impact on the public, private or voluntary sectors.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. The Regulations have no measurable financial implications.

## **8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 8.1. The Regulations are considered compliant with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## **9. EU Implications**

- 9.1. Not Applicable.

## **10. Parity or Replicatory Measure**

- 10.1. The Regulations replicate the relevant Great Britain provisions.

## **11. Additional Information**

- 11.1. Not Applicable]