

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

**SR 2011 No. 304**

#### **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 sections 40(1), (2) and (6) and 41(2) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to allow the accessibility requirements of single-deck and double-deck buses and coaches to be alternatively met by a vehicle satisfying the requirements of ECE Regulation 107.01 or 107.02 (uniform provisions concerning the approval of M2 and M3 vehicles with regard to their general construction).

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. These Regulations amend the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (the 2003 Regulations) in order to recognise ECE Regulations 107.01 and 107.02 as alternative means of compliance.
- 3.2. These Regulations will allow the Department when inspecting and issuing an accessibility licence for a single-deck or double-deck bus or coach to use the ECE Regulations as an alternative to the 2003 Regulations.
- 3.3. They also insert definitions of the ECE Regulations and the UNECE Agreement into the 2003 Regulations.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. Issued on 13 September 2010, closed 6 December 2010.

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

- 5.1. There are no Human Rights or Equality Issues associated with the proposed legislation.

#### **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. N/A

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

10.1. The Regulations replicate the relevant Great Britain provisions, which in turn align with the European framework legislation.

## **11. Additional Information**

11.1. N/A