



## Stage 2 Reforms of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002



# Infrastructure access paths: Doorway contrast and height

Currently, there are no set requirements for the minimum safe height and luminance contrast of doorways on conveyances in the Transport Standards, which poses a safety risk for head strikes. There is an opportunity to set minimum safe height and luminance contrast requirements for solid and glazed doors, and to harmonise these requirements with the Premises Standards.

## Reform options

### Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

Transport Standards Section 12.4 *Clear opening of doorways*, would remain unchanged and no additional guidance would be issued. Transport Standards requirements for luminance contrast and height clearance of conveyance doors remain unchanged.

### Non-regulatory option

The Whole Journey Guide and / or the Transport Standards Guidelines would be updated to include advice for good practice for luminance contrast and height clearance of conveyance doors, including:

- Door dimension requirements specific to location, such as on an access path or a bus
- Luminance contrast on and around access path doors
- Operators and providers can choose to comply with AS1428.2 (1992) *Design for access and mobility. Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements – Buildings and facilities*

Specific guidance would pertain to buses (except dedicated school buses), coaches, ferries, trains, trams and light rail.

### Regulatory option

Transport Standards section 12.4 would be amended to include updated requirements for luminance contrast and height clearance of conveyance doors (including any requirements retained or amended from the status quo):

- Doors located on an access path in conveyances other than buses and coaches must be not less than 850 millimetres clear open width from the floor or deck to a height of at least 1980 millimetres (AS1428.1 (2009) *Clause 13.2* and *Clause 6.2*).

- Curved sections on the upper and lower vertical door frames must have a radius of not more than 225 millimetres where the vertical frame meets the upper horizontal frame and 50 millimetres where the vertical door frame meets the floor.
- Door vertical clearance in buses and coaches must comply with Australian Design Rule 58.
- Doors and gates on an accessway must luminance contrast with their surroundings as per AS1428.1 (2009) *Clause 13.1*.
- Fully glazed doors must have a luminance contrasting strip as per AS1428.1-2009 *Clause 6.6*.
- Any luminance contrast treatment of doors must not compromise a driver's vision but must meet the relevant State technical requirement for visibility.

These requirements would pertain to buses (except dedicated school buses), coaches, ferries, trains, trams and light rail.

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or The Whole Journey Guide would be updated to reflect new requirements and include specific guidance for buses, coaches, trains, trams, light rail and ferries.

## Case study

Timothy has low vision and has uses a white cane to help him move safely and confidently. He is catching a train to a football match and doesn't use this line often.

### Timothy's experience today

Timothy waits for the train at the accessible boarding point marked on the train platform. As the train arrives and begins to slow to a stop, Timothy has difficulty identifying the location of the doors as they are the same colour as the rest of the train. Once the train stops, Timothy can't tell where the door is so he walks forward and feels against the side of the train to find the button to open the door. He hears the conductor's whistle blow and still can't find the door. A passenger inside the train notices him struggling and goes to the door and opens it. Timothy realises he's in between two doors and feels embarrassed and stressed. Timothy boards the train and takes his seat moments before the train departs.

### Timothy's experience under the proposed reforms

Timothy waits for the train at the accessible boarding point, marked on the train platform. As the train arrives and begins to slow to a stop, Timothy can make out the bright, contrast strip around the doors of the train. He can see the closest door is a few meters to his left and walks towards it. Timothy feels the door and immediately identifies and presses the door open button. He boards the train confidently and takes his seat with plenty of time before the train departs.

## Have your say

Public consultation on the Stage 2 reform of the Transport Standards will open from 15 March to 9 August 2022.

For further information:

- **Website:** <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au>
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- **Email:** DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au
- **Survey:** <https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=28674&name=doorway-contrast-and-height>