



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



Safety on board conveyances: Mobility aid movement in allocated spaces: Active restraints

Currently, there is a lack of clarity in the Transport Standards on the technical requirements for active restraints, and when and where the provision of active restraints is required. There is an opportunity to prescribe a national standard for a minimum level of safety and amenity for active restraints for mobility aids in allocated spaces on conveyances with mandatory safety belts, and to provide a definition for active restraining systems.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

The Transport Standards would remain unchanged and no additional guidance would be issued.

Non-regulatory option

Guidance would be updated to include advice on active restraints on public transport conveyances, including:

- Definition of active restraints
- Safe use of active restraints, including seat belts
- Staff training
- Ensure emerging technologies comply with standards
- Passenger responsibilities, such as ensuring mobility aids comply with relevant safety requirements and deciding whether to travel on services without seatbelts
- Operators can choose to comply with AS/NZS 10542.1 (2015) *Technical systems and aids for people with disability - Wheelchair tiedown and occupant-restraint systems, Part 1: Requirements and test methods for all systems*

Regulatory option

The Transport Standards would be amended to include new technical requirements for active restraints, define active restraining systems, and specifies where active restraining systems are mandatory.

The Transport Standards would include the following new requirements for movement of mobility aid in allocated spaces – active restraints:

- If safety belts are compulsory under legislation in a conveyance, active restraints must be fitted and conform to ASNZS10542.1 (2015) at a minimum.
- Passengers must use active restraints systems if safety belts are compulsory, unless the passengers have a dispensation through normal channels. Passengers may choose to travel facing towards the front of the conveyance.
- Active restraint systems must be operator deployable as default, rather than passenger deployable.

These requirements pertain to all conveyances.

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or The Whole Journey Guide would be updated to reflect the new requirements.

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>
- **Call:** 1800 621 372
- **Email:** DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au
- **Survey:** <https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=28701&name=mobility-aid-movement-in-allocated-spaces-active-restraints>