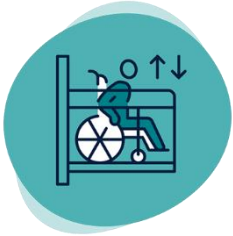




Stage 2 Reforms of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002



Lifts: Specifications for escalators and inclined travellers

Currently, the Transport Standards do not provide any specifications on the minimum width requirements for escalators and inclined travellers. Escalators and inclined travellers are not always wide enough to be accessible to people with disability. There is an opportunity to clarify the technical specifications regarding the minimum unobstructed width for escalators and inclined travellers to promote safe and accessible egress and provide certainty to operators and providers on their obligations.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

No changes to the Transport Standards or guidance would be made.

Non-regulatory option

Guidance would be updated to include guidance which recommends a minimum width of 850 millimetres for escalators and inclined travellers and that they should not be the sole means of access.

Specific guidance may include:

- Escalators should be located within the area of main pedestrian flow, and where possible should be co-located with lifts
- Escalators, inclined travellers and stairs should not be the sole means of access
- Design of escalator, including recommended width

Guidance would pertain to premises, (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply) and infrastructure, (except airports that do not accept regular public transport services.)

Regulatory option

The Transport Standards would include new minimum width specifications for escalators and moving walkways and that they are not to be the sole means of access.

The Transport Standards would include the following new requirements:

- Escalators, inclined travellers and stairs must not be the sole means of access.
- The minimum unobstructed width of an escalator or inclined traveller must be at least 850 millimetres.

The requirements would pertain to premises, (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply) and infrastructure, (except airports that do not accept regular public transport services.)

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

Case study

Fred would like to cross a busy street. This can be achieved by using an overbridge or a pedestrian crossing 200 meters away. The overbridge offers lift and escalator alternatives. Fred uses a walking stick and feels very uncomfortable in enclosed spaces, particularly in lifts. As such, Fred prefers to use an escalator or traveller if available. In order to steady himself Fred will hold the moving balustrade with his left hand and with his right hand will use his walking stick. On narrow escalators there is not enough room to place his walking stick firmly beside him. Fred feels unsafe in these circumstances.

Fred's experience today

The escalator is too narrow for Fred to safely use, and he does not feel comfortable using the lift. He chooses to use the pedestrian crossing. This adds 200 m to his journey and the extra distance walked is tiring and time consuming.

Fred's experience under the proposed reforms

Fred approaches the escalator and steps on. He holds the moving balustrade firmly and there is space to steady himself with his walking stick as the escalator is a comfortable width. Fred is very pleased at the convenience of a grade separated crossing, rather than taking a long walk down to the at grade crossing.

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=28719&name=specifications-for-escalators-and-inclined-travelators>