



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Summary of amendments to the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002

October 2026

Purpose of this document

The Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Transport Standards) were amended on 13 October 2026 to introduce new requirements to improve the accessibility of public transport and help remove discrimination against people with disability. This document provides information about the new compliance obligations of operators and providers and summarises new requirements in each Part of the Transport Standards. Operators and providers should consider this summary document in conjunction with the [Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport Amendment 2026](#) (amending instrument) and its [explanatory statement](#) to understand the full scope of amendments and their new compliance obligations. A compilation, which is an updated version of the Transport Standards that combines the existing requirements and the amendments into a single document, will be published on the Federal Register of Legislation shortly.

A glossary of key terms used in this document is available at **Appendix A**. Further information about the reforms is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/transportstandards.

What are the Transport Standards and the Transport Standards Guidelines?

The Transport Standards are a legislative instrument made under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. The Transport Standards provide requirements for operators and providers to make their services accessible and remove discrimination against people with disability. Operators and providers must comply with the Transport Standards. The Transport Standards are supported by the [Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport Guidelines](#)

[2026](#) (Guidelines). The Guidelines provide additional information to assist operators and providers to understand and implement their obligations under the Transport Standards. The Guidelines have been updated to reflect the amendments to the Transport Standards.

When do the new requirements need to be implemented?

Each section in the Transport Standards contains a table that lists the assets that the requirements of the section apply to. Part 35 of the amended Transport Standards outlines when operators and providers must comply with new requirements. Operators and providers should also consider the guidance contained in Part 35 of the Guidelines to understand how the amendments affect projects in planning or under construction. There are three ways new requirements will be implemented. Amendments may:

- apply on the commencement day. These amendments are largely definitional or clarify existing requirements, meaning they do not require material changes to assets or processes.
- apply to new assets or assets that are substantially refurbished or altered on or after the commencement day.
- apply to assets that existed prior to the commencement day, and require compliance by a set timeframe (5- or 10-years). This means these assets must be compliant with relevant requirements by the date 5- or 10- years from the commencement date, as the case may be.

The commencement day for the amended Transport Standards is 13 October 2026.

Do the amendments affect existing Transport Standards compliance obligations?

The amendments to the Transport Standards do not change the compliance dates or provide public transport operators and providers additional time to meet the requirements of the Transport Standards that existed before the amended Transport Standards came into effect. All existing assets must now be compliant with the requirements of the Transport Standards that existed before these amendments, except for trains and trams which continue to have until 31 December 2032 to meet relevant requirements.

Summary of new requirements and compliance obligations

The tables below summarise new requirements in each Part of the Transport Standards, including information about which assets the requirements apply to, the implementation approach, and references to relevant sections of the Transport Standards Guidelines. Please note the tables do not include all amendments. For example, some amendments do not have substantial or material impacts on the obligations of operators and providers – this includes definitional changes such as updating the terminology ‘service animal’ to ‘assistance animal’. Operators and providers should consider the amended Transport Standards, Guidelines and the explanatory statement to understand the full scope of changes.

Table 1: Summary of amendments to Part 2 (Access paths)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
2.5 Poles and objects etc.	New testing requirements for measuring the luminance contrast of an obstacle against surrounding surfaces.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed poles and other structures	2.3 Avoidance of hazards on access paths
2.6 Access paths – conveyances	New minimum vertical dimensions for access paths in which obstructions must not be present.	Buses, ferries, trains, trams, and light rail	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed objects or fixtures	2.6 Access paths on conveyances

Table 2: Summary of amendments to Part 3 (Manoeuvring)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
3.2 Obstructions in manoeuvring area – conveyances	New minimum vertical dimensions for manoeuvring areas in which obstructions must not be present.	Buses (except dedicated school buses), ferries, and accessible rail, tram and light rail cars	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed objects or fixtures	3.1 General 3.2 Obstructions in manoeuvring areas on conveyances
3.4 Co-location of manoeuvring areas with access paths and allocated spaces - conveyances	New requirements for manoeuvring areas to be co-located with access paths and allocated spaces.	Buses (except dedicated school buses), ferries, and accessible rail, tram and light rail cars	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances	3.1 General 3.3 Co-location of manoeuvring areas with access paths and allocated spaces

Table 3: Summary of amendments to Part 5 (Resting points)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
5.1 When resting points must be provided	New requirement to provide a flat and stable space beside a resting point.	Nil	All	All	New and substantially refurbished resting points Existing resting points – 5-year set timeframe	5.1 Resting points on access paths

Table 4: Summary of amendments to Part 6 (Ramps)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
6.5 Slope of fixed gangways connected to pontoon wharves	Clarifications to requirements to reflect variable tidal environments and new requirements for the gradient of fixed gangways.	Nil	Nil	Pontoon wharves	New and substantially refurbished fixed gangways	6.2 Minimisation of fixed gangway gradients 6.3 Maintaining accessibility of gangways affected by extreme tidal regimes 6.4 Nationally consistent chart datum and tide tables

Table 5: Summary of amendments to Part 7 (Waiting areas)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
7.1 Minimum number of priority seats and allocated spaces	New requirements to determine minimum number of allocated spaces and priority seats to be provided in waiting areas.	Nil	All	All	New and substantially refurbished seating and allocated spaces in premises and infrastructure Existing seating and allocated spaces in – 5-year set timeframe	7.1 General principle

Table 6: Summary of amendments to Part 8 (Boarding)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
8.1A Nominated assistance boarding points - trains	New requirements to ensure independent boarding is provided at all accessible train doors, or instances where this is not possible, direct assistance is available.	Trains	Train stations	Train platforms	New and substantially refurbished conveyances, premises and infrastructure Newly installed boarding points	8.2 Independent access 8.3 Nominated assistance boarding points 8.5 Train and ferry boarding points
8.1B Boarding points – buses, trams and light rail	New design requirements for bus, tram and light rail boarding points.	Nil	Nil	Bus, tram and light rail boarding points	New, additional or replacement boarding points	8.4 Bus, tram and light rail boarding points 8.6 Hail-and-ride boarding points
8.1C Identification of accessible car on conveyances	New requirements for the identification of cars on trains that contain certain accessibility features.	Trains	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances	Nil

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
8.6A Boarding ramps	New requirements for boarding ramps that are not fixed to conveyances to have edge barriers.	All (except dedicated school buses and small aircraft)	Nil	Nil	New, additional or replacement boarding ramps	8.7 Ramp edge barriers 8.8 Removable gangway maintenance
8.6C – 8.6H (requirements for removable gangways)	A range of new requirements to ensure removable gangways are safe and accessible, including specifications for length and security, handrails, side and edge barriers, gradient, surfaces, and strength testing.	Ferries	Nil	Nil	New, additional or replacement removable gangways	8.8 Removable gangway maintenance
8.7 Requesting use of boarding device to alight	New requirements to assist in requesting the use of a boarding device, including the operation of switches and buttons, and links to hearing augmentation systems.	Buses (except dedicated school buses), coaches, ferries, trains, trams, and light rail.	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances New devices installed in conveyances	Nil
8.8 Requesting use of boarding device to board	New requirements regarding the location of devices to signal the needs for a boarding device to board a conveyance.	Nil	All	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed devices	8.9 Notification by passenger of need for boarding device
8.9 Identification of lead stops	New requirements for lead stops at bus zones and interchanges to be clearly identified.	Nil	Bus stations	Bus zones and bus interchanges	New and substantially refurbished lead stops Existing lead stops – 5-year set timeframe	8.10 Identification of lead stops

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
8.10 - 8.12 (requirements for passenger loading zones and taxi ranks)	A range of new requirements for the minimum number and design of accessible vehicle spaces in passenger loading zones and taxi ranks within, or associated with, public transport premises or infrastructure, and taxi ranks on public streets.	Nil	All	All	New and substantially refurbished passenger loading zones and taxi ranks Existing passenger loading zones and taxi ranks – 10-year set timeframe	7.1 General principles 8.11 Taxi ranks and passenger loading zones
8.13 Public parking areas within premises and infrastructure	New requirements for the design and number of accessible parking spaces that must be provided.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished public parking areas Existing public parking areas – 10-year set timeframe	2.2 Continuous accessibility 8.12 Accessible parking spaces in infrastructure off-street carparks

Table 7: Summary of amendments to Part 9 (Allocated spaces)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
9.1A Unobstructed vertical dimension of an allocated space	New requirements defining a minimum vertical height within allocated spaces that must not obstructed.	All (except dedicated school buses, small aircraft and taxis)	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed objects and fixtures that project into allocated spaces	2.6 Access paths on conveyances 3.2 Obstructions in manoeuvring areas on conveyances 3.3 Co-location of manoeuvring area with access paths and allocated spaces

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
9.1B Information must be provided – priority access of allocated spaces	New requirements for allocated spaces to be accompanied by signage stating that people using mobility aids have priority access to use the allocated space.	Buses (except dedicated school buses), ferries, trains, trams, and light rail.	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed signage	Nil
9.7 Consolidation of allocated spaces	Clarifications to specify that, if possible, allocated spaces must be consolidated to accommodate larger mobility aids, and requirements for the design of consolidated allocated spaces.	Buses (except dedicated school buses), ferries, trains, trams, and light rail.	Nil	Nil	New conveyances	9.1 Manoeuvring area not to be compromised

Table 8: Summary of amendments to Part 10 (Surfaces)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
10.2 Slip resistance for premises and infrastructure	New requirements for the slip resistance of surfaces in premises and infrastructure, including in a range of conditions that the surface is likely to be subject to (e.g. rain).	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	Newly installed floors in premises and infrastructure	10.1 Surfaces of access paths
10.4 Luminance contrasting floor and wall surfaces in premises and infrastructure	New luminance contrast requirements for access paths against surrounding surfaces, fixtures and fittings.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	Newly installed surfaces, columns, street furniture and fixtures in premises and infrastructure Existing surfaces, columns, street furniture and fixtures in premises and infrastructure – 10-year set timeframe	Nil

Table 9: Summary of amendments to Part 11 (Handrails and grabrails)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
11.1 General requirements – premises and infrastructure	New design specifications for handrails in premises and infrastructure, including requirements for domed warning indicators and luminance contrast.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	Newly installed handrails	11.1 Handrails on access paths
11.2 Handrails to be provided on access paths	New requirements for handrails to be placed continuously along both side of access paths on overbridges and through subways.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure	11.2 Handrails in overbridges and subways
11.3 Handrails on steps and stairs – conveyances	New requirements for the design of handrails on stairs, including luminance contrast requirements and requirement for domes warning indicators.	All (except dedicated school buses, ferries and small aircraft)	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed handrails	14.2 Stairs on trains 14.3 Stairs on buses
11.4A Handrails on passenger doors – buses	New requirements for the design of handrails on passenger doors on buses.	Buses (except dedicated school buses)	Nil	Nil	New buses Newly installed handrails	Nil
11.4B Handrails on stairs – ferries	New requirements for the design of handrails on stairs specific to ferries.	Ferries	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished ferries Newly installed handrails	11.2 Handrails on ferries
11.7 Grabrails in allocated spaces	New requirements specifying luminance and location requirements for grabrails, including that they must be provided in allocated spaces.	Buses (except dedicated school buses), coaches, ferries, trains, trams and light rail.	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed grabrails	11.4 Grabrails in allocated spaces

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
11.8 Grabrails on access paths	New requirements specifying luminance and location requirements for grabrails, including that they must be provided along an access path where a person is likely to require support during boarding, alighting or transit.	Buses, coaches, ferries, trains, trams and light rail.	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed grabrails	11.4 Grabrails on access paths on board conveyances

Table 10: Summary of amendments to Part 12 (Doorways and doors)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
12.4 Clear opening of doorways	New requirements for the design of doorways, including luminance contrast and door width.	Buses, coaches, ferries, trains, trams and light rail.	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished doorways and doors Existing doorways and doors – 5-year set timeframe	12.2 Doors on access paths
12.7 Unisex accessible toilet doors must be power assisted	New requirements specifying doors of unisex accessible toilets must be power assisted.	Trains	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished trains, premises and infrastructure Newly installed doors	12.2 Doors on access paths

Table 11: Summary of amendments to Part 13 (Lifts)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 13.1 Compliance with Australian Standards — premises and infrastructure	New requirements specifying that lift facilities must comply with referenced Australian Standards.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed lifts	13.1 Technical specifications
Section 13.2 Braille and tactile information at lift landings	New requirements for lift landings to include braille and tactile information identifying the platform, street, facility land, or level of the building.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New or substantially refurbished lift landings Existing lift landings – 5-year set timeframe	Nil
Section 13.3 Audible announcement in lift about location and directions	New requirements for lift cars to provide audio information to orient a person when they leave the lift.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed lifts	Nil
Section 13.4 Emergency communication systems in lift	New requirements for lifts to include an emergency warning system, including compliance with referenced Australian Standards.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed lifts	Nil

Table 12: Summary of amendments to Part 14 (Stairs)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 14.1 Stairs, escalators etc. not to be sole means of access	New requirements specifying that stairs, escalators and inclined travellers must not be the sole means of access.	All (except dedicated school buses and small aircraft)	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished conveyances, premises and infrastructure	14.1 Stairs. Escalators and inclined travellers not to be only means of access
Section 14.2 Requirements for risers, treads and handrails on stairs	New requirements for the design of stairs in premises and infrastructure.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed stairs	Nil
Section 14.3A Stairs on ferries	New requirements for the design of stairs on ferries.	Ferries	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished ferries	Nil
Section 14.4 Specific requirements – buses	New requirements for the design of stairs on buses.	Buses (except dedicated school buses)	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished buses	14.3 Stairs on buses
Section 14.5 Specifications for escalators in premises and infrastructure	New requirements for the minimum width of escalators and inclined travellers.	Nil	All	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed escalators and inclined travellers	13.1 Technical specifications

Table 13: Summary of amendments to Part 15 (Toilets)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 15.1 Unisex accessible toilet – premises and infrastructure	New requirements for the design of unisex accessible toilets at premises and infrastructure.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure	15.1 Location 15.2 Size
Section 15.3 Unisex accessible toilet – ferries and accessible rail cars	New requirements specifying that if two or more unisex accessible toilets are provided on board a ferry or accessible rail car, they must be provided in equal or near equal proportions of left- and right-hand configurations.	Ferries, accessible rail cars	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished ferries and accessible rail cars	15.1 Location 15.2 Size 15.3 Equal proportion of left- and right-hand configurations
Section 15.4 Requirements for accessible toilets – ferries and accessible rail cars	New requirements for accessible toilets on ferries and accessible rail cars to have hand washing facilities located within the toilet cubicle in accordance with a referenced Australian Standard.	Ferries, accessible rail cars	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished ferries and accessible rail cars	15.1 Location 15.2 Size

Table 14: Summary of amendments to Part 16 (Symbols)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 16.1 International symbol for accessibility and deafness	New requirements outlining specifications and how international symbols for accessibility and deafness should be provided.	All	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished signage	17.1 Location of signs

Table 15: Summary of amendments to Part 17 (Signs)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 17.1 Height, illumination and legibility	New requirements for the design of signs, including letter height and font and luminance contrast.	All	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished signage	17.2 Signs identifying accessible features or facilities
Section 17.2 Location of signs	New requirements for the location of signs and requirements for signs directing people to accessible entrances.	Buses, coaches, ferries, aircraft, trains, trams and light rail	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished signage	17.1 Location of signs
Section 17.3 Signs in spaces with hearing augmentation systems	New requirements for signage to be provided to identify spaces where a hearing augmentation system is installed.	Buses, coaches, ferries, aircraft, trains, trams and light rail	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished signage	26.1 Hearing augmentation - conveyances
Section 17.3A Signs in sanitary facilities	New requirements specifying that signage must be provided to direct users to accessible sanitary facilities and to identify if a unisex toilet is suitable for left- or right-handed use.	Buses, coaches, ferries, aircraft, trains, trams and light rail	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished signage	17.2 Signs identifying accessible features or facilities
Section 17.5 Digital information display screens	New requirements for the provision of information on digital information display screens, including location and design requirements.	All	All	All	New and substantially refurbished digital information display screens	17.3 Digital information screens

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 17.6 – 17.6E (requirements for braille and tactile signs and labels)	A range of new requirements for the design of braille and tactile signs and labels, including design requirements, formatting and location.	All	All	All	New and substantially refurbished signage	17.4 Braille design requirements

Table 16: Summary of amendments to Part 18 (Tactile ground surface indicators)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
18.1 Location	New Australian/New Zealand Standard specifications for the location of warning TGSIs.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished tactile ground surface indicators in premises and infrastructure Existing tactile ground surface indicators – 10-year set timeframe	18.1 Directional tactile ground surface indicators 18.2 Integrating wayfinding elements
18.2 Style and dimensions	New Australian/New Zealand Standard specifications for the design of warning and directional TGSIs.	Nil	All (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply)	All	New and substantially refurbished tactile ground surface indicators in premises and infrastructure Existing tactile ground surface indicators – 10-year set timeframe	18.1 Directional tactile ground surface indicators 18.2 Integrating wayfinding elements

Table 17: Summary of amendments to Part 21 (Door controls, switches and general-purpose outlets)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 21.3 Location of passenger-operated controls for opening and locking doors	New requirements for the location of passenger-operated opening and locking controls.	Buses, coaches, ferries, trains, trams and light rail	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed controls	21.1 Application is only to doors for public use

Table 18: Summary of amendments to Part 24 (Access gates)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 24.1 Access gates	New requirements specifying the minimum width of an accessible gate separating paid and unpaid areas of a station or interchange.	Nil	All	All	New and substantially refurbished premises and infrastructure Newly installed access gates	24.1 Access gates

Table 19: Summary of amendments to Part 25 (Payment of fares)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 25.2 Requirements for an accessible fare system	New requirements specifying design features that fare payment systems must meet, such as vending machines, check-in kiosks and cashes reload and validation devices.	All	All	All	New and substantially refurbished conveyances, premises and infrastructure Newly installed fare system elements	25.1 General principles 25.3 requirements for an accessible fare system

Table 20: Summary of amendments to Part 27 (Information)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 27.1 Provision of information in multiple formats	New requirements specifying that general information about public transport services cannot be provided solely in an online format.	All	All	All	5-year set timeframe	27.1 Access to information about public transport services
Section 27.2 Direct assistance to be provided	New requirements specifying that information in infrequently requested formats must be provided in a timely manner if not immediately available, and equivalent access by direct assistance must be provided until the request is fulfilled.	All	All	All	5-year set timeframe	27.1 Access to information about public transport services 27.2 Timely provision of information
Section 27.3 Size and format of printing on request	New requirements specifying that large print versions of documents must be made available, including design and formatting requirements.	All	All	All	New or updated information provided to the public	27.1 Access to information about public transport services
Section 27.5 Braille embossed print format	New requirements specifying the format in which braille must be provided in embossed formats.	All	All	All	5-year set timeframe	27.1 Access to information about public transport services
Section 27.6 Information about stops should be given during public transport journey	New requirements specifying that next stop information must be provided in both visual and audible formats.	All (except taxis and aircraft)	Nil	Nil	New and substantially refurbished conveyances Newly installed information displays and hearing augmentation systems	27.3 Passenger location during journey

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 27.7 Online information about public transport services must be accessible	New minimum WCAG accessibility requirements for information provided by an operator or provider in an online format, including websites and mobile web systems.	All	All	All	New and substantially refurbished or altered digital services	27.6 Information and communications technology
Section 27.8 Information provided during disruptions	New requirements specifying that operators and providers must provide information about planned disruptions to services and alternative travel options in a variety of formats and with as much notice as can be reasonably provided in the circumstances.	All	All	All	5-year set timeframe	27.4 Information during service disruption
Section 27.9 Communicating accessibility features of conveyances, premises and infrastructure	New requirements specifying that operators and providers must publish information about accessibility features within their transport network and to identify access barriers within the network and publish information about solutions available to ensure access to the network	All	All	All	5-year set timeframe	27.5 Communicating accessibility features of conveyances, premises and infrastructure
Section 27.10 Information and communication technology must be accessible	New requirements specifying that any ICT hardware, services or software that is intended for public use must be accessible to people with disability.	All	All	All	New information and communication technology procurements	27.6 Information and communications technology

Table 21: Summary of amendments to Part 28 (Booked services)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 28.4 Location of carers, assistants and assistance animals	New requirements specifying that people with disability must be able to book seats that are appropriate their needs	Aircraft, coaches, ferries, dial-a-ride services and trains.	Nil	Nil	5-year set timeframe	28.1 Appropriate seats on booked services

Table 22: Summary of amendments to Part 31 (Priority seating)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 31.1 Allocation of priority seating	New requirements specifying the number of priority seats that must be provided on conveyances.	Buses, ferries, rail cars, trams and light rail	Nil	Nil	New or substantially refurbished conveyances Existing seating in conveyances – 5-year set timeframe	31.1 Priority seating and allocated spaces 31.3 Use of folding seats in allocated spaces as priority seating
Section 31.2 Appearance and signage	New requirements for the luminance contrast of the material of priority seats and for signage identifying the priority seat.	Buses, ferries, rail cars, trams and light rail	Nil	Nil	New or substantially refurbished conveyances Existing seating in conveyances – 5-year set timeframe	31.2 Penalties for failing to vacate priority seats 31.4 Identification of passengers eligible for priority seats
Section 31.3 Location of priority seats in conveyance	New requirements specifying that operators and providers must ensure priority seats are easy to find and use by locating the seating as close as practicable to entrance doors, accessible facilities or staff.	Buses, ferries, rail cars, trams and light rail	Nil	Nil	New or substantially refurbished conveyances Existing seating in conveyances – 5-year set timeframe	Nil

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 31.4 Accommodation of assistance animals	New requirements specifying that operators and providers must ensure there is space under priority seats to accommodate assistance animals.	Buses, ferries, rail cars, trams and light rail	Nil	Nil	New or substantially refurbished conveyances Existing seating in conveyances – 5-year set timeframe	31.5 Accommodation of assistance animals

Table 23: Summary of amendments to Part 31A (Training to prevent disability discrimination)

Transport Standards section	Summary of change	Applicable conveyances	Applicable premises	Applicable infrastructure	Implementation approach	Relevant Guidelines section
Section 31A.1 Staff training	New requirements specifying that operators and providers must provide staff with disability awareness training.	All	All	All	5-year set timeframe	31A Training to prevent disability discrimination

Appendix A – Glossary of key terms

5-year set timeframe – operators and providers have 5 years from the commencement of the amended Transport Standards to comply with the given requirement

10-year set timeframe – operators and providers have 5 years from the commencement of the amended Transport Standards to comply with the given requirement

Amending instrument – the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport Amendment 2026

Amended Transport Standards – the Transport Standards as amended by the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport Amendment 2026

Application provisions – rules that determine which assets, services, information or operators a requirement applies to.

Commencement day – 12 October 2026, the day the amended Transport Standards came into effect

Conveyance – any rolling stock, vehicle or vessel classified as public transport within its jurisdiction, such as aircraft, buses, coaches, ferries, taxis, trains, trams, and light rail. It does not include charter boats (including water taxis), limousines, or self-drive rental cars.

Direct assistance – help given to people with disability by an operator or provider to make public transport accessible or to provide non-discriminatory access on request

Equivalent access – a process under which an operator or provider may vary the equipment or facilities of the public transport service, as long as an equivalent standard of amenity, availability, comfort, convenience, dignity, price and safety is maintained. Equivalent access is often provided by direct assistance.

Existing conveyances – conveyances which either:

- a. were in service immediately before the commencement of the amended Transport Standards but are not substantially refurbished after the commencement, or
- b. entered service on or after the commencement day but which were subject to a binding order or lease agreement or whose design had been submitted as part of a procurement that happened before the commencement day.

Existing premises and infrastructure – premises or infrastructure which either:

- a. were in use immediately before commencement and are not substantially refurbished after the commencement day, or
- b. had started construction or substantial refurbishment on or after the commencement day and had not been completed by commencement day, or
- c. had received relevant approval to be constructed or substantially refurbished before the commencement day but construction had not yet started on that day

Existing train or tram – a train or tram that was in service immediately before the Amendment Standards commenced and has not since been substantially refurbished or altered

The Guidelines – the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport Guidelines 2026*, which provide guidance on interpreting and complying with the Transport Standards

Implementation approach – the assets which must be compliant with the amended Transport Standards, and the timeframes in which these assets must be compliant

Infrastructure – structures or facilities that is used by passengers in conjunction with travelling on a public transport service, but do not include any area beyond immediate boarding points

Luminance contrast – the difference between the amount of light reflected by two surfaces

Manoeuvring area – an area in which a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, can turn

New conveyance, premises or infrastructure – a conveyance, premises or infrastructure that comes into service on or after commencement of the Amendment Standards, including one that has been substantially refurbished or altered

Operators – people or organisations (including the staff of an organisation) that provide a public transport service

Passing area – an area in which two mobility aids, such as a wheelchair, can pass each other

Premises – structures, buildings or attached facilities that are provided for passenger use as part of a public transport service, such as a train station

Priority seat – a seat identified as available for a person with disability if they require a seat

Providers – people or organisations that are responsible for the supply or maintenance of public transport infrastructure

Transitional provisions – rules that explain how existing assets move from the previous requirements to the amended requirements

WCAG – the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines