



Mobility aid safety

February 2021

Mobility aids in transit are sometimes subject to significant unexpected movement during starts, stops and turns, particularly on buses, trams and light rail. At times mobility aids will unexpectedly slide or tip out of allocated spaces into the aisle. This can result in injuries. The Transport Standards could provide better clarity and guidance on safety measures required for operators and providers to ensure trips on public transport are safe. The provision of passive containment systems is the current minimum requirement applicable to the allocated spaces, although operators are able to install active restraining systems.

Ideally, the Transport Standards should assist providers, operators and customers to contain the movement of mobility aids on buses, light rail and trams while they are in motion using clear and practicably implementable technical specifications. Any solution to this issue should allow people with disability to travel independently, and should not negatively impact their independence and freedom of choice. Active restraints are currently required in wheelchair accessible taxis, coaches, and other conveyances where all passengers are required to wear seat belts.

Consultation questions

- What experiences do people with disability have in travelling in a mobility device on buses, trams and light rail?
- Would mobility device users be receptive to the installation of active restraints in public transport?
- What would be the advantages and disadvantages?
- What are the barriers, operational costs and other considerations that may arise if staff are required to assist customers using an active restraint system?
- What are the technical barriers or difficulties in implementing solutions to prevent tipping?

Have your say

There are a number of ways for you to have your say and provide input, including:

- taking part in our interactive surveys
- providing a formal response to the consultation paper
- calling the Disability Standards hotline on [02 6274 6188](tel:0262746188)
- using our online form.

Further information

For further information:

- visit the [Transport Standards webpage](#)
- email DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au or
- ring our Disability Standards hotline on [02 6274 6188](tel:0262746188).