STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2015 No. 396

DISABLED PERSONS

The Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Made - - - -	*2nd December 2015*
Coming into operation	*31st May 2016*

The Department of the Environment makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 32 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995(**1**).

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and shall come into operation on 31st May 2016.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"Class B taxi licence" means a licence specified as Class B in accordance with the Table in regulation 5 of the Taxi Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015(**2**) and granted in accordance with regulation 7 of those Regulations;

"regulated taxi" means any taxi to which Regulation 3 applies; and

"wheelchair space", "wheelchair restraint system" and "wheelchair user restraint system" have the meaning assigned to them in the Schedule.

Application

3.—(1) These Regulations apply to a taxi which—

(a) is granted a Class B taxi licence on or after 31st May 2016; and

(b) was not licensed under Article 61 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**3**) at any time during the period of 12 months ending on the date these Regulations come into operation.

(2) Subject to regulation 4, a regulated taxi shall comply with the requirements of the Schedule.

(**1**) 1995 c.50; section 32 is modified in its application to Northern Ireland by paragraph 16 of Schedule 8; section 32 was amended by paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

(**2**) S.R 2015 No. 393

(**3**) S.I. 1981 No. 154 (N.I. 1)

Alternative means of compliance

4. The requirements of these Regulations may alternatively be met by compliance with—

(a) the relevant standard or code of practice of a national standards body or equivalent body of any EEA State or the Republic of Turkey;

(b) any relevant international standard recognised for use in any EEA State or the Republic of Turkey; or

(c) any relevant technical regulation with mandatory application for marketing or use in any EEA State or the Republic of Turkey,

insofar as that standard, code of practice or technical regulation enables the protection of the health and safety of passengers and drivers and the promotion of accessible services for passengers with disabilities to be met in an equivalent manner.

Duties of drivers

5. The driver of a regulated taxi shall ensure that when the vehicle is standing or plying for hire or reward or carrying passengers for hire or reward—

(a) the wheelchair space is available for use and any wheelchair restraint systems and wheelchair user restraint systems fitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Schedule are in working order and available for use; and

(b) any devices fitted or carried on the vehicle in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 8 of the Schedule are in working order and available for use.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on 2nd December 2015

L.S.

Elizabeth Loughran
A senior officer of the
Department of the Environment

SCHEDULE Regulation 3

PART 1

Wheelchair Accessibility Requirements

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule—

"boarding lift" means a lift fitted to a regulated taxi for the purpose of allowing wheelchair users to board and alight from the vehicle;

"boarding ramp" means a ramp fitted to a regulated taxi for the purpose of allowing wheelchair users to board and alight from the vehicle;

"contrast" means a contrast in the amount of light which is reflected by the surfaces of the parts of a regulated taxi or its equipment which is required by these Regulations to contrast;

"entrance" means any aperture or space provided to enable passengers to board the vehicle;

"exit" means any aperture or space provided to enable passengers to alight from the vehicle;

"intercom system" means an electronic communication system allowing passengers to communicate with the driver as required;

"induction loop system" means an audio-frequency induction loop;

"kg" means kilogram(s);

"mm" means millimetre(s);

"passenger compartment" means the area of the vehicle that is separated from the driver's seat by a fixed partition;

"portable ramp" means a ramp which is carried on a regulated taxi for the purpose of allowing wheelchair users to board and alight from the vehicle;

"the Department" means the Department of the Environment;

"wheelchair restraint system" means a system which is designed to keep a wheelchair restrained within the wheelchair space;

"wheelchair space" means a space for a wheelchair with which a regulated taxi is fitted in accordance with paragraph 2;

"wheelchair user" means a disabled person using a wheelchair; and

"wheelchair user restraint system" means a system which is designed to keep a wheelchair user restrained in the wheelchair.

Wheelchair spaces

2.—(1) A regulated taxi shall be fitted with not less than one wheelchair space.

(2) A wheelchair space in a regulated taxi shall—

(a) not be less than—

(i) 1200mm measured in the longitudinal plane of the vehicle,

(ii) 700mm measured in the transverse plane of the vehicle, and

(iii) 1350mm measured vertically from any part of the floor of the wheelchair space;

(b) allow for the carriage of a wheelchair user facing the front or the rear of the vehicle;