

Explanatory Memorandum

(This note is not part of the instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation.)

These Regulations introduce additional requirements for wheelchair accessible taxis from 8 June 2010 in respect of new licences and from 3 January 2012 in respect of existing licences (i.e. renewals). In addition, they create a new licence category; that of wheelchair accessible hackney. A draft of these Regulations was notified under Directive 98/34/EC.

These Regulations contain specifications relating to –

- general vehicle requirements,
- luggage,
- door dimensions,
- wheelchair space,
- seating numbers and dimensions,
- access steps,
- wheelchair ramps and lifts together with compliance test,
- restraints for wheelchairs and passengers travelling in wheelchairs together with compliance test,
- handholds,
- interior lighting,
- flooring,
- induction loop and microphone,
- transparent windows, and
- mandatory signage.

They also amend 2008 Regulations in relation to accessible taxis and hackneys to provide that holders of accessible vehicle licences are obliged to prioritise bookings in respect of persons with disabilities.