Mobility scooter use on Scheduled Public Transport Vehicles

Introduction

All Scheduled Public Transport vehicles used on the bus network in Malta and Gozo are designed to be as accessible as possible to everyone who makes use of them. Thus the aim of the service is to give the opportunity to as many people as possible to be able to travel. However certain restrictions may apply.

All buses employed on the network are low floor, equipped with a wheelchair ramp and having a step free entrance. A specific area is designate for wheelchairs whilst there are a number of priority seats on each bus. Signal buttons and ticketing machines are located at a height which is within easy reach for wheelchair users and other passengers with mobility restrictions.

An auditory announcement system is present on each bus. These systems announces the name of the next bus stop. Buses are also equipped with a visual announcement system which again highlight the name of the next bus stop. These two aids are intended, amongst other things, to better assist passengers with visual or hearing impairment with their journey.

Whilst buses are designed to carry wheelchairs they are not designed to carry all types of mobility scooters.

The objective of this policy is to help both the passengers who make use of mobility scooters and the scheduled public transport operator identify which of these aids can safely (both to the mobility scooter user and other passengers) travel on a route buses.

Can I use my mobility scooter on board a route bus?

There are various mobility scooters in use. These vary in size, weight, turning radius and speed. Mobility scooters that will be considered as being fit to travel on board a route bus will have to subscribe to the following parameters:

- Maximum width 600mm;
- Maximum length 1000mm;
- Turning radius of 1200mm;
- Able to travel at speeds not in excess of 6.4kpm (mobility scooters that can travel at speeds in access of that prescribed will only be certified as being able to travel on board route buses if the vehicle can have its speed reduced to 6.4kpm)?;
- Maximum weight (including the passenger) of 300kg.

It is to be noted that there are certain mobility scooters that although they fall within the above captioned parameters would not be considered as being able to travel onboard a bus. This is because of maneuverability constraints on board buses.

In order to assist you and the bus operator with your boarding with your mobility scooter on buses you will need to have your mobility scooter certified as meeting the criteria described earlier and that the scooter is able to maneuver safely on board a bus.
**How do I get my Mobility Scooter certified and be issued with a Mobility Scooter Sticker?**

Before you are issued with a Mobility Scooter Sticker you will first have to get the scooter certified by the scheduled public transport operator as being able to travel on board buses as per the criterion set earlier.

Please follow the below steps in order to get your mobility scooter certified and issued with a Mobility Scooter Sticker:

1. Download the form Application for Mobility Scooter Permit from either Transport Malta or KNPD’s website. Alternatively you may collect a form from Transport Malta’s offices in Sa Mason or KNPD office in St. Venera;
2. Fill in the details and attach a photograph of the mobility scooter to be certified;
3. Send the scanned form and the photograph (JPG format) to email address info.tm@transort.gov.mt. Alternatively you may mail the form and photograph to The Public Transport Unit, Land Transport Directorate, Sa Mason, Pieta.
4. Once the form is processed you will receive an appointment from the scheduled bus operator in order to take the mobility scooter to be certified. In the case where it is apparent from the form and photograph that the mobility scooter does not qualify for a mobility scooter permit, the applicant will be informed that regrettably the mobility scooter cannot travel on board route buses.
5. Once the scheduled public transport operator certifies that a mobility scooter can travel on board buses, a permit entitling the mobility scooter to travel on board buses is issued.

Certified scooters will be issued with a sticker that will need to be affixed on the front of the scooter in a place where it is easily visible by the bus driver (it is recommended that the sticker is affixed on the upper part of the scooter). This sticker can only be used with the scooter that has been certified by the scheduled bus operator.

It is to be noted that there are no fees associated with the issuance of a Mobility Scooter Sticker and that this permit is for the sole use when travelling on board scheduled public transport.

**Mobility Scooter Permit**

![Mobility Scooter Permit Image](image-url)
Restrictions on carriage

The following restrictions in relation to the carriage of mobility scooters apply:

i. Mobility scooters which have not been certified as being able to travel on board buses may be refused carriage on board route buses;

ii. If the designated wheelchair space is taken up by another user (mobility scooter or wheelchair) it will not be possible for the mobility scooter user to travel on that bus;

iii. If it is deemed that the carriage of the scooter poses an obstruction or hazard to other occupants of the route bus. Such dangers include but are not limited to exposed mechanical/electrical wiring, leaking of fluids from the scooter and protruding objects from the scooter;

iv. If it is deemed that there is abuse or misuse of the Mobility Scooter Permit conditions of carriage. The Mobility Scooter Permit may be withdrawn if such misuse or abuse is identified.

Traveling onboard a route bus with a mobility scooter

Please follow the following instructions when using a mobility scooter onboard buses:

i. When boarding or alighting a bus using a mobility scooter please ensure that you enter or exit the bus head on, that is facing the entrance of the bus when boarding or your back to the bus when alighting;

ii. Once onboard a bus, a mobility scooter user must ensure that the scooter is placed in the designated wheelchair space and with the back resting against the backrest;

iii. The scooter motor must be switched off;

iv. Scooters must not be overloaded with items (such as shopping bags).

Visiting Malta with your scooter

If you intend using your mobility scooter when visiting Malta, it is being recommended that you apply for a Mobility Scooter Permit. Download the application from the website as indicated earlier in this document and send your application to info.tm@transport.gov.mt. Please remember to attach to your email a photo (JPG Format) of the mobility scooter that you would be using on your visit and a copy of the mobility scooter permit issued in your name by the competent authority in your country. It is recommended that the application is sent at least 45 days before your visit. This is to ensure that you will receive your Mobility Scooter Permit in time for your visit.

Restrictions in carriage apply.

Replacing a Mobility Scooter Permit

In the event that your Mobility Scooter Permit is damaged or lost please contact Transport Malta on Telephone Number (356) 2122 2203.

Hiring of Mobility Scooter

Before hiring a mobility scooter, which you intend using on scheduled public transport, please ensure that the scooter that you would be hiring is covered with a Mobility Scooter Sticker.
**Revocation of Mobility Scooter Sticker**

The Mobility Scooter Permit can be revoked in instances where:

- It is evident that the permit has been tampered with;
- Where a permit is used against another mobility scooter which is not certified;
- Where because a mobility scooter is covered by a Mobility Scooter Sticker, additional financial gain is sought from persons seeking to hire such mobility aids.

**Important thing to remember**

**The Mobility Scooter Permit does not certify that a passenger can travel with his mobility scooter onboard a bus but it certifies that a mobility scooter can travel onboard a bus.**

To this end one needs to be informed that a passenger in possession of a mobility scooter that would have been certified to travel onboard route buses may not be allowed to use another mobility scooter to travel onboard buses with an uncertified scooter.
Application for Mobility Scooter Permit

Details to be filled by Applicant

Applicant’s Details

Name: ........................................... Surname: .................................................. ID Card No: .........................

Address: ..................................................................................................................................................

Applicant’s Weight: ..........................................

Contact Tel. No: ........................................... Email: .................................................................

Mobility Scooter Details

Make: ........................................... Model: .................................................. Serial No: .........................

Length: ........................................... Width: ........................................... Weight: ...........................................

Turning Radius: ........................................... Max. Speed: ..................................................

Please attach a photograph of the Mobility Scooter to be certified

Applicant’s Signature .......................... Date .................................................... Identity Card /Passport No

Details to be filled by Certifying Body

Does mobility scooter meet carriage on board buses criterion? Yes □ No □

Reasons why criterion is not met ...........................................................................................................

..........................................................................................................................................................

Mobility Scooter Permit Issued Yes □ No □

Mobility Scooter Permit No: ........................................... Date issued ....../....../....