

Transporting an individual whilst seated in a CAPS II seating system

Travelling in a vehicle whilst seated in a wheelchair is normally safe if you follow basic safety guidelines. Whilst thousands of people are killed on the roads each year almost none of these deaths include people seated in wheelchairs.

The highest risk to most wheelchair users occurs whilst getting on or off the vehicle. The hazards of normal driving, cornering and heavy braking often present a greater hazard than those of a crash and should be considered accordingly.

Each new seating system and wheelchair should normally be assessed for use in a vehicle and you should be given information this by the person issuing the equipment. If not please ensure you check with them as soon as possible.

The following key points should always be considered:

- Take care getting on or off the vehicle (this is where most accidents happen)
- Transfer to a vehicle (safety) seat wherever possible
- Travel forward facing
- **Secure the seat (CAPS II or MiniCAPS) to the wheelchair**
- **Secure the wheelchair to the vehicle**
- **Always use a vehicle lap & shoulder seat belt (regardless of posture belts)**
- Use the headrest as normal (ensure it is securely tightened in position)
- Use the kneeblock if normally used
- Use postural straps like a lap strap or harness as normal
- Our seats can be used in a tilted position, but check with the wheelchair manufacturer.
- Remove the tray
- Larger vehicles = less risk to occupants

The key elements being a three stage process as shown in Red

Securing the Seat

Ensure that the seating system is fully secured onto the locking interface board, which secures it to the wheelchair.

The red safety strap must also be securely fastened around the wheelchair push handles.

If you are unclear about this stage, contact your local wheelchair service or Active Design

Securing the Wheelchair

The wheelchair should be secured into the vehicle by the transport provider (bus driver). It should normally only be used forward facing and will normally be secured with a four point tie-down system (special webbing belts at each corner).

Securing the Occupant

The transport provider should secure the user with an extra seat belt (similar to that used in a car).

Care should be taken with the placement of the lap strap to ensure it is placed so as to lie across the hips in a position where it will anchor the pelvis and not ride up into the abdomen. The shoulder strap should be positioned across the torso and over the shoulder, ensuring the strap neither cuts into the neck or slides off the shoulder.

Posture belts & harnesses should remain fastened.

The following Journey Checklist may help to ensure all steps are taken to ensure the safe use of the CAPS Seating System in transport.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Journey Checklist
	Seat secured to wheelchair
	Seating system latched onto locking interface
	Red strap tightened
	Wheelchair secured into vehicle
	Normally a four point webbing system
	Lap and diagonal seat belt fitted around user
	Postural straps to remain in place
	Kneeblock used as normal
	Headrests used as normal
	Tray should normally be removed
	Other items are secured or fitted in line with transport plan

Active Design Also publish more comprehensive guidance in a document called 'Using Active Design Seating Systems in Vehicles', document ref: LFT075.
Please contact us on the number/email below to receive a free copy or further advice.

References

International Best Practice Guidelines, BPG1, Transportation of People Seated in Wheelchairs, www.pmguk.co.uk/bpg-transportation-comment.html

ISO16840-4 Wheelchair Seating Part 4: Seating systems for use in motor vehicles (2009)
International Standards Organisation

Guidance on the Safe Transportation of wheelchairs DB2001(03) (2001), MHRA,
Tel: 01253 596000, www.mhra.gov.uk

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