



GUIDELINES FOR MOBILITY SCOOTER USERS



Maintaining Independence



Mobility scooters give you a sense of freedom. They offer an excellent way of keeping your independence, and give you the ability to visit shops, friends and family when ever you wish. They are simple to use, easy to maintain and economical to run. There is a wide range of mobility scooters available, so it is vital for you to find the scooter that fits your needs.

Please remember a mobility scooter can cause considerable damage to the user or to other people if it collides with someone or something.

The following guidelines have been produced for the people who use electric mobility scooters.

you ride a mobility scooter, you are responsible for your own and other people's safety and we hope this information will help you enjoy your freedom safely.

Definitions

There are three types of invalid carriage defined in **The Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988**.

Class 1 - Manual Wheelchairs

These wheelchairs are not electrically powered.

You use your arms to move the wheelchair forward, or another person pushes you.

Class 2 - Powered Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters

These are only suitable for riding on pavements or footpaths, and have a top speed limit of 4 miles an hour (6 Kilometers an hour).

Class 3 - Powered Wheelchairs and Outdoor Powered Vehicles, Including Mobility Scooters

These are suitable for riding on roads, and have a top speed of 8 miles an hour (12 Kilometers an hour) and must not weigh more than 150 kilograms without the driver and any load.

These also have a switch to limit the top speed to 4 miles an hour (6 Kilometers an hour) on pavements or footpaths.

A class 3 vehicle is not legally defined as a motor vehicle and the user does not need a driving licence or to take a test.

However, a Class 3 vehicle can only be used by a disabled person age 14 or over, or by a person who is demonstrating a vehicle before selling it, training a disabled user, or taking a vehicle to or from a place for maintenance or repair.

Registration

Class 1 and **Class 2** Mobility scooters are not legally defined as motor vehicles and, therefore, the user is not required to have a driving licence or to take a test. The vehicles themselves are not subject to Vehicle Excise Duty ('road tax').

However, both new and used **Class 3** vehicles have to be registered annually with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). It must be licensed in the disabled taxation class and display a free disabled tax disc. There is no fee to pay and the vehicle does not need registration plates. However, you must renew your tax disc each year.

To register and license a **Class 3** vehicle you should fill in form **V55/4** (for new vehicles) or **V55/5** (for used vehicles).

These are available from the main post office or online and take or send it send it to your nearest DVLA local office.

Daventry local office is:

DVLA Riverside House,
Riverside Way,
Northampton,
NN1 5NX.

Tel: 0300 790 6809



Guidance on filling in the forms is given in the DVLA's leaflets **INF210** and **INF211**.

Check whether it's registered as a class 3 vehicle by asking the seller when you buy it.

Change the owner's details when you buy a mobility scooter or powered wheelchair.

When you buy a mobility scooter or powered wheelchair, the seller will make you the 'registered keeper'.

This means the vehicle will be in your name. You'll get a new vehicle log book (V5C) in the post within 4 weeks of the sale.

If you do not get a new vehicle log book 4 weeks after the sale, fill in an 'Application for a vehicle registration certificate' (V62) and send it to DVLA.

Change your name or address

If you need to change your name or address, fill in section 6 of your vehicle log book and send it to DVLA.

If your mobility scooter or powered wheelchair is not a registered vehicle.

Most scooters and wheelchairs will already be registered by the dealer or manufacturer before you buy them.

If your vehicle is not registered, register it by filling in:

form V55/4 for new vehicles

form V55/5 for used vehicles

Important Basic Advice

- Make sure that you get a scooter appropriate for your needs, e.g. size, height, weight, and restricted movement.
- Ask for a test drive before you buy.
- Make sure you are familiar with all the controls on your scooter before you go out.
- Make sure that the scooter is properly maintained. Have it thoroughly checked (the manufacturer's handbook will tell you how often to do this) A second-hand scooter may not have instructions or still be under warranty, so seek advice.
- Keep the battery fully charged and get to know how far your scooter can go before it will need recharging. Mobility scooter batteries can last upwards of five years with proper maintenance. Once batteries start to age, they will hold less charge and likely have less power- decreasing your scooter's speed and range.
- Remember that the distance you can travel will depend on the condition of the battery, the weight you have on the scooter and the kind of route you follow.
- In cold weather, travelling on rough surfaces and travelling up hills will use more power and reduce the distance you can travel
- Scooters should be maintained and serviced annually.

At DACT we do scooter repairs and servicing, our workshop is open Monday- Thursday 9am-2pm Booking Is Essential Call 01327 312555.

- The maximum speed limit for mobility scooters on public roads is 4 mph on the pavement, and 8 mph on the road.
- You are not permitted to carry anyone else on a mobility vehicle e.g. a baby or a child.
- Mobility scooters must have adequate lighting and reflectors for use at night and in low light conditions. This includes a headlight, tail light, and indicators.
At night, lights MUST be used.
Be aware that other road users may not see you and you should make yourself more visible by, for instance, wearing a reflective jacket or reflective strips on the back of the vehicle.
- Mobility scooters are allowed in most public places, including shopping centers, parks, and libraries.
However, some places may have specific rules or regulations regarding the use of mobility scooters, such as designated areas or restricted access.
It's important to check with the specific location before using your scooter.
- Failure to comply with the laws and regulations surrounding the use of mobility scooters can result in penalties, including fines and points on your driving license. In severe cases, it can also lead to the seizure of the scooter. It is important to always abide by the laws and regulations to avoid penalties and ensure the safety of yourself and others.

Insurance

You do not need insurance for a mobility scooter or powered wheelchair, although we strongly recommended that you have at least third-party insurance.

It is also a good idea to be covered for fire, theft, and damage.

Plan your Journey

The most direct or the shortest route will not always be the best route to take. steep hills, high kerbs or other obstructions may make it impossible to tackle certain routes. **Do not put yourself into dangerous or risky situations by overstressing your own or the scooter's capabilities**

You may take a Class 1 wheelchair and mobility scooters on some trains and buses, but it is important to check with the specific transport provider for their policies and guidelines for both outward and return journeys for your class of scooter.

Many train and bus companies have designated areas for mobility scooters, and some require advanced booking.

DACT can take Class 1 & 2 wheelchair and mobility scooters in our Minibuses and we have a mobility car for getting you to medical appointments, advanced booking is required.

Call: [01327 701665](tel:01327701665)

Email: info@dact.uk.com

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 09:00-17:00

Out & About

- Drivers of mobility scooters should not drive their vehicle if they have consumed alcohol or are impaired by the use of any drugs. Police have confirmed they have successfully prosecuted people for driving their vehicles while impaired through drink
- Check patient information on any medication your doctor prescribes or that you buy over the counter. **If the information says the medication could cause drowsiness, don't use your scooter.**
- See and be seen! If you are using anything to protect you from the weather, make sure that it does not restrict your vision. Wear fluorescent and reflective materials and have fluorescent and reflective markings on your scooter, and put on your lights to help other road users see you.
- Think carefully. Do not wear loose-fitted clothing, scarves and long coats, which can easily be caught in the wheels.
- Mobility scooters are constructed and designed for the **driver only**. Think! **Don't** put yourself in any danger by carrying passengers.
- Mobile phones can be a distraction, so pull over and stop before using one.
- Overloading your scooter with shopping or other goods can also make the vehicle unstable.
- Bags hanging from the handlebars will also make the scooter more difficult to control.

- Not turning the scooter off when you get on and off is dangerous—controls can easily be knocked by your body or catch on clothing: this can cause a serious collision to you, and other people or property.
- Leaning forward and reaching to put items into your scooter basket on the tiller is also dangerous. If the scooter is turned on again, you can knock the controls and move the scooter forward.
- A tiller is too close to your stomach can hinder steering, knock controls and cause collisions.
- Having the speed control on full, stopping (to have a chat or look at something in a shop and then moving off, not realising the scooter is on full power, can cause collisions.
- Secure your belongings, use any available storage compartments or accessories to secure your belongings and prevent them from shifting during your ride.
- Carrying or leading a pet while you are on your scooter would also present major safety risk. There is no telling when they might decide to take off after a squirrel or want to flee after a car backfires – so don't risk it!, that kind of unpredictability is dangerous but there is one more thing that can go wrong. The lead could get tangled in some of the parts or get caught under the wheels and then you and your dog can be seriously injured.

On The Move

Be careful when going up and down kerbs.

Always approach at the right angles and do not go up or down kerbs higher than recommended for the type and size of your wheels (look in the handbook for information). Wherever possible cross roads where there is a dropped kerb and use pedestrian crossing, even if this means travelling further to locate one.

Take extra care when you cannot see ahead clearly, for example, when you are approaching a corner where there is a wall or hedge restricting your view.

Also beware of pedestrians when going around corners. Your scooter could topple over if you go round too quickly. Pay particular attention to hills and slopes and where there is loose gravel or a slippery surface.

Slow down in plenty of time. There may be a delay in braking on some scooters.

Always be aware of pedestrians and other users.

Pedestrians may not see or hear you approaching them, especially from behind. When reversing look behind you before you move off or change direction.

If you have to use a lift, drive in and reverse straight out safely. Most lifts will not allow you to turn around in them: be aware of other lift users.

If you're going to park outside a store, restaurant, or coffee shop make sure that you do so sensibly and safely. Don't park in such a manner as to obstruct pavements and pathways and be a general inconvenience.

On The Pavement

Some scooters are designed only to be driven safely on pavements or footpaths, except when you are crossing roads.

If you are riding a Class 3 vehicle, you must switch over to 4 miles an hour (6 kilometers an hour) setting when you are using it on a pavement or footpath.

Your vehicle should not be left on a footpath or pedestrian area on its own if it gets in the way of other pedestrians, including wheelchair users and people with prams or pushchairs.

Pedestrians Have Right Of Way!

If you are riding your scooter on a pavement or footpath, give way to pedestrians. Be courteous saying "excuse me" is better than beep of the horn!

The top speed allowed on pavements and footpaths is 4 miles an hour (6 kilometers an hour), but even this is too fast where there are pedestrians about.

In a crowded area, such as shops and shopping precincts, you must make sure that you do not run into anyone or cause and damage with your scooter. Think about the space that may be available for you in crowded shops and such areas.

The Highway Code says that pedestrians have right of way if you're driving on the pavement or a footpath.

On The Road

To drive on the road you need a vehicle that can travel at up to 8 miles an hour (12 kilometers an hour). It must also have headlights, rear lights, flashing indicators, a wing mirror and a horn.

You must not use your scooter on motorways.

- You should follow the Highway Code and drive on the left-hand side.
- Please be aware that currently you are not allowed to use bus lanes or cycle tracks. A read through of the Highway Code will help in your understanding of signs and road markings.
- You should obey traffic lights and all other road signals and instructions, including stop signs, give-way signs and signs for one-way streets.
- Always give way to pedestrians.
- At night, you must have headlights and rear lights on.
- Don't rely on your mirror. It may give a false impression of distance.
- Also, look behind when turning right. it may be safer to turn on the pavement and use a pedestrian crossing to cross the road. If there is no pavement, it may be safer to stop on the left and wait for a gap in the the traffic.

Medical Advice

Mobility scooters will give you more independence and will play an important part in your daily life.

However, please consider your safety and the safety of other road users before buying a scooter

- Check with your doctor to ensure that you are fit to use a scooter.
- Strong medication can affect you, so always read the instructions carefully and ask you GP or pharmacist about side effects that could affect your ability to drive your scooter.
- If you have a disability that restrict your movement, e.g.. looking behind you, a simple adaption to the scooter may be all that's needed. Contact DACT mobility shop for further information or advice.
- If you wear glasses or contact lenses, make sure you wear them every time you drive.
- Have your eyesight tested regularly.
- There is no legal eyesight requirement to drive mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs, but you should be able to read a car's registration number from a distance of 12.3 metres (40 feet). You must check that you can still do this regularly. You might have to pay compensation if you have an accident and poor eyesight was part of the cause.

Need More Information?

DACT Mobility Shop and Advice Centre

New Street

Daventry

Northants

NN11 4BS

Call: 01327 312555

Email: mobility@dact.uk.com

Opening Hours: Monday–Friday 09:00–16:00

For more information about all our services (Car Scheme, Day Trips, Daventry Town Community Bus, Equipment Hire, Mobility Equipment Repairs & Scooter Servicing, New and used mobility scooters & equipment). Check out our website: www.dact.uk.com or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DaventryAreaCT

Rail Travel

To arrange a train journey in the UK, contact National Rail Enquires Passenger Assist on 08000 223 720

Because mobility scooters come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, and different train companies may have different policies, we recommend that you check the dimensions of your non-folding scooter with the train company you plan to travel with.

Nationwide Bus Travel line

To find out which services accept mobility scooters call 0871 200 22 33