



# Disability Discrimination Act 1995

## 1995 CHAPTER 50

### PART V

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

##### *Rail vehicles*

#### **46 Rail vehicle accessibility regulations**

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations (“rail vehicle accessibility regulations”) for the purpose of securing that it is possible—
  - (a) for disabled persons—
    - (i) to get on to and off regulated rail vehicles in safety and without unreasonable difficulty;
    - (ii) to be carried in such vehicles in safety and in reasonable comfort; and
  - (b) for disabled persons in wheelchairs—
    - (i) to get on to and off such vehicles in safety and without unreasonable difficulty while remaining in their wheelchairs, and
    - (ii) to be carried in such vehicles in safety and in reasonable comfort while remaining in their wheelchairs.
- (2) Rail vehicle accessibility regulations may, in particular, make provision as to the construction, use and maintenance of regulated rail vehicles including provision as to—
  - (a) the fitting of equipment to vehicles;
  - (b) equipment to be carried by vehicles;
  - (c) the design of equipment to be fitted to, or carried by, vehicles;
  - (d) the use of equipment fitted to, or carried by, vehicles;
  - (e) the toilet facilities to be provided in vehicles;
  - (f) the location and floor area of the wheelchair accommodation to be provided in vehicles;
  - (g) assistance to be given to disabled persons.

- (3) If a regulated rail vehicle which does not conform with any provision of the rail vehicle accessibility regulations with which it is required to conform is used for carriage, the operator of the vehicle is guilty of an offence.
- (4) A person who is guilty of such an offence is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (5) Different provision may be made in rail vehicle accessibility regulations—
- (a) as respects different classes or descriptions of rail vehicle;
  - (b) as respects the same class or description of rail vehicle in different circumstances;
  - (c) as respects different networks.
- (6) In this section—
- “network” means any permanent way or other means of guiding or supporting rail vehicles or any section of it;
- “operator”, in relation to any rail vehicle, means the person having the management of that vehicle;
- “rail vehicle” means a vehicle—
- (a) constructed or adapted to carry passengers on any railway, tramway or prescribed system; and
  - (b) first brought into use, or belonging to a class of vehicle first brought into use, after 31st December 1998;
- “regulated rail vehicle” means any rail vehicle to which the rail vehicle accessibility regulations are expressed to apply; and
- “wheelchair accommodation” has such meaning as may be prescribed.
- (7) In subsection (6)—
- “prescribed system” means a system using a prescribed mode of guided transport (“guided transport” having the same meaning as in the Transport and Works Act 1992); and
- “railway” and “tramway” have the same meaning as in that Act.
- (8) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision as to the time when a rail vehicle, or a class of rail vehicle, is to be treated, for the purposes of this section, as first brought into use.
- (9) Regulations under subsection (8) may include provision for disregarding periods of testing and other prescribed periods of use.
- (10) For the purposes of this section and section 47, a person uses a vehicle for carriage if he uses it for the carriage of members of the public for hire or reward at separate fares.
- (11) Before making any regulations under subsection (1) or section 47 the Secretary of State shall consult the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee and such other representative organisations as he thinks fit.

#### **47 Exemption from rail vehicle accessibility regulations**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order (an “exemption order”) authorise the use for carriage of any regulated rail vehicle of a specified description, or in specified circumstances, even though that vehicle does not conform with the provisions of the rail vehicle accessibility regulations with which it is required to conform.

- (2) Regulations may make provision with respect to exemption orders including, in particular, provision as to—
  - (a) the persons by whom applications for exemption orders may be made;
  - (b) the form in which such applications are to be made;
  - (c) information to be supplied in connection with such applications;
  - (d) the period for which exemption orders are to continue in force;
  - (e) the revocation of exemption orders.
- (3) After considering any application for an exemption order and consulting the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee and such other persons as he considers appropriate, the Secretary of State may—
  - (a) make an exemption order in the terms of the application;
  - (b) make an exemption order in such other terms as he considers appropriate;
  - (c) refuse to make an exemption order.
- (4) An exemption order may be made subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be specified.
- (5) In this section “specified” means specified in an exemption order.