

## PASS Basics Segment #3

In this segment we will cover:

Mobility Equipment Features

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## MOBILITY EQUIPMENT and FEATURES

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### Walkers

Passengers using this device will lean fairly heavily on it. This device is particularly common among the elderly and may have a "seat" attached so the user may rest.



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Passengers using walkers will be moving quite slowly since balance is a problem. Do not rush your passengers.

It will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the passenger to utilize the steps in your vehicle. Therefore, the ADA requires that this individual be permitted to use the accessible entrance for entry and exit of the vehicle.

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### Canes

The primary function of a cane is to maintain balance when walking or standing.



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The "white cane" is not used for support.

Only those individuals who are legally blind are entitled to use a "white cane". The end portion of the cane is red in color. The user taps the cane on the ground, on the floor or against objects for guidance.



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When providing assistance to a passenger using any type of cane, do so on the side of the passenger opposite the cane.

Be certain to ask your passenger if they would like assistance, and if so, how you may help.

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### Crutches

There are two basic types of crutches; underarm, and forearm. Crutches assist with balance and body weight support.



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### Prosthesis

An artificial device that replaces a missing body part



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A passenger using a prosthetic leg may walk slowly and have difficulty walking up or down steps of your vehicle.

Be patient and do not make your passenger feel pressured to move faster.

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Keep in mind that the human body loses body heat mostly through the skin. The human air conditioning system is sweat. The loss of a limb reduces the ability of the amputee passenger to lose body heat. Therefore, an amputee can readily overheat on a hot vehicle or when sitting in the sun.

Make certain your passenger is comfortable.

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Segway

A Segway is a two-wheeled, gyroscopically stabilized, battery-powered personal transportation device. Some individuals with disabilities may use a Segway as a personal mobility aid, in lieu of more traditional devices like a wheelchair or scooter.



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A Segway is not a wheelchair. However, a Segway, when used by a person with a disability as a mobility device, is part of the broad class of mobility aids that the ADA intends will be accommodated. In this way, a Segway occupies a legal position analogous to canes, walkers, etc.

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### Wheelchairs

A manually operated or power driven device designed primarily for use by an individual with a mobility disability for the main purpose of indoor, or of both indoor and outdoor locomotion.



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The definition of a wheelchair includes a wide variety of mobility devices. While some mobility devices may not look like many persons' traditional idea of a wheelchair, three and four wheeled devices, of many varied designs, are used by individuals with disabilities and must be transported.

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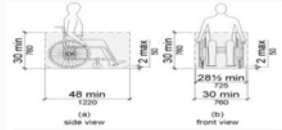
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The ADA no longer uses the term “Common Wheelchair” because the requirements for lift platforms, and wheelchair spaces specify the appropriate dimensions for wheelchairs. Therefore, a device used by individuals with disabilities for mobility must fit an “envelope” which is 30 inches wide by 48 inches long.



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The chair is as valuable to the user as the body part or function it has replaced. Wheelchair users consider their wheelchair to be a part, or extension, of their own body.

Unnecessary leaning on or touching the chair is similar to doing the same to the person.

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Proper assisting techniques insure safety and comfort for the occupant. Just as you would for an ambulatory person, slowly and carefully, move a person in a wheelchair by making your movements smooth and gentle.

Do not jerk or jolt, which can be very uncomfortable, or even painful for the person in the wheelchair.

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The person is putting you in control when you are guiding the chair – move with confidence.

Prepare your passenger for movement by giving simple verbal cues when you are going to start.

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Because of the wheelchair's value to the occupant, it is important to treat it carefully. Take care not to scratch the tubing on corners of lifts or vehicle seats. The securement straps should not gouge or scar the frame of the chair.

Always report safety defects to the owner such as wheels coming off, spokes loose, underinflated tires, etc.

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The center of gravity of an unoccupied chair is just above and forward of the rear axle. When occupied, this changes to about the top of the armrests

Therefore, even though weight is well distributed, the short wheelbase and high center of gravity make it possible to spill a person forward.

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**Driving Techniques**

Centrifugal force (outward) is exerted on wheelchairs when your vehicle turns a corner or takes a curve in the road. Regardless of the direction of the turn or curve, the passenger may feel as if they are being pulled forward out of the chair, or that the chair may tip over. Therefore, slow steady turns and curves must be made.

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Wheelchairs pick up road shock each time the vehicle hits a bump. Care and judgment are needed to avoid unnecessary bumps or potholes. If the road is unavoidably bumpy, slow down and ease your way through.

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Does a wheelchair need brakes to use the transit service?**

**No.**

A transit provider may not deny transportation to a wheelchair user because the wheelchair does not have brakes /wheel locks or the user does not choose to set the brakes/wheel locks.

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**Can the provider refuse to carry a person with a disability, especially a person using an electric scooter, that fits within the envelope for a wheelchair, based on an increase in insurance rates?**

**No.**

Section 37.5(g) of the DOT ADA requirements do not permit this.

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**Can the provider require a person to transfer from a wheelchair into a seat?**

**No.**

Regulations allow the person to transfer if a seat is available. Such a move is the rider's decision. The driver may suggest a transfer in a non-coercive manner.

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**Tips for drivers:**

- Talk directly to the person in the wheelchair, rather than to the person pushing it. In an extended conversation, bring yourself to eye level of the seated person.
- ASK if assistance is needed before you assist, including pushing a wheelchair.

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Whenever possible, place yourself on the down side of the person you are assisting. When going up an incline ramp or curb, you should be behind the chair facing and walking forward; when coming down, you should be behind the chair holding onto the handgrips, facing the direction you are coming from. Make sure you are checking behind you for obstacles, slippery spots, etc.

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Always call your supervisor or dispatch when things are not as usual or if your agency policy is being broken

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**SEGMENT THREE TEST**

In order to continue, **10** of the following 10 questions must be answered correctly. If **10** of your answers are not correct, review the information in this segment prior to taking the test a second time.

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