

PASS Basic Segment #5

In this segment we will cover:

Lift operating procedures

Securement procedures

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***The lift must always be operated from the ground.
Do not remain in the vehicle while raising or
lowering the lift platform. Do not ride on the lift
with passengers who are using a mobility device.***


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***Stand on the ground with one hand holding the
wheelchair and one hand operating the controls.
Raise the platform only a couple inches. Check the
front safety barrier to be certain it is locked. Only
after you are certain the barrier is locked,
continue raising the lift platform to the vehicle
floor level.***

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Put the lift controls in a secure location with one hand while holding the wheelchair with the other. Release the wheel locks and push the chair into the vehicle. Reach in and lock one wheel. Never leave a wheelchair on the platform unattended. When boarding, push it in. When exiting, pull it out.

This procedure may be difficult for some drivers. Therefore, ask the passenger if they can assist moving their wheelchair in and out of the vehicle.

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Remember, lifts permit both inboard and outboard facing of wheelchairs and accommodate persons using walkers, crutches, canes or braces, or whoever may have difficulty using the steps.

Think of the lift as the accessible entrance to your vehicle.

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Standees should stand in the center of the platform facing the direction they will travel. If capable, the passenger should hold both handrails when on the platform. The driver must determine if it is safe to ride the lift with the passenger, or safer to operate the lift from the ground. How you can best protect the passenger must be assessed with each standee use of the lift.

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WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT

Sec. 38.23 (d) of the DOT ADA regulations requires all ADA-compliant vehicles to have a two-part securement system: one to secure the common wheelchair and a separate system to secure the wheelchair user.

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The securement system shall limit the movement of an occupied mobility aid to no more than 2" in any direction under normal vehicle operating conditions.

Since 1991 all vehicles must have securement locations for wheelchairs and other mobility aids that face rearward or forward.

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Each system includes a minimum of four floor-mounted belts and a lap and shoulder belt. The manufacturer of each system states that all belts **shall** be utilized each time the system is used.

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The wheelchair and occupant must face toward the front, or rear of the vehicle if your vehicle is specially equipped for rear facing mobility devices.

Center the chair between the floor tracks or plates.

Apply the wheel locks on a manual wheelchair – turn off the power on motorized chairs.

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Front strap procedure:

The track/pocket fitting on the belt must be attached to the floor track/pocket from 3" to 8" outside the front wheels, providing side-to-side stability. Do not permit the strap to interfere or to conform around any part of the wheelchair. Make certain to maintain a clear load path from floor to wheelchair. Try to provide as close to a 45-degree angle from the floor to the wheelchair as possible for maximum stability.

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Rear strap procedure:

Attach the straps to the floor track/pocket just inside the rear wheels. Pull upwards on the strap to make sure it is secure.

Attach the chair end to a permanent part of the chair as close to the seat cushion as possible. A 45-degree angle is ideal.

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Check for proper securement of all belts.

Check for movement front-back and side to side of the chair – under ADA, no more than 2” in any direction is permitted.

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Cautions:

- Do not attach straps or loops to the wheels or any detachable portion of the chair.
- Do not allow straps or loops to bend around wheels, footrests or any other object on the chair.

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- Use the same style of buckle device at each end of the wheelchair.
- Do not cross the securement straps or attach to the cross piece under the seat. This may place added stress or unequal load forces on the wheelchair frame and may contribute to collapsing or tipping of the wheelchair.

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Securing the Wheelchair Occupant

Legal requirements under the ADA

Under the broad, non-discrimination provisions in Sec. 37.5 of the DOT's ADA regulations, a transit operator is not permitted to require a wheelchair user to use the seatbelt and shoulder harness, unless the system requires the use of these devices by all passengers.

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Lap Belt

The lap belt must be worn low and tight across the front of the occupant's pelvic area with the junction between the lap and shoulder belt located near the wearer's hip.

In the event of a sudden stop, this can assist in preventing the occupant from sliding out of the wheelchair under the belt.

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Make certain not to position the lap belt over the abdominal area. Pull the loose ends of the lap belt to provide firm and comfortable tension.

Do not use a postural belt in lieu of a certified lap belt. These are meant only to keep the occupant upright in the chair. It is not a certified lap belt that is designed and tested for use in conjunction with the securement system.

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Shoulder belts:

Place the shoulder belt across the collarbone and diagonally across the occupant's chest.

Connect to lap belt with appropriate attachment.

Ensure a snug fit by pulling on the adjusters to provide a firm, but comfortable fit.

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NOTE: The actual procedures for securing the shoulder belt is going to vary from wheelchair to wheelchair and model to model.

There may be a diagram on the vehicle wall. Be familiar with this information.

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SEGMENT FIVE 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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