

## Transport in a Wheelchair Vehicle

Although it isn't currently a legal requirement, it is strongly recommended that the wheelchair used complies with Australian Standard AS/NZS 3696.19 "Wheeled mobility devices for use as seats in motor vehicles". Wheelchairs that meet this standard have been "Crash Tested" to withstand crash forces (48km/h at 20 g) in an accident.

The Australian Standards relevant to the transportation of people seated in wheelchairs:

- AS/NZS 3696.19:2009 (Wheeled mobility devices for use as seats in vehicles)
- AS/NZS ISO 16840.4:2014 (Seating Systems for use in motor vehicles)
- AS/NZS 10542.1:2009 (Wheelchair tie down and occupant restraint systems – requirements and test methods for all systems)
- AS/NZS 10542.2:2009 (Wheelchair tie down and occupant restraint systems - four point, strap type tie down systems).

### GUIDELINES FOR USE AS A SEAT IN A CAR

- Study the manual

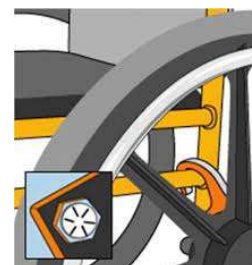
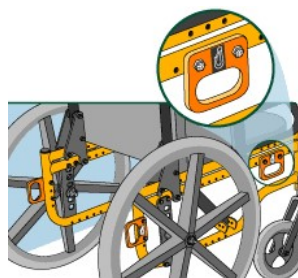
When you get a wheelchair, you should read the user manual carefully to learn how to use and maintain the wheelchair. It is a requirement that you and your carers have read the user manual carefully to get the most benefit from the wheelchair.



- Check that the wheelchair is approved for use as a seat in a car  
You will know that the wheelchair is approved for use as a seat in a car when the officially marked snap hook is secured to the wheelchair. At the same time, it marks where the wheelchair should be secured. Information about the use of the wheelchair as a seat in a car can also be found in the manual.



- Check the maximum user weight  
The type plate on the crossbar of the wheelchair frame shows the maximum user weight. Never exceed this maximum weight
- Check that the wheelchair has the correct securing attachments  
Generally the wheelchair is not equipped with car securing attachments unless requested. Wheelchairs use different fittings to secure the back of the wheelchair. This is described in the wheelchair user manual.

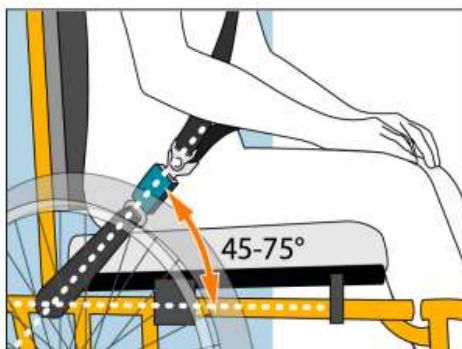
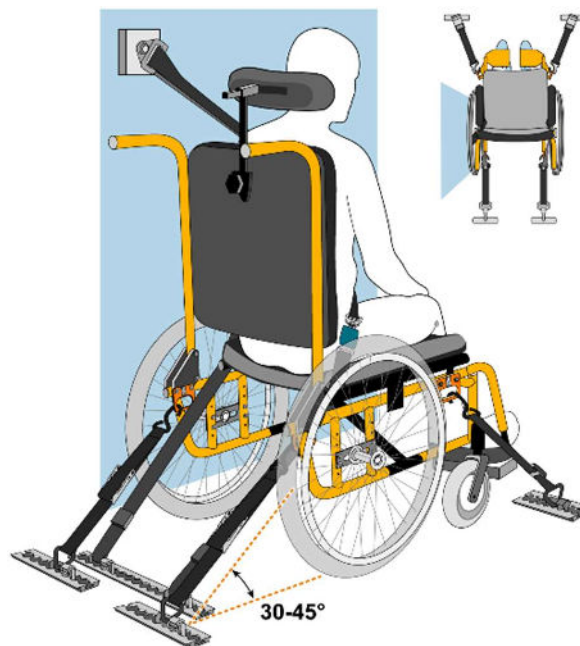


Check the occupant restraint systems (seatbelts), comply with Australian standards (AS/NZS 10542: 2009) and that are maintained in working order.

- Prepare the wheelchair for use as a seat in a car:
  - 1) Ensure you are sitting appropriately and securely in the chair
  - 2) Remove all accessories that are not part of the wheelchair. Secure these items elsewhere in the car. Remove backpacks and other objects which hang from the chair, as these will shift the chair's centre of gravity. Remove the table and abduction pad. Move medical equipment to a suitable space in the car and secure it.
  - 3) Replace "non crash tested" head rests with an approved head rest. The back of the head should be located just above the centre of the head rest.
  - 4) Provide an appropriate seat cushion and back rest
  - 5) Check that back extensions are fitted on the chair if users are more than 1.85 m tall.
  - 6) Raise the back of the chair to approx. 90°- 100° and do not use seat tilt
  - 7) Lower the leg supports into a vertical position and lock them
  - 8) Additional lap belts and harnesses are for postural support only

- Secure the wheelchair facing forwards in the car

- 1) Position wheelchair forwards not touching any part of the vehicle other than the floor
- 2) Lock wheelchair brakes
- 3) Secure the rear seat belts through the eye hooks, see the image below - one belt on each side. The angle between the belt and floor should be 30°-45°.
- 4) Secure the front seat belts through the wheel frame just behind the caster wheels. The angle between the belt and floor should be approx. 45° - 60° to the floor and a bit more.



- Fasten the seat belt.  
Make sure that the seat belts sit well against your body and not across the armrests, wheels, etc. The upper belt securing point should be above and behind the shoulder. The lap belt should be over the hips and thighs - not over the stomach. The angle between the lap belt and chair frame should be between approx. 45°-75°. Tighten the belt securely.