

# FAQs on Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

RSA

**What is the definition of a wheelchair accessible vehicle?** It is defined in [EU No.2018/858](#) as: *'a vehicle of category M1 constructed or converted specifically so that they accommodate one or more persons seated in their wheelchairs when travelling on the road'*.

**What is the definition of a disabled person's vehicle?** It is defined under [S.I. No. 158 of 2009](#) as *'a vehicle that is adapted or specially constructed so as to enable a person who has a disability to travel in the vehicle, whether as the driver or a passenger in safety and reasonable comfort'*.

**Do wheelchair accessible vehicles require type approval?** Since 29 April 2012 all **new** special purpose vehicles of category M1 will require type approval in order to be registered in Ireland. Vehicles that are categorised as SPVs include wheelchair accessible passenger cars and disabled persons vehicles. For further information visit [Revenue](#). You may also refer to RSA [link](#) on type approval for special purpose vehicles.

**Who do I contact if I have adapted my vehicle and need to get tax relief and vehicle registration tax (VRT) rate changed?** Any queries regarding the payment or refund of VRT should be referred to [Revenue](#).

**Do wheelchair accessible vehicles require registration, tax, testing and insurance?** Yes. All mechanically propelled vehicles must be registered, taxed, tested and insured in order to be used on a public road.

## Who do I contact as a wheelchair user to adapt a vehicle so that I can drive it?

- Modifications must be carried by a suitably qualified individual at an approved test centre to an appropriate and safe standard. See our [FAQ](#) on Vehicle Modifications.
- Contact Irish Wheelchair Association ([IWA](#)) and [Revenue](#) regarding adaptations.
- You may also wish to contact [NSAI](#)

## I purchased a van and converted it to a wheelchair accessible passenger vehicle. Where do I test it?

- The roadworthiness test is based on the *vehicle category* not on the use of the vehicle or whether it is registered as private or commercial.
- A vehicle category is assigned depending on the number of seats in a vehicle and its weight.

You can click [here](#) for a detailed breakdown of vehicle categories and which ones fall under the NCT or CVRT test.

## I am driving an adapted car with hand controls for many years but now have to submit an engineer's report to my insurance company even though my circumstances have not changed?

- If a vehicle has been modified we request that a modifications report be presented at the vehicle's next roadworthiness cert. A copy of the modifications report can be downloaded from NCT manual [here](#).
- You will need to contact your insurance company or [Insurance Ireland](#) as to why a modifications report was requested by them.

## I purchased a *new* vehicle and want to adapt it for disabled driver or passenger use.

- If your vehicle has not yet been registered contact [Revenue](#).
- For advice on adaptations contact the Irish Wheelchair Association ([IWA](#)).