

FAQs on Motorised Wheelchairs or Mobility Scooters

RSA

What is the definition of powered or motorised wheelchairs?

Powered wheelchairs are used by persons who have a mobility disability and are regarded for all intents and purposes as having pedestrian status i.e. their motorised wheelchair being an extension of the person rather than as a mode of transport vehicle. No distinction is made between self-propelled and powered wheelchairs.

Is a motorised wheelchair classified as a mechanically propelled vehicle? No. It's classed as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) with special features as described above.

Do motorised wheelchairs require testing? No.

Do motorised wheelchairs require driver licence, registration, motor tax and insurance if used on public road? No.

Can motorised wheelchairs or mobility scooters be used on footpaths and pedestrianised areas? Yes. Powered wheelchairs can be used on footpaths, can enter pedestrianised streets and cycle tracks and can enter buildings etc. in the same manner as pedestrians. Wheelchair users are in special circumstances as regards essential personal mobility needs arising from a disability and, as already stated the wheelchair is therefore regarded as an extension of the person rather than as a mode of transport vehicle.

What regulations govern the use of motorised wheelchairs or mobility scooters on public roads?

Wheelchair users which include those using powered wheelchairs or mobility scooters should:

- face oncoming traffic in the same manner as if they were being pushed by an adult
- use a footpath or hard shoulder where possible at all times and cross the road at pedestrian crossings, traffic lights or at a location that gives them the best view of any approaching traffic.

Under [Section 67](#) of the Roads Act of 1993, *'it is the duty of care of a person using a public road to take reasonable care of their own safety and for that of any other person using the public road'*.

Does a single seat battery powered invalid buggy with design maximum speed of 8 mph require registration and a licence?

No.

We believe that under type approval and construction and use regulation this type of vehicle may fall outside of the scope and would be exempt from vehicle registration and tax etc. There would be no mandatory requirement for vehicle insurance but an insurance broker would advise you further on this.