

**PREFERRED SPECIFICATION for the PROVISION OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT
(SPECIAL NEEDS) MINIBUSES**

Vehicle Specification - General:

Minibus with a maximum capacity of 16 seated passengers including escort/attendant plus driver, which may be configured to accommodate a variety of seating/wheelchair configurations ranging from:

- 1 wheelchair and 12 seated passengers
- to 2 wheelchairs and 10 seated passengers
- or 4 wheelchairs and 8 seated passengers

<i>VEHICLE SPECIFICATION</i>	
1.	Dimensions – Minimum internal headroom in the passenger compartment of 6’6” (1.98m). Internal width should be sufficient to permit easy fore and aft access for passengers between installed seats (and wheelchairs).
2.	Each vehicle should be fitted with saloon windows which have heat reflective tinted safety glass and sliding ventilation. The front windscreen shall be fitted with sun visors.
3.	Each vehicle should be fitted with fire retardant cavity insulation.
4.	The floor throughout the passenger compartment should be flat, without any steps, variations in level or the intrusion of wheel boxes.
5.	Each vehicle should be fitted with soft interior trim to the body sides with wipe clean surfaces. The roof shall have a fabric head lining.
6.	Each vehicle should be fitted with hard wearing, slip resistant vinyl flooring.
7.	Each vehicle should be fitted with an independent saloon heater.
8.	All seating, seatbelts and seat to floor attachments and anchorages must comply with EU Regulation 14 & Community Directive EECn6/115 (M2).
9.	Each vehicle should have forward facing medium back height seating which is easily removable to facilitate the carriage of additional wheelchairs.
10.	The seating fabric in each vehicle should be vinyl on the seat with a fabric backrest.
11.	Each vehicle should be fitted with internal fluorescent lighting. Lights should also be fitted to illuminate each passenger exit and all passenger access steps. An external light should also be fitted to illuminate the rear loading and wheelchair lift area.
12.	Each vehicle should be fitted with lift up roof ventilators or full air conditioning
13.	Each vehicle should be fitted with a hinged slam drivers door.
14.	Each vehicle should have a sliding or folding passenger entrance door fitted to the front nearside in clear view of the driver when seated.
15.	Each vehicle should be fitted with a manually operated fold out, auxiliary steps. All steps shall be fitted with non-slip surfaces and must have no raised surfaces/trip hazards.
16.	Each vehicle to have adjustable passenger seating and all seats are to be fitted with inertia reel lap/diagonal seat belt restraints.
17.	Each vehicle shall have low profile rail tracking through the full length of the floor in the passenger compartment for seat and wheelchair location.
18.	Each vehicle should have sufficient sets of double inertia reel belts (track mounted) for use by all occupants seated in wheelchairs.
19.	Each vehicle should be fitted with sufficient sets of quick locking/release clamps for anchoring all wheelchairs carried.
20.	Each vehicle should have a courtesy screen fitted in a suitable position behind the drivers’ seat.

21.	Each vehicle must have a fire extinguisher fixed inside the driving compartment, first aid kit and emergency hammer for breaking side window glass.
22.	Each vehicle should be fitted with secure grab handles conveniently located next to the side door access steps.
23.	Each vehicle should be fitted with an audible reverse warning (night silent type).
24.	School Bus markings are to be displayed at the front and rear of the vehicle
25.	Each vehicle to be provided with a secure underfloor stowage area for passengers personal effects, mobility aids and luggage; having external access.
26.	A locker for storing wheelchair clamps and cleaning materials etc. should be located (preferably) to the coach exterior.
27.	Side hinged full height rear doors, with self locking door stays to provide access for wheelchair passengers.
28.	Each vehicle should be fitted with high visibility reflectors to the inside of the rear doors.
29.	Each vehicle shall have a wheelchair lift fitted. Minimum Safe Working Load (SWL) is 250 kg @ 0.5m.
30.	Internal and external noise levels whilst in service, should to be kept to the minimum and should not cause discomfort to passengers or disturbance to the public. The internal passenger compartment must be well ventilated; prevent any ingress of exhaust fumes from the vehicle; be capable of providing both heating and adequate cooling as required to achieve an acceptable level of passenger comfort in a wide range of ambient temperatures and weather conditions.