

Inquiry about seatbelt policies for wheelchair passengers on paratransit

Information compiled on February 22, 2010

The Question: What is your current seatbelt policy for wheelchair passengers on paratransit? If passengers provide their own lap belt that comes with the wheelchair, do you still require them to wear the lap belt on the van?

Columbia County Public Transportation says...We require all passengers to wear a seatbelt. They are required to wear our seatbelt regardless of whether their wheel-chair has a seatbelt or not.

Everett Transit says...At our agency, we do require our wheelchair passengers to use our seat belt even if they have a lap belt. The lap belt only holds them in their seat, where our seat belt secures them to the van.

Grays Harbor Transit says...Grays Harbor Transit requires the driver to put at least a lap belt on all wheelchair passengers even if they are already belted to the chair.

Island Transit says...We do not have a seatbelt policy; we encourage our client to wear seat belts (lap belts) along with the shoulder harness. If the client provides their own lap belt that's even better; but if they choose not to use our seat belts we cannot force them.

Jefferson Transit says....Seat Belts and shoulder harnesses must be provided to customers in wheelchairs, but you cannot require the customer to use them. While securing the wheelchair we secure the passenger with the seatbelt/harness unless they ask us not to.

Link Transit says... We require, in all cases (even if the wheel chair is equipped with a lap belt) that the bus equipped belt/harness be used. Only exception is that if the passenger absolutely refuses, we honor their wishes if the driver feels the passenger is stable and will be safe during transport.

Pierce Transit says...Pierce Transit requires use of the lap belt.

Skagit Transit says...We don't have a written policy regarding seatbelt requirements for passengers in wheelchairs.

For safety reasons we would prefer all passengers in wheelchairs use our complete securement system, to include the lap and shoulder belts. If a passenger, using a wheelchair, opted to not use our lap belt because they are already using the lap belt that came with their wheelchair, we would not require them to use our lap belt; however, our drivers are trained to attempt to use our lap and shoulder belts every time.

Spokane Transit says...Our seatbelt policy is all seated passengers wear a lap belt, regardless if they are belted into their mobility aid. Our seated passengers do not use shoulder belts but our mobility aided passenger can use a shoulder belt with their lap belt upon request. We use lap belts with all mobility aided passengers in conjunction with the securements.

Twin Transit says... per ADA law, we do not require wheelchair passengers to use a lap belt, because we don't require all other passengers to use one as well. It is very strongly encouraged, however.

Valley Transit says...We require them to wear the lap belt that is on the van even if they have their own lap belt attached to their wheelchair.