

Stretchers and Restraints in PSVs

Background:

LVVTA has been asked to clarify what the requirements are for the installation of a stretcher, and the restraint of an occupant on a stretcher, in a private hire, shuttle, or taxi van passenger service vehicle. The vehicles in question are typically used to transport disabled and ill people to and from rest homes, or to hospitals or doctors' rooms.

This Information Sheet has been produced to advise LVV Certifiers of the legal definitions, and the certification requirements that are required to be applied by an LVV Certifier when presented with a vehicle with such modifications.

Legal definition:

A stretcher fitted to a passenger service vehicle cannot legally be defined as a seating position, but when installed, it is required to be properly secured to the vehicle structure.

An occupant who uses a stretcher while being transported is not required to be secured to the stretcher, because the stretcher is not legally defined as a seating position. However, the NZ Transport Agency have advised us, for obvious safety reasons, that their view on the matter is that vehicle operators should be encouraged to have and use some form of restraint system for the occupant, in order to keep the occupant in place during vehicle movement.

LVV certification requirements:

When an LVV Certifier is inspecting and certifying a vehicle with a stretcher installed, he must ensure that the anchorages for the stretcher comply with the same technical requirements that are specified for seat anchorages in LVV Standard 185-00 (Seats and Seat Anchorages).

When certifying the restraints for the occupant using the stretcher, the LVV Certifier must assess the best method to use for the varied occupant requirements that he may be presented with. This could be a lap seatbelt, or possibly a full-harness seatbelt. The seatbelt anchorages would be required to comply with the same technical requirements that are specified for seatbelt anchorages in LVV Standard 175-00 (Seatbelt Anchorages).

If you have any queries or require any further clarification relating to this Information Sheet, please feel free to contact the technical team in the LVVTA offices on (04) 238 4343.