

Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) Driver: Fitness for Additional Inherent Duty Requirements – Declaration, Terms and Conditions

To help determine whether you can fulfil the inherent requirements of being a WAT driver and maintain the safety of your wheelchair passenger, any other passengers, yourself and other road users, please review the below fitness declaration, terms and conditions to apply for the course.

I understand the following are key physical requirements involved in carrying out WAT duties:

1. An unrestricted range of movement so that you can reach, bend, crouch or kneel to load, position and fasten/secure the wheelchair and the passenger in the proper position.
2. Adequate strength and endurance to move (and hold in position) the wheelchair with passenger into the vehicle and up the incline of a ramp if necessary, keeping in mind that the combined weight of the unit can be up to 300 Kg.
3. Balance to hold, position and move the wheelchair and passenger on a ramp or on an hydraulic lifter for safe loading and unloading.
4. Coordination of movements to safely complete all necessary tasks.
5. The ability to access and use all the necessary equipment needed to secure both wheelchair and passenger in position.
6. Loading, securing, transporting or unloading of a wheelchair-bound passenger and/or sustaining/conducting these activities for the duration of a shift.
7. I accept that, given the above physical requirements in 1 to 6 above, I am required to disclose if I have any physical and/or medical conditions that may result in being unable to complete ALL of these tasks.
8. In addition, I will be fully assessed in relation to performance criteria and any evidence that they are unable to complete these tasks may result in being deemed not competent.
9. A failure to disclose any relevant medical condition may result in NSW Taxi Council withdrawing endorsement to drive a Wheelchair Accessible Taxi and/or suspension or removal of Driver Authorisation.
10. The NSW Taxi Council may refer an applicant to an Occupational Therapist to assess suitability and/or determine accommodation/requirements to meet the job role. If an Occupational Therapist is required, this will be at the applicant's expense.

If you feel that you would have any difficulty in meeting the requirements as set out above or if you have any physical condition that may affect your ability to perform these requirements, such as a problem affecting your hands, neck, back, shoulders, hips or knees, which could be aggravated by the tasks involved in loading, securing and unloading a wheelchair and passenger, please let us know by sending an email to training@nswtaxi.org.au.

DECLARATION: I accept that I have reviewed the tasks and requirements as outlined in this document. I have read and understood the health requirements outlined for this work and I am not aware of myself having any health condition which may interfere with my ability to perform these duties or which may lead to foreseeable injury to myself or others in the normal course of my work.

I am aware that by accepting these Fitness declaration, terms and conditions, any misleading statements regarding this declaration may jeopardise my accreditation as a WAT Driver. If accommodation is required, the medical information pertaining to this accommodation may be communicated to the NSW Taxi Council by sending an email to training@nswtaxi.org.au or contacting the NSW Taxi Council office on 02 8339 4644.