

INFORMATION ON THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF OCCUPIED WHEELCHAIR IN VEHICLES NOT “CRASH TESTING”

The “is it or isn’t it” crash tested question for new wheelchairs appears to continue to rear its head when users need to travel in their wheelchair within a vehicle.

Whilst crash testing and the standards that the test laboratories use can be extremely technically interesting, it is the wheelchair or wheelchair tie-down and occupant restraint system manufacturers (WTORS) information on how their product should be used that is of greater benefit to users, carers, healthcare staff and others.

Manufacturers should give clear information on whether their products should or should not be used whilst occupied in a vehicle. If they can be used occupied in a vehicle then the manufacturer should give sufficient detail on how it should be done. This should include guidance on the type or model of wheelchair tie-down and occupant restraint system (WTORS) that they recommend. This information could be available from either a wheelchair or a WTORS manufacturer.

If this information is not available from either manufacturer then please report it to MHRA (Devices) who will investigate. This can be reported via the MHRA website www.mhra.gov.uk either by downloading the appropriate form or direct via the web page.

The MHRA guidance documents on the safe transportation of wheelchairs and the use of vehicle mounted passenger lifts are also available via the MHRA web page www.mhra.gov.uk

If after considering the above you feel that you need any further advice on this subject please contact the MHRA Wheeled Mobility and Seating Centre via e-mail to bav@mhra.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 01253 596000.