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| Date of policy: 18th July 2017 | Date last amended: 8th November 2017 |

**CRASH TESTING OF WHEELCHAIRS**

We have been informed that we have to check all wheelchairs that we are carrying on our buses. To make sure that all of our passengers are safe whilst travelling on the vehicles, we can only carry wheelchairs that have been crashed tested.

Whilst I appreciate this sounds quite scary, it is a very simple process. At the back of the wheelchair and on the frame near to the bottom of the chair, there must be stickers with a picture of a wheelchair clamp (a bit like a ‘&’). If this is not visible then it must have some fitted brackets which are fixed to the frame for the clamps to be fitted into.

To enable us to take any bookings, if the passenger is in a wheelchair who cannot transfer then these checks will need to be carried out. If the wheelchair does not have either the stickers or the brackets, I can confirm that it has not been crash tested and is therefore found to be unsafe to be used in transit. It is your responsibility as an individual to ensure these checks are carried out and that the wheelchair is safe to travel. Please sign and return the attached declaration stating that you have carried out these checks and the wheelchair is safe to be transported.

If the driver arrives and a wheelchair is not crash tested the driver will refuse to allow the passenger to travel.

Thanet Community Transport Association takes passenger safety very seriously, and whilst we appreciate some people are going to be very disappointed at not being able to travel, it is for their own safety.

When purchasing wheelchairs or talking to wheelchair services, if passengers are intending to travel in their wheelchair they must insist that the wheelchair is crash tested to be able to use it in a vehicle, if they are staying in it.

If the wheelchair is being stowed at the back of the vehicle and the passenger is transferring to a bus seat the wheelchair does not need to be crash tested.