

# Safe use of mobility scooters

How to ensure safe use of motorised vehicles in NHSPS premises?



## What are the different types of motorised vehicles?

**Electric Scooter (E-Scooter):** An E-scooter is a two-wheeled vehicle with an electric motor. Commonly used as a means of transport.

**Electric Bike (E-Bike):** An E-bike is a bike that can be powered by electricity as well as driven by pedals. Commonly used as a means of transport.

**Mobility scooter:** A mobility scooter is an electric scooter or electric wheelchair used by patients with mobility needs as a means of transport.

There are 2 types of mobility scooters:

**Class 2:** These are lighter, smaller and usually set at a maximum speed of 4mph which makes them safer for indoor use.

**Class 3:** These are bigger, heavier and can achieve a speed of 8mph as they're often used on roads.



## What's the guidance around using motorised vehicles in NHSPS premises?

It's important to balance your obligations under the Equality Act along with Health & Safety and Fire Regulations. You must consider access for patients with mobility needs while taking into account other building users.

Motorised vehicles should be driven within the building and grounds in a responsible manner and must be set to their lowest speed setting whilst driven inside.



## What type of motorised vehicles are permitted in NHSPS premises?

E-scooters and E-bicycles are not permitted inside NHS Property services buildings at any time. That includes bringing them inside to be charged.

We recommend only allowing Class 2 mobility scooters or lightweight wheelchairs inside buildings. Class 3 mobility scooters are often only suitable for larger reception areas. Due to their bigger size and weight, they may not fit through internal doors or be too heavy for use in lifts.

You'll need to consider the physical layout of your building to see if it's suitable for all mobility scooters.



E-Bike



E-Scooter



Class 2 Scooter



Class 3 Scooter



## What do you need to do as an occupier of an NHSPS building?

You must have a clear 'Use of Mobility Scooters Policy' that explains what scooters are allowed in the building you occupy and what arrangements you've put in place to make sure that they're used safely.

You must consider the following to maintain safe use of mobility scooters within the building:



### 1. Is the building accessible for mobility scooters?

Scooters come in many sizes, and whilst some may fit through larger entrance doors, they may not fit through smaller internal doors and along small corridors. This poses a risk both for the scooter driver and others using the building.

A clear assessment should be made to make sure all common areas are accessible for mobility scooter users. This includes checking fire doors remain closed and there are no doors with panes of glass for a mobility scooter user to crash into.



### 2. Is it safe to use the lift?

You must check that any lifts in the building can support the weight of Class 3 scooters with or without other users being in the lift.

Also consider the area outside the lift and whether there is enough room to manoeuvre a scooter and safely reverse in and out of the lift. For example, if a staircase is positioned directly opposite a lift – it can be a risk if the mobility scooter user comes out at speed.

Clearly mark what lifts are suitable for mobility scooter users. If a mobility scooter does not comfortably fit into the lift car including the closing of doors, then mobility scooters should not be used in the lift.



### 3. Is there a plan for emergency evacuation?

In an emergency, mobility scooter users are likely to need more help with escaping a building. You should make sure there are plans in place to help everyone including those who are physically impaired.

It's important to plan for these events so that in the case of an emergency a mobility scooter user does not pose a safety or evacuation concern for other building users.



### 4. Has Fire Safety been considered?

We have a responsibility to make sure common parts of the buildings always have clear fire escape routes.

To help us make sure of this, we ask that mobility scooters etc. are not left in corridors, by staircases or blocking fire escape doorways internally or externally. We encourage you to have a designated area for mobility scooters to be parked so they're not in anyone's way.

Mobility scooters should not be charged on site at any time. Due to the unknown quality of charging power packs, charging of scooters within the building can pose a fire risk.



If you need any further help with accessing the suitability of mobility scooters, please contact your local team or raise an enquiry on our online portal, [Connect](#).