

PARKING CARDS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



Parking Cards for Disabled People

Review

Carried out for

The International Transport Forum

by

Ann Frye Ltd

Country Information revised in November 2010: Australia and Canada

Acknowledgements

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The Forum is also grateful for the input from the surveyed Member Countries and international organisations that contributed to this effort.

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Executive Summary

For many disabled people, having a car and being able to park close to their destination are essential to independent mobility. The International Transport Forum (ITF) (in its former guise as the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)) first took an initiative in 1978 to establish the principle of reciprocal recognition of the parking cards issued in its Member States. The aim was to make it easier for disabled people to find out about the conditions and restrictions in place in countries they wished to visit. This was updated and extended to all full and associate Members in 1997. In 1998 the European Union (EU) introduced a Council Recommendation on a Community model parking card covering all EU Member States.

The ECMT archive section of the ITF website includes information on the reciprocal arrangements and contacts in Member States. There is still a significant demand for information on this subject but the material on the website is now out of date. The ITF commissioned this piece of work to update the information and to consider how best, and by whom, such information should be made available in future.

The survey has revealed that this topic is a low priority in many countries. A number of countries failed to respond and others indicated that they had not implemented the Resolution to which they put their names in 1997.

The European Commission took a major initiative in 2008 to update their material on parking cards in EU Member States and to set up a website with information that they intend to keep current. The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) is also keen to provide information on the topic to their members worldwide but does not currently have material available.

There seems little purpose in duplicating information already being gathered by the European Commission. This could be communicated effectively by means of a weblink to the Commission site. There is a role for ITF to ensure that material on non-EU Member States is kept updated and is available in a more accessible place on their website as well as linking to other bodies such as FIA who may, in particular, have a role in giving feedback through motoring organisations as a basis for validating the information given by Governments. The next steps should therefore be to:

- Enter the updated information from the survey for non-EU Member States on the ITF (ECMT) website and move the information to a more prominent place on the website ;
- Set up appropriate hot links with the Commission website to cover data from EU Member States;
- Include date of last revision against each entry and set up a mechanism for obtaining regular updates from ITF members outside the EU;

- Set up a meeting with the European Commission and the FIA to explore options for complementary working and to maximize the accuracy and availability of the material.

Background

For many disabled people, the use of their own car remains fundamental to independent mobility. The need to park close to their destination is equally important.

Without suitable parking provision, many towns and cities are inaccessible to disabled people. This may be because of the distances involved between car parks and destinations. It may also be because the streets and pavements present barriers to those who have walking difficulty, use a wheelchair or have impaired vision (high kerbs, poorly designed and located street furniture etc).



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be

While most disabled people become familiar with the rules and practices in their own locality or country, they are unlikely to know what applies in another country to which they may want to travel, as tourists or on business.

Against this background, in 1978, the then ECMT Council of Ministers agreed that all Member States of the ECMT would grant the same parking concessions to people with disabilities as they offered to their own nationals. These concessions usually allowed special parking in areas reserved for people with disabilities, or allowed longer parking periods or exemptions from charges.



This Resolution was updated and extended in scope in 1997 (copy at Annex A). In addition to all the Member countries of ECMT this Resolution now applies also to the Associate Countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and United States). This means that disabled motorists from all Member and Associate countries should now be entitled to the same parking concessions as nationals in all of those countries. The only condition is the display of a card showing the international wheelchair symbol.

The ITF website (ECMT Archives) includes information from 28 Member States about the conditions for parking cards that apply in each country. This area of the website is still regularly used by disabled people wanting to travel to other countries and needing information about what concessions they can expect and what steps they have to take to ensure that they will be able to park close to their destinations without infringing national or local rules.

For this reason, it has been decided that it is important to update this information and to consider how best to ensure that it remains current and available to those who need it whether through the ITF or other organisations.

Survey

A letter and questionnaire (copy at Annex B) was sent to ITF Member and Associate Member States in August 2008 asking if the information about parking cards for disabled people held on the ITF website was up to date. The request also covered arrangements for reciprocal recognition of cards and invited comments on ways of improving the flow of information in future. A reminder was sent in September.

Responses to the questionnaire were received from 15 countries for whom information was already held on the website and from one (Australia) for whom there had been no data previously (see Annex C). Some countries confirmed that the information held on the website remained valid and had nothing to add. Others provided updated text and new contacts (see Annex D).

A number of general points can be made on the basis of the responses:

- Despite reminders, a significant number of countries failed to respond. This suggests that this topic has a low priority in some countries or that central Government does not have direct responsibility for it; There is still a significant number of countries which have not yet implemented ECMT Resolution 97/4. Some of those have indicated that they intend to do so (even some 11 years after signing up to the Resolution)! Others have made it clear that they will not be doing so. One country (Germany) has re-opened discussion on whether to implement the Resolution as a result of being prompted by the questionnaire ; Many countries have no common national scheme or policy and implementation is handled at local level. This compounds the difficulty for disabled people wanting to travel outside their immediate home area;
- In countries without a national scheme there may be no centrally held information on what is available where. In the USA, each state is responsible for its own scheme. Interestingly the only website which US Department of Transportation found which brings together information on contact points in all US states is that of the Australian Government in its information for tourists! In almost every case the parking card includes the international wheelchair symbol but other details may vary.

The questionnaire also asked respondents to suggest ways of ensuring that information on disabled parking cards was kept up to date and was disseminated widely. Very few countries had any suggestions to make. The only comments were that regular surveys are helpful and that publication of details on national websites is also helpful.

Other Initiatives

The European Union

In 1998 the EU introduced a Council Recommendation on a Community model parking card covering all Member States of the EU (Recommendation 98/376/EC). The Recommendation has recently been updated (Recommendation 98/376/EC) to include the twelve countries that have joined the EU since that date. In addition to reciprocal recognition of the cards between Member States the Recommendation also introduced a common standardized format for the card. This specifies height, width, colour, material and content. The intention is to facilitate recognition and to avoid difficulties at local level.



Member States remain responsible for issuing the card. They use their own definition of disability and define the procedures for granting the card. The Recommendation does not aim to change the way in which the disability parking card is implemented at national level.

The European Commission has recently taken an initiative to publicise the European Parking Card. Their dedicated website:

<http://parkingcard.europa.eu> lists the contacts in

each Member State of the European Union for enquiries about the Card but does not include any other information on entitlements etc. There is some minor inconsistency between the information on the Commission's site and the most recent contact information provided in response to this exercise. This is another indication of the difficulty of keeping material up to date.

The European Commission has also produced a freestanding folder with information in all official languages providing local authorities with the explanation that the card displayed is based on the standardized community model and that the person displaying it should benefit from all the entitlements of a disabled person in that country. The idea is that the folder is displayed in the windscreen of the car next to the parking card with the text visible to parking enforcement officers.

The Commission has also produced a booklet: see <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=153&langId=en> published in 2008, which provides an overview of conditions of use of the car for disabled people in each Member State (but does not include contact details). That booklet is currently available only in English.

As a security measure to prevent abuse by people not entitled to a parking card, the folder and the booklet are only available to disabled people through the bodies in each Member State responsible for issuing parking cards (though they can be freely downloaded from the internet).

The Fédération Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA)

The membership of the FIA currently comprises 219 national motoring and sporting organisations from 130 countries on five continents. Their member clubs represent over 100 million motorists

The FIA have a strong and continuing interest in this area. Their work has been led in the past by one of their members, the UK Automobile Association (AA) who produced the first EU Blue Badge leaflet. They received a grant from the European Commission for this work. The leaflet was last updated in 2006 incorporating 25 EU member states plus the EEA/EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) . Information for the leaflet was supplied by legal experts from European motoring organisations, assisted by the FIA Brussels Bureau and researched and compiled by The AA Motoring Trust. The leaflet (in its 2006 form) now appears on the website of the UK Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM):

<http://www.iam.org.uk/motoringtrust/advice/parking/bluebadgeusersparkingineurope.htm>

The leaflet was used as the starting point by the European Commission for the updated version which they produced in 2008 to include all 27 Member States but not the EEA/EFTA countries.

Findings

It is clear that the current situation is unsatisfactory, particularly for countries outside the EU. Other than the ITF (ECMT Archive) site which contains information on 28 countries (including some outside Europe) updated from this survey, the only up to date information available is that produced by the European Commission in 2008.

As the questionnaire responses have indicated, the level of interest in this topic by governments is patchy to say the least and we are still a long way from the comprehensive and consistent reciprocal scheme set out in Resolution 97/4.

As a result it remains very difficult for disabled motorists to get accurate and up to date information about parking concessions before they travel to other countries. This is a significant barrier to independent mobility and inhibits, in particular, the freedom and confidence of disabled people from countries outside the EU or wishing to travel beyond EU boundaries. Even within EU Member States there is often a lack of clarity about what concessions are available and where there is no national scheme this difficulty is compounded.

This problem is illustrated by the significant number of queries received by ITF and their Member States as well as those channeled through motoring organisations, disability help lines and other services for disabled people wanting to travel, in particular, between Europe and Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the US.

Options for Change

There are two key issues to consider:

- What needs to be done to improve the flow of accurate and up to date information on reciprocal arrangements for parking cards so that disabled people have the confidence to travel?; What role, if any, should ITF have in that process?

The European Commission is taking a welcome interest in ensuring that the data from EU Member States is kept up to date and that relevant information is well disseminated. However, since they appear to be relying on Member States notifying them of any changes, it seems likely, given past experience that this initiative too will struggle to remain current.

Nonetheless, there is little benefit in ITF seeking to duplicate the EU's initiative.

It would seem to make most sense to provide information on EU Member States by means of a weblink to the Commission's site. This would make the process of updating and validating more manageable and would avoid any risk of inconsistencies creeping into the data on EU Member States as a result of uneven updating etc. As a reciprocal measure, the Commission should be asked to include weblinks to information held by ITF and FIA.

That leaves the question of information on ITF Member States outside the EU. The FIA say that they intend to continue developing their work in this area and that they are interested in holding information/links to the data online on their various FIA and club websites. They are open to suggestions on how best to take the work forward.

FIA, like ITF, have a much broader membership than the EU. This spread of membership makes the FIA a useful source of information on this topic, but many disabled people do not belong to motoring organisations and will tend to seek information from a source linked with governments.

Given the history of ECMT/ITF's involvement in this field, many still regard them as the primary source of "official" information outside the EU. There is value to disabled motorists in ITF continuing to be both a source of data and a forum for policy discussion on this subject. The value would, however, be conditional on a change to the current status given to this subject by ITF.

The information is currently tucked away in the ECMT archive section of the ITF website where it is difficult to locate and access. It would be much more helpful if it were moved into the main site and clearly flagged.

Keeping the information accurate and up to date is problematic, as the responses to this exercise have shown. One useful means to alert people to the need for further

checks would be to put against each entry the date on which the information was last validated and by whom.

ITF full and associate members who are not within the EU would need to be asked to provide regular updates (and in some cases information for the first time). Given experience to date there would also have to be an active step taken every two or three years to chase for updated information.

There may also be value in a joint initiative with FIA to seek to update and validate information through their network as well as through ITF's. This could, for example, include some element of "mystery shopping" so that there is direct feedback from disabled motorists of what they find "on the ground" in different countries and how this compares with the stated policy.

There is also the possibility that by raising the profile of this issue, those countries who have not taken much interest to date may be encouraged to do so. Without resorting to "naming and shaming" there could still be a beneficial impact from publicising feedback from disabled motorists. This may be more appropriate to the FIA than to ITF.

ITF could also play a useful part in raising the profile by asking senior representatives of Member States to take a personal interest in and responsibility for the information that their Governments provide. Unless the topic is raised to a senior level and kept on the agenda, there is little chance that it will be given both the political and technical attention that it needs to become and remain a valuable resource to disabled people worldwide.

Ann Frye

February 2009

Annex A. Resolution No. 97/4 on Reciprocal Recognition of Parking Badges for Persons with Mobility Handicaps

[CEMT/CM(97)10/FINAL]

Ministers of Transport of the ECMT, meeting in Berlin on 21-22 April 1997

CONSIDERING:

- . That for many people with reduced mobility, use of a car is fundamental to a full and independent lifestyle.
- . That provided there is no risk to road safety, people with reduced mobility should be enabled to park their cars as close as possible to their destinations.
- . That to facilitate the free movement of people with reduced mobility between countries there should be mutual recognition of parking badges of all ECMT member and associate countries.

RECOMMEND MEMBER COUNTRIES:

- . To enable people with reduced mobility who have difficulty in moving about to park their vehicles where parking is otherwise restricted.
- . Where necessary to provide reserved parking spaces for people with reduced mobility by means of appropriate road signs. These spaces should be designed in accordance with recognised design criteria.
- . To provide people with reduced mobility, eligible for these facilities, with a document to be displayed when the vehicle is parked showing as a minimum the international symbol for disabled people and the name of the holder of the document.
- . To give the same parking facilities to holders of this document coming from another member or associated member country as they do to their own nationals.
- . To take the necessary steps to ensure that this reciprocal treatment regarding parking facilities for people with reduced mobility remains applicable in those countries who are already participating in it and is introduced in all other countries by 1 January 1999.¹

1. The Czech Republic has a reservation on the date on entry into force of this Resolution.

- To take the necessary steps to ensure that police and other parking enforcement authorities are fully informed about the nature of this arrangement.

REQUEST:

- Associate Member Countries to subscribe to this Resolution and to give reciprocal treatment regarding parking facilities to ECMT Member Country nationals.
- The ECMT to work with the European Union to draw up guidance on the practical application of this measure.
- The Committee of Deputies to report back in due course on the implementation of this Resolution.

Annex B. Survey Letter and Questionnaire

31st July 2008

Dear colleague,

Parking Badges for Disabled People

I have been asked by the Secretariat of the International Transport Forum (ITF) to contact Members to verify and update the information about your country that is contained on the ITF web page dealing with parking for disabled people in Member countries.

Although this work is a legacy of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and not part of the current focus of the ITF, the web page is still frequently visited and is clearly a useful source of information for disabled people wanting to travel. It is therefore important that the information remains accurate and up to date.

I would be most grateful if you could check the information about your country which can be found at:

<http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/europe/ecmt/accessibility/parking.html>
and let me know, by means of the attached brief questionnaire, if there are any changes that need to be made. In some cases, it would be useful to have more information than is currently shown.

I would also like to know whether the reciprocal arrangements for disabled people visiting from other countries agreed under ECMT Resolution 97/4:
<http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/europe/ecmt/accessibility/pdf/dis974e.pdf>
have been implemented in your country and if not, if there are plans to implement them and what the time frame for this is.

Once I have gathered up to date information from all ITF Members, I will also be considering what the most effective channels and formats might be for ensuring that this information continues to be made easily available to disabled people intending to travel. If you have any thoughts on that issue, they would also be most welcome.

Could I ask you please to return your completed questionnaire to me at ann@frye.demon.co.uk by **Monday 15th September 2008**.

Parking Badges for Disabled People

About You

Country
Name
Job Title
Address
E-mail
Telephone

Parking Badge Information

Is the information about your country currently held on the ITF website complete and up to date? **Yes/No** (please delete as appropriate)

If no, please provide a revised text below:

Reciprocal Recognition of Parking Badges

Has your country implemented ECMT Resolution 97/4 on reciprocal recognition of Parking Badges from other Member countries? **Yes/No** (please delete as appropriate)

If yes, please give details below:

If no, please explain below if possible why, and if there are plans to implement the Resolution, providing an indication of the time frame:

Future updating and dissemination of Parking Badge Information

If you have any ideas on ways in which this information can be kept up to date in future and made readily available to disabled people, please give details below:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it by **Monday 15th September 2008** to:

ann@frye.demon.co.uk

Annex C. Survey Responses Received

Responses received

Australia (new entry)
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Canada
Denmark
France
Germany
Ireland
Liechtenstein
Malta
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

Countries with data on website who did not respond

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Estonia
Finland
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Italy
Latvia
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Poland
Sweden

Annex D. Updated Entries

Australia

Designated disability parking spaces are available across Australia.

Currently, the responsibility for delivering the parking schemes is shared across a range of state, territory, and local government and non-government organisations.

The Australian Government is currently working with state and territory governments to harmonise accessible parking schemes.

Key features of the Australian system are that:

- All Australian jurisdictions include the international wheelchair logo in their permits, publications and parking spaces.
- Local Government is usually responsible for regulating the use of parking spaces.
- International travellers should contact the relevant state or territory agency responsible for providing parking permits. In the Northern Territory, international travellers should contact the Local Government authority in the area they are visiting for up to date information.
- Parking permits are issued to an eligible person rather than the vehicle.
- Temporary and long term parking permits are issued by all jurisdictions but vary in colour, length of time for permits and renewals.

See also www.gov.au

Reciprocal recognition

Some States and territories have regulations that comply with ECMT Resolution 97/4. There is a commitment to harmonise schemes across Australia and to implement ECMT Resolution 97/4

Further information on the Australian Disability Parking Scheme can be found at: www.disabilityparking.gov.au or <mailto:accessparking@fahcsia.gov.au>

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Currently there is no national system. Schemes vary in different administrative areas.

Domestic legislation is in preparation to establish and apply rules for parking badges for disabled people and to harmonise with EU requirements.

Reciprocal Recognition

Not yet in place – see above

Contact

Dario BUSIC
Head of Department for Local Roads
Ministry of Communications and Transport
71000 Sarajevo, Trg BiH 3
Bosnia & Herzegovina
E-mail: d.busic@mkt.gov.ba

Canada

Each provincial and territorial government legislates parking for people with disabilities. Responsibility is then delegated to cities and municipalities for enacting and enforcing their own parking bylaws. As a result, parking policies for people with disabilities may vary somewhat from one jurisdiction to another. There are, however, important common elements:

- All jurisdictions provide designated parking spaces for vehicles carrying persons with mobility disabilities.
- These designated parking spaces are marked by a traffic control sign bearing the international wheelchair logo. Often, the international logo is also painted on the pavement of the parking space.
- The parking permit must be suspended from the rearview mirror or be displayed visibly on the dashboard of the vehicle when it is parked.
- A parking permit is awarded to an individual with a disability, rather than a specific vehicle, and is for that individual person's use only.
- The person with the disability must leave and board the vehicle while it is parked in the designated parking space.

Reciprocal Recognition

Visitors to Canada must bring their valid parking permit from their home jurisdiction with them and suspend it from the rearview mirror or display it in plain view on the dashboard of their vehicle. Canadian jurisdictions will recognize disabled parking permits from other Canadian provinces and territories, from the United States, and from Europe. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to comply with local parking bylaws.

Contrary to most European countries:

- In Canada, persons with disabilities cannot normally park their vehicles in pedestrian zones or zones where parking is prohibited or restricted to loading and unloading.
- Permit holders are usually not exempted from paying parking meter fees where such charges apply. It is recommended that visitors verify with local authorities whether fee exemptions are available.
- Canadian jurisdictions do not use time limitation devices, parking discs or other devices in addition to the parking permit itself.

For more specific information on the policies of a particular Canadian jurisdiction, visitors may wish to contact the parking permit issuing office of their provincial destination. See below:

PROVINCES / TERRITORIES	PERMIT INFORMATION
Yukon	<p>The Territory of Yukon does not have a territorial regulation on handicap placards. Currently, only the City of Whitehorse has a disability placard program in place and it is administered by the Bylaw Services Department.</p> <p>Website: http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={F26DF598-47B2-4266-8743-03AFAC5E7540}</p> <p>Contact Number: 867-668-8317 E-mail: bylaw.services@whitehorse.ca</p>
Northwest Territories	<p>Website: http://www.nwtability.ca/ Contact Number: 867-873-8230 or 1-800-491-8885 E-mail: disabilitynwt@arcticdata.ca</p>
Nunavut	<p>The Government of Nunavut has no territorial policy or parking placards for people with disabilities due to its dispersed population. However, the City of Iqaluit provides disabled parking spaces.</p>
British Columbia	<p>Website: http://www.sparc.bc.ca/parking-permit Contact Number: 604-718-7744 E-mail: permits@sparc.bc.ca</p>
Alberta	<p>Website: http://www.servicealberta.ca/572.cfm#Parking Placards for Persons with Disabilities Contact Number: 780-441-2032 E-mail: firoz.mohamed@gov.ab.ca</p>
Saskatchewan	<p>Website: http://www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca/html/parking_program_people_disabilities/index.cfm Contact Number: 306-374-4448 E-mail: parkingprogram@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca</p>
Manitoba	<p>Website: http://smd.mb.ca/parking_permit_program.aspx Contact Number: 204-975-3250 or 1-800-836-5551 E-mail: info@smd.mb.ca</p>
Ontario	<p>Website: English--http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/vehicle/app.shtml French--http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/french/dandv/vehicle/app.shtml Contact Number: 416-235-2999 or 1-800-387-3445 E-mail: English--http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/feedback/mtoinfo.shtml French-- http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/french/feedback/mtoinfo.shtml</p>

PROVINCES / TERRITORIES	PERMIT INFORMATION
Québec	Website: English-- http://www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/miscellany/parking_permit/index.php French-- http://www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/envrac/vign_station/index.php Contact Number: 514-873-7620 (Montréal region) or 1-800-361-7620 E-mail: English-- https://secure.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/reach_us/secure_email.php French-- https://secure.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/joindre/courriel_securise.php
Newfoundland and Labrador	Website: http://www.gs.gov.nl.ca/drivers/mobilityimpairedpermit/index.html Contact Number: 709-729-0345 or 1-877-636-6867 E-mail: disabledparkpermits@gov.nl.ca
Prince Edward Island	Website: http://www.peicod.pe.ca/programs_parking.php Contact Number: 902-892-9149 or 1-888-473-4263 E-mail: admin@peicod.pe.ca or peicod@peicod.pe.ca
New Brunswick	Website: http://www.gnb.ca/0276/vehicle/english/disprk_e.asp Contact Number: 506-444-3000 or 1-800-442-4412 E-mail: pcsdp@gnb.ca
Nova Scotia	Website: http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/rmv/paal277.asp Contact Number: 902-424-5851 or 1-800-898-7668 E-mail: askus@gov.ns.ca

Contact

Barbara NELSON
Transport Canada

barbara.nelson@tc.gc.ca

Denmark

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with a wheelchair symbol.

Parking discs are required when drivers park in areas that are time limited. Foreign vehicles may display discs which are issued and accepted in the home country.

Parking on roads

Vehicles displaying a disabled person parking card:

- may park for 15 min on roads where waiting or parking is prohibited. Parking discs are required;
- may park for up to an hour where parking is limited to 15-30 min Parking discs are required;
- may park for an unlimited time where parking is limited to up 3 hours;
- may, in general on roads with parking meters only, park if the driver pay according to how long the vehicle is parked. Though in Copenhagen, vehicles displaying a disabled parking card may park free of charge in public parking zones. Check locally.
- may be allowed to drive and park in pedestrian zones. Check locally.

Parking in car parks

In car parks where payment is required, the driver must generally pay according to how long the vehicle is parked. Though in Copenhagen, vehicles displaying a disabled person parking card may park free of charge in public zones. Check locally.

Reciprocal Recognition: Denmark uses the EU model badge and has implemented ECMT Resolution 97/4

Contact

The Ministry of Justice
Road Traffic Division
Slotholmsgade 10
DK-1216 Copenhagen K
Tel. +45 3392 3340
E-mail: jm@jm.dk Attention Road Traffic Division

France

Although there is a national system of parking concessions, local variations can apply. Check locally. In Paris, vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking car may be parked on roads free of charge.

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with a wheelchair symbol on a vertical sign.

As a general rule, a wheelchair symbol is drawn on the pavement but this feature is not imposed by regulation.

Parking on roads

- Do not park on roads where waiting is prohibited.
- You may park beyond the time limit on roads where parking is free but restricted by time.
- You must pay to park on roads where payment is required (except in Paris).
- Do not drive or park in pedestrian zones.

Parking in car parks

Car parks do not generally offer concessions to vehicle displaying a disabled person's parking car.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model. The recognition of Badges from other EU member states was established in 2000. Badge holders from other European countries have the same parking concessions as French Badge holders. France has implemented ECMT Resolution 97/4.

Contact

Mme Michèle TILMONT
Déléguée ministérielle à l'accessibilité
Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement Durable et de l'Aménagement
du Territoire
Tour Pascal B
F-92055 La Défense cedex 04
Tel. +33-1 4081 9847
E-mail: michele.tilmont@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Germany

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with a road sign (wheelchair symbol). Do not, however, park on spaces marked with a parking card number reserving them for certain disabled people.

Parking on roads

- You may park for up to 3 hours on roads where parking is prohibited – also in no-parking zones.
- You may exceed the allowed parking period on roads where parking is restricted by time – also in restricted-parking zones.
- You may park free of charge and without time limit on roads with parking meters or pay-and-display parking.
- You may park up to 3 hours in residents' parking areas.
- You may park outside the marked spaces in traffic-calmed areas without obstructing the traffic.
- Do not drive or park in pedestrian zones unless it is expressly permitted by local concessions. Check locally. For even if it is permitted you are only allowed to enter and park there during specific vehicle access times.

The above regulations apply unless there is another parking facility available at a reasonable distance. The maximum parking period is 24 hours.

Parking in private car parks

Ask the car-park attendant on the spot whether disabled people are granted parking privileges.

Reciprocal Recognition

Germany uses the EU model badge. ECMT Resolution has not been implemented. In Germany, the Federal States (Bundesländer) are the appropriate authorities for the surveillance of road traffic and they have rejected this in the past. Reasons included likely difficulties caused by varying documents/badges (different style etc.) and possible language difficulties.

Recommendation for disabled people from associated ECMT countries is to get in touch with the local authorities responsible for road traffic at their place of residence, to see what kind of special parking permission is suitable or if the Parking Badge of the home country is sufficient.

Contact

Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs
Division S 32
Robert-Schuman-Platz 1
D-53175 Bonn
E-mail: ref-s32@bmvbs.bund.de

Ireland

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with wheelchair symbol.

Parking on roads

- Do not park on roads where waiting is prohibited.
- Fees and time limit concessions for vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card vary. Check locally.
- Do not drive or park in pedestrian zones.

Parking in car parks

In some car parks, payment concessions are given to vehicles displaying the disabled person's parking card. Drivers should check with the car park notices or ask an attendant for details.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model

Road traffic and parking regulations of 1997 provides for recognition of parking badges issued by authorities in any country across the world. This provision is sufficiently broad to encompass the EU Recommendation for the reciprocal recognition of the Community Model parking card. No express reference is made to any particular measure in the 1997 Regulation.

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Liechtenstein

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with wheelchair symbol.

Apart from reserved spaces, there are no concessions for street parking or parking in car parks.

You may park only where parking is permitted, and you must pay parking charges and observe time limits.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model. ECMT Resolution 97/4 has not been implemented and there are currently no plans to do so.

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Malta

Reserved spaces for parking badge holders (known locally as the 'Blue Sticker') are allocated in all localities on-street. Reserved parking spaces for parking badge holders are also allocated in government owned off-street parking areas. Planning regulations for major private developments with off-street public car parks require the allocation of a proportion of the total public car parking spaces to be reserved for parking badge holders. Reserved parking spaces for disabled persons are marked with the wheelchair symbol and may be used by any person holding a valid 'blue sticker' parking badge.

Parking in roads in controlled parking areas

Vehicles displaying a 'blue sticker' parking badge may park on-street in the reserved spaces without time restriction in time controlled parking zones and without a charge in zones that are controlled using time-based parking fees.

Parking in public and private car parks

Vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card may be parked free of charge in certain localities or against the standard parking fee /time restrictions in other localities.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model.

Malta has adopted Council Recommendation 98/376/EC and there is mutual recognition of parking badges from EU countries. Regarding parking badges from non-EU countries, The following provision of Resolution 98/4 would apply as there is nothing in law to state the contrary:

“To give the same parking facilities to holders of this document coming from another member or associated member country as they do to their own nationals”.

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Norway

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with wheelchair symbol. Do not park there if the space is marked with a name or vehicle registration number. You may not use parking places reserved for other vehicles or vulnerable users.

Parking on roads

- Do not park on roads where waiting is prohibited.
- You may park without time limit on roads where parking is free but restricted by time, unless a time limit is specified for vehicles displaying the disabled person's parking card.
- You may park free of charge and without time limit on roads with parking meters or pay-and-display parking.
- Do not drive or park in pedestrian zones.
- You may park in residential areas where parking places restricted in time has been introduced.

Parking in car parks

In many car parks vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card are allowed to be parked free of charge and without time limit, but only in bays reserved for disabled people. Check with car park notices or ask an attendant.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model. ECMT Resolution 97/4 was implemented in 2000.

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Portugal

On public roads and in car parks there are places designated for disabled people. Such places are marked with the wheelchair international symbol and they are provided for holders of a European Parking Badge. Under national legislation, this badge is issued without considering either who drives or who owns the vehicle, and it may be required by any disabled person, in order to make it possible for them to be transported in another person's car.

The badge guarantees the right to park one's own car or another person's car, both on designated places and places not designated for disabled people, when it is absolutely necessary and for a short time period, since this will not be to the detriment of the normal circulation of vehicles and pedestrians.

The current Highway Code has created another possibility of parking on-street and in car parks. Under this new disposition, disabled people have a right to park either their own vehicle, or the vehicle in which they are travelling, in new designated places provided in car parks and parking areas marked with the wheelchair symbol, as well as two other pictograms: a pregnant woman and a person carrying a child in their arms.

Parking on roads

- Do not park on roads where parking is prohibited.
- You must pay to park on roads where payment is required and must not exceed the time paid for.
- You must not exceed time limits on roads where time restrictions apply.
- Do not drive or park in pedestrian zones.
- There are also parking regulations made by some local Councils, providing disabled residents with restricted parking places close to their residence and work place. These persons must comply with the following conditions: to have a mobility impairment; to be a vehicle owner; to possess the EU model parking badge.
- Do not park where the space is marked with a name or vehicle registration number.

Parking in car parks

Car parks do not always offer concessions to vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model. Portugal has implemented ECMT Resolution 97/4 under the 8th article of the Decree-Law nº307/2003.

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Spain

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with wheelchair symbol.

Parking on roads

- Do not park on roads where parking is prohibited unless local concessions specifically allow it. Check locally.
- Fees and time limit concessions for vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card vary. Check locally.
- Do not drive or park in pedestrian zones unless local concessions specifically allow it. Check locally.

Parking in car parks

In most places car parks offer concessions to vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card. Check locally.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model. ECMT Resolution 97/4 has been implemented.

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Switzerland

On public roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are indicated by the wheelchair symbol. For parking in other places (including long term), the parking badge must be displayed with a parking permit.

Parking on Roads

- You can park for up to 2 hours in streets in which parking is strictly prohibited (indicated by signs);
- You can park for up to 6 hours in authorised parking places in streets in which parking is free but time limited;
- You can park for over 6 hours in streets in which parking is controlled by meters or pay and display. The decision on whether such parking is free is taken locally. You need to check;
- You can park for up to two hours in meeting/pick up areas and in pedestrian areas to which access is permitted.

Parking in Car Parks

National parking concessions do not apply in private car parks. You need to check locally on reserved places and charges.

Reciprocal recognition

The Badge is similar to that prescribed by the European Union. Switzerland has implemented ECMT Resolution 97/4.

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United Kingdom

On roads and in car parks, parking places reserved for disabled people are marked with wheelchair symbol.

While the Blue Badge disabled person's parking Scheme operates throughout the United Kingdom, there are small variations in its application in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In England and Wales the Blue Badge disabled person's parking card is used in conjunction with a parking disc. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, there is no time restriction on parking for Blue Badge holders. However, people from other countries who display the disabled person's parking card in England and Wales without a parking disc will be given the same conditions.

Parking on roads

- You may park for up to 3 hours on roads where parking is prohibited unless the signs say "No loading or unloading", unless in Scotland or Northern Ireland.
- You may park free of charge and without time limit on roads with parking meters or pay-and-display parking.
- You may park without time limit on roads where parking is free but restricted by time.
- Do not drive or park in pedestrian zones unless there is a sign showing that vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card are exempt.
- The Scheme does not operate fully in Central London. Check locally in Central London about concessions.

Parking in car parks

Some car parks allow vehicles displaying a disabled person's parking card to be parked free of charge. Check with car park notices or ask an attendant.

Reciprocal Recognition

Parking badge: EU model. The UK has not yet implemented ECMT Resolution 97/4 but it has taken the necessary legal powers and is committed to doing so. There is no timetable yet for implementation.

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United States

In the United States, every individual State has its own rules and regulations on disability parking permits, among other things. Each State has a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) which is usually the point of contact for that State and any vehicle related questions, including disability parking permits.

Requirements for disabled parking permits for visiting overseas motorists vary from state to state. Many of the websites of individual state Departments of Motor Vehicles provide information and/or application forms for a disabled parking permit. You may also check with your car hire company or contact a [state travel/tourism office](#).

Useful websites:

- [American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators](#)
- [Alabama MVD](#) - disability access parking privileges
- [Alaska DMV](#) - disability parking permits
- [Arizona MVD](#) - special license plates and placards
- [Arkansas DFA](#) - specialty plates and placards
- [California DMV](#) - disabled person parking placard or plates
- [Colorado DMV](#) - disabled person's plates
- [Connecticut DMV](#) - disabled drivers
- [Delaware DMV](#) - handicapped plates or placards
- [Florida DMV](#) - disabled parking permits
- [Georgia DOR](#) - how to apply for a disability parking permit
- [Hawaii DCAR](#) - parking for persons with disabilities
- [Idaho DMV](#) - disability license plates and placards
- [Iowa DOT](#) - persons with disabilities parking law
- [Illinois VSD](#) - persons with disabilities license plates and placards
- [Indiana IBOMV](#) - application for disability parking placard or disability plate
- [Kansas DMV](#) - certification for disabled parking placard and/or plate
- [Kentucky DMV](#) - application for disabled persons special parking permit

- [Louisiana DPS](#) - mobility impaired frequently asked questions
- [Maine BMV](#) - application for disability plates/placards
- [Maryland MVA](#) - motorists with disabilities
- [Massachusetts RMV](#) - disabled placard/plate form
- [Michigan DOS](#) - disability parking placard application
- [Minnesota DMV](#) - disability parking
- [Mississippi STC](#) - disabled parking application
- [Missouri DOR](#) - disabled placards
- [Montana MVD](#) - disability permit application
- [Nebraska DMV](#) - handicapped parking permits
- [Nevada DMV](#) - disabled parking
- [New Hampshire DMV](#) - application for walking disability privileges
- [New Jersey MVC](#) - handicapped placards
- [New Mexico MVD](#) - certificate of eligibility for parking placard
- [New York DMV](#) - reserved parking for people with disabilities
- [North Carolina DMV](#) - handicapped placards/plates
- [North Dakota DOT](#) - application for mobility impaired parking permit
- [Ohio BMV](#) - application for disability placards
- [Oklahoma DPS](#) - handicapped parking placard application
- [Oregon DMV](#) - disabled person parking permit
- [Pennsylvania DOT](#) - persons with disability parking placard
- [Rhode Island DMV](#) - disability parking permit info
- [South Carolina DMV](#) - disabled placards and tags
- [South Dakota DRR](#) - disability parking
- [Tennessee DOS](#) - application for disabled person license and/or placard

- [Texas DOT](#) - disabled parking permits
- [Utah DMV](#) - disabled plates and placards
- [Vermont DMV](#) - disabled persons windshield placards
- [Virginia DMV](#) - disabled parking placard
- [Washington State DOL](#) - disabled parking
- [West Virginia DMV](#) - applications and forms
- [Wisconsin DOT](#) - disabled parking identification card
- [Wyoming DOT](#) - handicap instructions
- [District of Columbia](#) - disability information