

Australian Standard[®]

**Motor vehicle controls—
Adaptive systems for people with
disabilities**

Part 1: General requirements

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME/67, Mobility Appliances for People with Disabilities. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 8 May 1991 and published on 12 July 1991.

The following interests are represented on Committee ME/67:

ACROD
Attorney-Generals Department
Australian Association of Occupational Therapists
Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Australia
Confederation of Australian Industry
Crippled Childrens Association of South Australia
Department of Health, New South Wales
Department of Health, Queensland
Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia
Department of Veterans Affairs
Disability Advisory Council of Australia
Disabled Peoples International (Australia)
Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
Health Department, Victoria
Institution of Engineers, Australia
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
National Committee Independent Living Centres
Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of New South Wales
Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of Victoria
Royal North Shore Hospital
Royal Perth Hospital
Technical Aid to the Disabled
University of Adelaide
University of Canberra
University of Melbourne
WorkCover Authority, New South Wales

Additional interests participating in the preparation of this Standard:

Australian Association of Engineers for Disabled Drivers
Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health
Cumberland College of Health Sciences
Department of Motor Transport, South Australia
Disabled Motorists (Victoria)
The Salvation Army Bethesda Hospital, Victoria
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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

RECONFIRMATION

OF

AS 3954.1—1991

Motor vehicle controls—Adaptive systems for people with disabilities

Part 1: General requirements

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Approved for reconfirmation in accordance with Standards Australia procedures for reconfirmation on 17 March 2014.

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NOTES

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Mobility Appliances for People with Disabilities following a request by the New South Wales Association of Occupational Therapists for an Australian Standard for the design, installation and maintenance of adaptive control systems for motor vehicles. This Association expressed concern that there was currently no regulation of such adaptations in motor vehicles and no document giving guidelines on minimum requirements for the safety and quality of adaptive motor vehicle controls.

The Committee decided to publish a Standard in two parts—this Standard covering general design, construction and installation requirements for a wide range of adaptive motor vehicle controls, including hand controls, and Part 2, *Hand controls—Product requirements*, specifically for hand controls as a product available for installation in a vehicle. Whereas this Standard specifies performance tests to be carried out on driving controls that have been installed in a vehicle, Part 2 specifies performance tests for hand controls mounted in a test rig.

Minimum requirements have been set that are based on performance criteria, with design requirements limited to aspects concerning safety, and compliance with the requirements set down in Australian Design Rules for Motor Vehicles and Trailers.

Recognition has been given to possible disadvantages to people with disabilities which could occur through setting down design requirements with which some special adaptations, related to a driver’s particular disability, could not comply. The Standard has identified areas where these conditions may apply. Relevant clauses in the Standard give the inspecting authority jurisdiction where the driving control for a person with a particular disability is the only means by which that person can operate the motor vehicle.

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FOREWORD

Driving a motor vehicle is a major step towards independence for people with disabilities. Without this, the opportunities for achieving a full and independent life are limited, along with the freedom of choice that such a level of independence gives.

Overall, in the past, low priority has been given to ensuring the quality and safety of products and services available to meet the mobility needs of disabled people.

Users of mobility appliances need the assurance that the product they choose will be reliable, will meet a satisfactory level of performance and will be able to be effectively serviced and maintained. This is particularly so because of the level of dependency on these products by the consumer, and the added difficulties often encountered by people with disabilities in gaining access to maintenance and repair services.

This Standard fulfils the need for a set of minimum requirements for the general installation of adaptive motor vehicle control systems. In cases where custom-built systems cannot meet all of the requirements relating to alterations to the vehicle, it is recommended that expert assistance be sought to ensure that vehicle safety standards are maintained and that the quality of materials is not compromised.