



TOWN OF CHESHIRE CHESHIRE SENIOR CENTER

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Section 5310 Policies Regarding Service Animals, Passengers Traveling with Respirators or Portable Oxygen, and Passengers without a Mobility Devices wishing to use the Lift to Board the Vehicle

Service Animals

- Service animals are permitted on board all Section 5310 vehicles to accompany passengers.
- All transportation users are spoken with regarding their needs through an evaluation process prior to the first time using the services and are verbally informed that service animals are permissible on all Section 5310 vehicles.
- Transportation personnel are not allowed to ask for verification of the service animal in the form of a certificate, identification card, a note from a physician, or require the animal to wear a vest or other identifying gear.
- Transportation personnel may only ask the rider two questions: (1) Is the animal required because of a disability? and (2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
- Service animals can ride on lifts but must be under control of the rider to protect the animal and harness away from moving parts.
- There is no limit to the number of service animals that a rider can bring onto the vehicle as each animal may provide separate types of assistance.

Respirators and Portable Oxygen

- Individuals with a disability are **not** prohibited from traveling with a respirator or portable oxygen supply, consistent with applicable Department of Transportation rules on the transportation of hazardous materials.
- The respirator or portable oxygen tank must be secured, and the driver then continues to secure the passenger.
- All transportation users are spoken with regarding their needs through an evaluation process prior to the first time using the services and are verbally informed that respirators and portable oxygen are permissible on all Section 5310 vehicles.

Lift Usage for riders without Mobility Devices

- Individuals without mobility devices are permitted to use the lift. The U.S. DOT requires that agencies provide transportation for people with disabilities, including the wheelchair and rider if the lift and vehicle can accommodate them. Transit providers must be aware of the weight and capacity of the lift/ramps for each vehicle.
- The safety belt restraint must be secured, and the passenger must hold the lift handles.
- All transportation users are spoken with regarding their needs through an evaluation process prior to the first time using the services and are verbally informed that the lift is available on all Section 5310 vehicles.

There is no time limit on the amount of time allowed for passengers to board