

## **Powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters (rules 36 to 37)**

### **Rule 36**

There is one class of manual wheelchair (called a Class 1 invalid carriage) and two classes of powered wheelchairs and powered mobility scooters. Manual wheelchairs and Class 2 vehicles are those with an upper speed limit of 4 mph (6 km/h) and are designed for use on pavements. Class 3 vehicles have an upper speed limit of 8 mph (12 km/h) and are equipped for use on both roads and pavements.



Class 1: manual wheelchair: max 4mph: pavement only:



Class 2: max 4mph : pavement only.

Class 3: max 8mph: on the road and pavement

## **Rule 37**

When you are **on the road**, you should obey the guidance and **rules for other vehicles**; when **on the pavement**, you should follow the **guidance and rules for pedestrians**.

## **On pavements (rules 38 to 40)**

### **Rule 38**

Pavements are **safer** than roads and should be used when available. You should **give pedestrians priority** and show consideration for other pavement users, particularly those **with a hearing or visual impairment**, who may not be aware of your presence.

### **Rule 39**

Powered wheelchairs and scooters **MUST NOT** travel faster than 4 mph (6 km/h) on pavements or in pedestrian areas. You may need to reduce your speed to adjust to other pavement users who may not be able to move out of your way quickly enough, or where the pavement is too narrow.

### **Law IICHR reg 4**

### **Rule 40**

When moving off the pavement onto the road, you should take special care. Before moving off, always look round and make sure it's safe to join the traffic. Always **try to use dropped kerbs** when moving off the pavement, even if this means travelling further to locate one. If you have to climb or descend a kerb, always approach it at right angles and don't try to negotiate a kerb higher than the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations.

## **On the road (rules 41 to 46)**

### **Rule 41**

You should take **care** when travelling on the road as you may be travelling more slowly than other traffic (your machine is restricted to 8 mph (12 km/h) and may be less visible).

### **Rule 42**

When **on the road**, Class 3 vehicles should travel in the direction of the traffic. Class 2 users should always use the pavement when it is available. When there is no pavement, you should use caution when on the road.

Class 2 users should, where possible, travel in the direction of the traffic. If you are travelling at night when lights **MUST** be used, you should travel in the direction of the traffic to avoid confusing other road users.

### Law [UICHR reg 9](#)

#### Rule 43

You **MUST** follow the same rules about using lights, indicators and horns as for other road vehicles, if your vehicle is fitted with them. At night, lights **MUST** be used. Be aware that other road users may not see you and you should make yourself more visible - even in the daytime and also at dusk - by, for instance, wearing a reflective jacket or reflective strips on the back of the vehicle.

### Law [UICHR reg 9](#)

#### Rule 44

**Take extra care at road junctions.** When going straight ahead, check to make sure there are no vehicles about to cross your path from the left, the right, or overtaking you and turning left. There are several options for dealing with right turns, especially turning from a major road. If moving into the middle of the road is difficult or dangerous, you can

- stop on the left-hand side of the road and wait for a safe gap in the traffic
- negotiate the turn as a pedestrian, i.e. travel along the pavement and cross the road between pavements where it is safe to do so.  
**Class 3 users should switch the vehicle to the lower speed limit when on pavements.**

If the junction is too hazardous, it may be worth considering an alternative route. Similarly, when negotiating **major roundabouts** (i.e. with two or more lanes) it may be safer for you to use the pavement or find a route which avoids the roundabout altogether.

#### Rule 45

**All normal parking restrictions should be observed.** Your vehicle should not be left unattended if it causes an obstruction to other pedestrians - especially those in wheelchairs. Parking concessions provided under the Blue Badge scheme (see [Further reading](#)) will apply to those vehicles displaying a valid badge.

## Rule 46

These vehicles **MUST NOT** be used on motorways (see [Rule 253](#)). They should not be used on unrestricted dual carriageways where the speed limit exceeds 50 mph (80 km/h) but if they are used on these dual carriageways, they **MUST** have a flashing amber beacon. A flashing amber beacon should be used on all other dual carriageways (see [Rule 220](#)).

Laws [RTRA sects 17\(2\) & \(3\)](#), & [RVLR regs 17\(1\) & 26](#)