Motorised Mobility Devices (MMDs) and Kerb Ramps

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People using motorised mobility devices (MMD) such as mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs are classified as pedestrians under the Australian Road Rules. When MMDs are used outdoors, they are required to use pedestrian infrastructure such as footpaths.

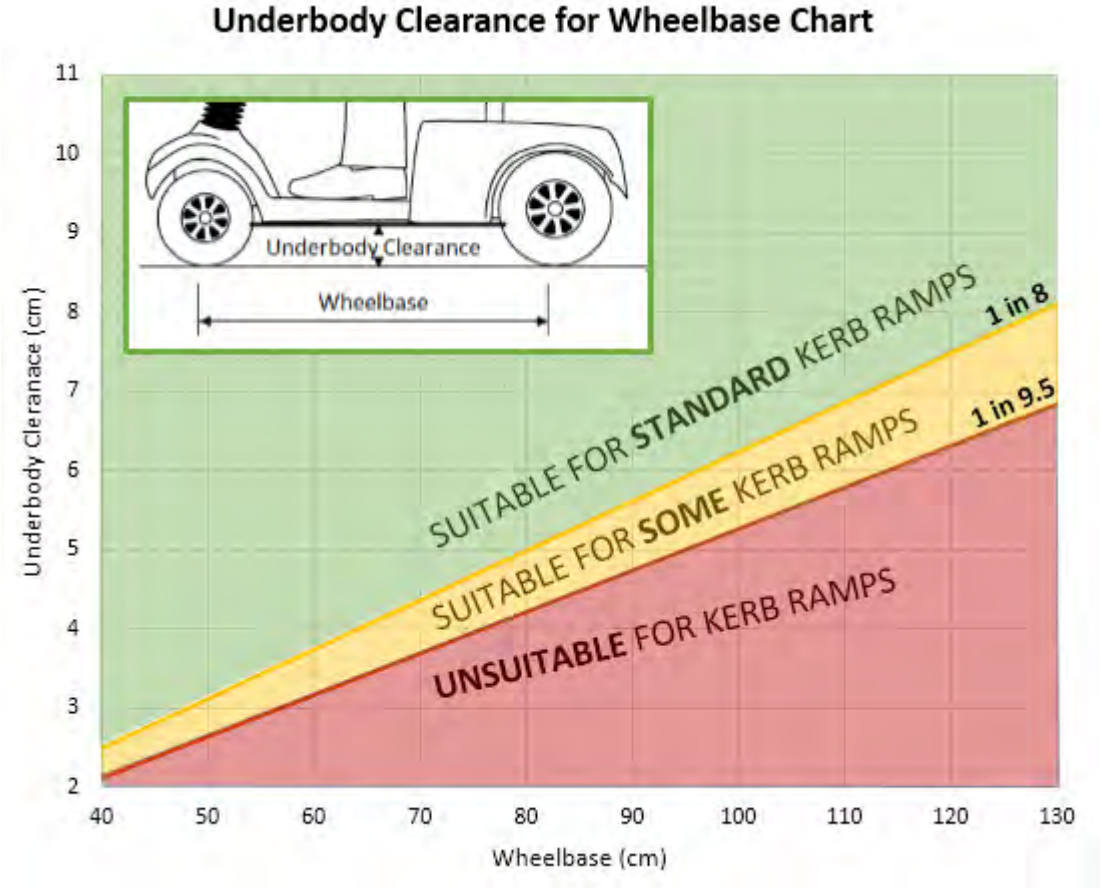
The Department of Transport and Main Roads is currently working with Austroads to develop an improved, nationally agreed, construction and performance requirements for all MMDs offered for sale. However, these new requirements will not apply to existing MMDs. **The purpose of this fact sheet is to assist owners of MMDs to self-assess the ability of their device to use standard kerb ramps and to assist MMD retailers ensure the devices on sale are fit for purpose.**

About kerb ramps

Kerb ramps are footpath ramps that transitions to the road level ***(image right)***. Kerb ramps typically have a sharp transition where the surface changes from a slope to a horizontal surface. **The MMD can 'bottom out' (get stuck) if it does not have sufficient underbody clearance for the change from a slope to a horizontal surface.**

Checking if a MMD is suitable for use on kerb ramps

Dimension attributes of a MMD can easily be measured, as indicated on the illustration below. Some MMDs are intended for indoor use only, and are not designed for outdoor use. **The chart below can be used as a quick and simple way to check if the MMD is suitable for use on standard kerb ramps.** If the MMD's measurements are in close proximity to the line, then individual judgement will need to be exercised.



NOTE: Underbody clearance should be checked at the maximum permissible load of the MMD, as it may decrease if the MMD carries additional loads.

This chart assumes a direct approach, and not approaching the kerb ramp on an angle.

This chart does not take into account protrusions from footrests or other modifications.

For further information, please contact: trafficengineering.support@tmr.qld.gov.au

Queensland Government