

**Operational  
Policy**Section  
Independent Living [and Quality of Life](#)Subject  
**Vehicle Modifications**

## Policy

~~Subject to clinical evidence supporting need, the WSIB may authorize vehicle modification.~~  
[The WSIB may authorize modifications to a vehicle or reimbursement for a portion of the cost of a purpose-built accessible vehicle purchased by a worker to enable the worker to operate or travel as a passenger in a vehicle, where the work-related injury or illness affects the worker's ability to do so.](#)

### Purpose

[The purpose of this policy is to outline the criteria for entitlement to vehicle modifications, which vehicles are eligible for modification, the circumstances in which reimbursement of a portion of the cost of a purpose-built accessible vehicle may be considered and responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of vehicle modifications.](#)

## Guidelines

~~The WSIB may authorize vehicle modification when modification to a worker's personal vehicle will improve or enhance quality of life and facilitate~~

- ~~• mobility within the community, and~~
- ~~• socialization – family, friends, organization.~~

~~Payment for vehicle modification will only be authorized where the modification is essential to the safe operation of, or to the worker's ability to enter, leave and operate the vehicle.~~

[This policy applies in conjunction with 17-06-01, Independent Living and Quality of Life Measures - Overview and Definitions.](#)

### Definitions

[Minor vehicle modifications](#) are those that involve devices or equipment that integrate simply and directly onto a vehicle's original design, including, but not limited to, assist straps or steps, seatbelt extenders, acceleration and braking extenders and steering wheel knobs or grips.

[Vehicle](#) for the purpose of this policy means a vehicle that meets the definition of 'motor vehicle' in the Ontario *Highway Traffic Act* and is primarily designed for year-round use on highways as defined in the Ontario *Highway Traffic Act*.

[For definitions of instrumental activities of daily living \(IADLs\) and independent living, refer to 17-06-01, Independent Living and Quality of Life Measures - Overview and Definitions.](#)

### **Types Of Modification**

~~Examples of vehicle modification include~~

- ~~• hand controls~~
- ~~• elevating devices~~

**Operational  
Policy**Section  
Independent Living [and Quality of Life](#)Subject  
**Vehicle Modifications**

- ~~dimmer switches~~
- ~~spinner knobs~~
- ~~van roof extension~~
- ~~special seats.~~

**Entitlement criteria**

[The WSIB may allow entitlement to vehicle modifications where all the following criteria are met:](#)

- [1. The worker has an injury or illness that impacts the worker's ability to enter, exit, operate or travel as a passenger in the vehicle.](#)
- [2. The clinical evidence supports that vehicle modification is essential to the worker's ability to safely enter, exit, operate or travel as a passenger in the vehicle.](#)
- [3. The vehicle is eligible to modify, refer to the "Eligible vehicle" section in this policy.](#)
- [4. The eligible vehicle belongs to the worker, or where the eligible vehicle does not belong to the worker, it is readily available to the worker to carry out instrumental activities of daily living.](#)
- [5. The claim file information supports that modifying the vehicle is a necessary, appropriate and sufficient means of facilitating the worker's independent living.](#)

[The WSIB generally only approves vehicle modifications in cases where the injury or illness that results in the need for vehicle modification is, or is expected to be, permanent. However, the WSIB may approve minor modifications where a worker has an injury or illness that is temporary if the impact on their ability to operate or travel in a vehicle is expected to last for an extended period of time. The WSIB considers entitlement to minor modifications for temporary injuries and illnesses according to the five entitlement criteria outlined in this policy.](#)

**Eligible vehicle**

[The WSIB must authorize the vehicle to be modified. The WSIB is not responsible for modification costs when WSIB authorization is not obtained in advance and the WSIB does not subsequently authorize the vehicle for modification.](#)

[To be eligible to modify, the WSIB must be satisfied that all of the following criteria are met:](#)

- [The vehicle meets the definition of vehicle as set out in this policy.](#)
- [The vehicle will be the worker's primary vehicle.](#)
- [Modifying the vehicle is cost-effective given the age and condition of the vehicle.](#)
- [The vehicle as modified will meet federal and provincial standards for being operated as a motor vehicle.](#)
- [The vehicle as modified will facilitate a return to safe and independent driving and/or allow the worker to be transported safely as a passenger.](#)
- [The intended driver of the vehicle is or will be able to legally operate the vehicle \(i.e., licensed and insured\).](#)

**Operational  
Policy**Section  
Independent Living [and Quality of Life](#)Subject  
**Vehicle Modifications**

[The WSIB may request a Safety Standards Certificate or other documentation that demonstrates the vehicle is safe and operable. The WSIB reimburses the cost of this documentation.](#)

**[Purchasing a vehicle to modify](#)**

[Where the worker chooses to purchase a vehicle that is eligible to modify, in addition to providing vehicle modifications, the WSIB may reimburse the worker for features in the vehicle that:](#)

- [are required due to the impact of the work-related injury or illness, and](#)
- [are not standard features for the base model of the vehicle.](#)

[The WSIB determines the amount to reimburse for the features. The WSIB does not reimburse the cost of the vehicle itself.](#)

**[Purpose-built accessible vehicles](#)**

[The WSIB may reimburse a portion of the cost of a purpose-built accessible vehicle purchased by the worker. The WSIB does not reimburse the full cost or purchase vehicles directly.](#)

[The WSIB considers reimbursing a portion of the cost if both of the following criteria are met:](#)

- [The worker has or plans to purchase a vehicle that is eligible to modify, refer to the "Eligible vehicle" section in this policy.](#)
- [The cost of a purpose-built accessible vehicle is similar to or less than the value of that eligible vehicle and the cost of the required modifications.](#)

[The WSIB reimbursement generally takes into account the difference between the cost of the purpose-built accessible vehicle and the value of the eligible vehicle the worker owns or cost of the eligible vehicle the worker had planned to purchase. The WSIB reimbursement may not equal or exceed the full cost of the purpose-built accessible vehicle.](#)

**Payment**

~~Before payment or reimbursement of modification costs and/or instruction on the operation of a modified vehicle can be made, the WSIB must receive confirmation~~

- ~~• of the clinical need and advisability,~~
- ~~• from the Ministry of Transportation that the injured worker has the authority to operate the vehicle in question, and~~
- ~~• from the insurance company that they are aware of the condition and the worker's insurance is still in effect,~~
- ~~• from the worker that the work has been satisfactorily concluded,~~
- ~~• that the age and/or condition of the vehicle is such that the modification is warranted, and~~

**Operational  
Policy**Section  
Independent Living [and Quality of Life](#)Subject  
**Vehicle Modifications**

- ~~• where doubt exists, a Certificate of Mechanical Fitness shall be obtained by the worker.~~

**NOTE**

~~The WSIB will not authorize replacement and/or repair when damage to the vehicle modification is attributable to misuse and is in conflict with warranty requirements and recommended operating instructions.~~

**Modification process**

The WSIB has vendor contracts in place for vehicle modification services. Where the WSIB authorizes vehicle modifications, the worker is expected to co-operate with the WSIB vendor and in any required assessments. The WSIB reimburses the cost of required assessments, instruction or training.

Refer to [17-01-07, Preferred Supplier of Health Care Products and Services for information about the circumstances in which the WSIB may approve products and services from a vendor other than a WSIB vendor.](#)

**Concurrent and subsequent vehicle modifications**

The WSIB generally approves modifications for one vehicle at a time.

The WSIB may modify a subsequent vehicle for the worker in accordance with the [guidelines in this policy in either of the following two circumstances:](#)

- [The useful lifespan of the current modified vehicle expires.](#)
- [Permanent changes in the work-related injury or illness affect the worker's ability to live independently to the extent that it is not practical to further modify the current vehicle.](#)

**Maintenance, repair and replacement**

The worker is responsible for operating costs and normal maintenance of the vehicle. The worker is also responsible for complying with any inspection or warranty requirements for the vehicle modification itself. The WSIB pays for routine inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement of the vehicle modification. The WSIB may also pay for wear and tear or damage caused to the vehicle by the vehicle modification itself. The WSIB does not pay for damage to the vehicle modification that is due to misuse, failure to follow inspection or warranty requirements or failure to follow operating instructions.

**Exceptions**

~~The WSIB cannot authorize major vehicle modifications such as hand controls and elevating devices when the work-related condition is temporary in nature, for example, limbs encased in plaster.~~

**Operational  
Policy**Section  
Independent Living [and Quality of Life](#)Subject  
**Vehicle Modifications****Insurance**

[The WSIB does not arrange or pay for insurance for the modified vehicle. Workers who meet the entitlement criteria for the additional expenses allowance under 17-06-02, Independent Living Allowances may choose to use the allowance to pay for insurance cost increases due to the vehicle modification.](#)

[The worker is responsible for ensuring insurance is in place for the modified vehicle that both:](#)

- [includes coverage for the person driving the vehicle, whether that be the worker or some other person where the worker is accessing the vehicle as a passenger, and](#)
- [is sufficient to cover repair and replacement of the vehicle modification in the event of a motor vehicle accident; the WSIB does not pay for repair or replacement of the vehicle modification where the damage is due to a motor vehicle accident.](#)

[The WSIB may request proof of insurance at any time.](#)

**Transitional provisions**

[In claims with an accident prior to September 21, 2026, where the initial entitlement decision is made on or after September 21, 2026, this policy also applies to entitlement periods prior to September 21, 2026.](#)

**Application date**

This policy applies to all decisions made on or after ~~July 1, 1989~~ [September 21, 2026](#), for [entitlement periods on or after September 21, 2026](#), for all accidents. [This policy also applies to entitlement periods prior to September 21, 2026, in the claims identified in the "Transitional provisions" section.](#)

**Document ~~History~~ [history](#)**

This document replaces [17-06-07 dated October 12, 2004](#).

[This document was previously published as:](#)

06-05-04 dated July 1989.

**References****Legislative ~~Authority~~ [authority](#)**

*Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*, ~~as amended~~  
Section 32(e)

*Workers' Compensation Act, [R.S.O. Revised Statutes of Ontario](#) 1990*, ~~as amended~~  
Section 52



Operational  
Policy

---

Section  
Independent Living [and Quality of Life](#)

---

Subject  
**Vehicle Modifications**

---

**Minute**

Board of Directors

~~#8(L), June 10, 2004, Page 6624~~

[Approval](#)