

The Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) (Docklands Light Railway) (No. 2) Exemption Order 2025

The Secretary of State makes this Order in exercise of the powers conferred by section 183(1), (2)(a), (4)(a), (5), (7), and 207(1) of the Equality Act 2010(a).

In accordance with section 183(4) of that Act the Secretary of State has consulted the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee(b) and such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) (Docklands Light Railway) (No.2) Exemption Order 2025 and comes into force on 15 November 2025.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Order—

“the 2010 Regulations” means the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) Regulations 2010(c);

“B23 exempt vehicle” means the Docklands Light Railway B23 Stock, vehicle numbers 201-254, manufactured by CAF and brought into use from 2025 onwards;

“B92 exempt vehicle” means the Docklands Light Railway B92 Stock, vehicle numbers 01-016 and 22-99, manufactured by Bombardier and brought into use in 1991;

“B2007 exempt vehicle” means the Docklands Light Railway B2007 Stock, vehicle numbers 101-155, manufactured by Bombardier and brought into use in 2007;

“Docklands Light Railway” means the Docklands Light Railway network between Bank, Tower Gateway, Stratford and Stratford International and Beckton, Woolwich Arsenal and Lewisham stations;

“exempt vehicle” means any or all of the B23 exempt vehicles, B92 exempt vehicles or B2007 exempt vehicles;

“platform gap” means the gap between the edge of the door sill of a wheelchair-compatible doorway of an exempt vehicle and the platform or stop;

“wheelchair-compatible doorway” has the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the 2010 Regulations.

(2) Unless otherwise stated, a reference in this Order to a numbered paragraph is a reference to that paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the 2010 Regulations.

- (a) 2010 c. 15; section 183(7) was inserted by the Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), Schedule 10, paragraph 29(3).
- (b) The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee was established under section 125 of the Transport Act 1985 (c. 67) and has a statutory duty to provide the Secretary of State with advice on the public passenger transport needs of disabled people.
- (c) S.I. 2010/432 which has been amended but those amendments are not relevant to this instrument.

Revocation

3. The Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) (Docklands Light Railway) Exemption Order 2025 is revoked.

Exemptions relating to B23 exempt vehicles

4. Subject to the conditions set out in articles 7 and 8, a B23 exempt vehicle is authorised to be used for carriage on the Docklands Light Railway even if it does not conform with, or is used in a manner that does not conform with the requirements of—

- (a) paragraph 1(1) (boarding devices at wheelchair-compatible doorways) in relation to a wheelchair-compatible doorway when it is open at a platform at a station named in the Schedule to this Order;
- (b) paragraph 3(5)(b) (audible warning device must emit a different distinct sound not less than 3 seconds before doors start to close);
- (c) paragraph 4(2) (illumination of control devices before doors start to close).

Exemptions relating to B2007 exempt vehicles

5. Subject to the conditions set out in articles 7 and 8, a B2007 exempt vehicle is authorised to be used for carriage on the Docklands Light Railway even if it does not conform with, or is used in a manner that does not conform with, the requirements of—

- (a) paragraph 1(1) (boarding devices at wheelchair-compatible doorways) in relation to a wheelchair-compatible doorway when it is open at a platform at a station named in the Schedule to this Order;
- (b) paragraph 3(5)(b) (audible warning device must emit a different distinct sound not less than 3 seconds before doors start to close);
- (c) paragraph 4(2) (illumination of control devices before doors start to close);
- (d) paragraph 10(4)(b) (clearance for a passenger's hand between the handrail and other parts of the rail vehicle); and
- (e) paragraph 3 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the 2010 Regulations (illumination of the edge of the passenger doorway floor).

Exemptions relating to B92 exempt vehicles

6. Subject to the conditions set out in articles 7 and 8, a B92 exempt vehicle is authorised to be used for carriage on the Docklands Light Railway even if it does not conform with, or is used in a manner that does not conform with, the requirements of—

- (a) paragraph 1(1) (boarding devices at wheelchair-compatible doorways) in relation to a wheelchair-compatible doorway when it is open at a platform at a station named in Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Schedule to this Order;
- (b) paragraph 3(5)(b) (audible warning device must emit a different distinct sound not less than 3 seconds before doors start to close);
- (c) paragraph 4(2) (illumination of control devices before doors start to close);
- (d) paragraph 6(5)(b) (width of route between wheelchair-compatible doorway and wheelchair space);
- (e) paragraph 10(4)(b) (clearance for a passenger's hand between the handrail and other parts of the rail vehicle);
- (f) paragraph 11(8) (visual announcements in exterior displays must comply with a minimum character height and contrast with their background); and

(g) paragraph 3 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the 2010 Regulations (illumination of the edge of the passenger doorway floor).

Conditions

7.—(1) The exemptions from paragraph 1(1) set out in articles 4(a), 5(a) and 6(a) only apply where—

- (a) the relevant platform gap is not more than
 - (i) 85 millimetres measured horizontally for platforms in Tables 1, 2 and 3;
 - (ii) 95 millimetres measured horizontally for platforms in Table 4;
 - (iii) 105 millimetres measured horizontally for platforms in Table 5; and

- (b) the relevant platform gap is not more than 50 millimetres measured vertically.

(2) The exemptions from paragraph 3(5)(b) set out in articles 4(b), 5(b) and 6(b) only apply where—

- (a) the relevant passenger door can only be closed by a member of the operator's staff on the vehicle or on the platform next to a doorway of the vehicle; and
- (b) the distinct sound, different from the sound required by 3(5)(a), is emitted by the audible warning device when the doors start to close.

(3) The exemptions from paragraph 4(2), set out in articles 4(c), 5(c) and 6(c) only apply if—

- (a) the relevant passenger door can only be closed by a member of the operator's staff on the vehicle or on the platform next to a doorway of the vehicle; and
- (b) the illumination of the door control device, as required by 4(1)(c), ceases when the doors start to close.

(4) The exemptions from paragraph 10(4)(b), set out in articles 5(d) and 6(e) only apply if there is not less than 20 millimetres of clearance for a passenger's hand between any part of the handrail and any other part of the vehicle, excluding the mountings of the handrail to the vehicle.

(5) The exemptions from paragraph 3 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the 2010 Regulations, set out in articles 5(e) and 6(g) only apply if—

- (a) the passenger doorway is fitted with ceiling mounted lights that illuminate the floor along the entrance; and
- (b) the edge of the floor along the entrance of the passenger doorway is fitted with a yellow strip.

(6) The exemption from paragraph 6(5)(b) set out in article 6(d) only applies if the route between a wheelchair-compatible doorway and a wheelchair space is not less than 835 millimetres wide at any point.

(7) The exemption from paragraph 11(8) set out in article 6(f) only applies where numbers used in, and the first letter of, visual announcements displayed on the exterior of the exempt vehicle are—

- (a) not less than 62 millimetres high on displays mounted on the front of the vehicle, and
- (b) not less than 35 millimetres high in displays mounted on the side of a rail vehicle.

Expiry

8.—(1) The exemptions from paragraph 1(1) in relation to a platform at a station named in Table 1 of the Schedule set out in article 4(a) expire at 2:00 a.m. on 30th September 2025.

(2) The exemptions from paragraph 1(1) in relation to a platform at a station named in Table 2 of the Schedule set out in articles 4(a) and 5(a) expire at 2:00 a.m. on 1st April 2035.

(3) The exemptions from paragraph 1(1) in relation to a platform at a station named in Table

3 of the Schedule set out in articles 4(a) and 5(a) expire at 2:00 a.m. on 1st April 2060.

(4) The exemptions from paragraph 1(1) in relation to a platform at a station named in Tables 4 and 5 of the Schedule set out in articles 4(a) and 5(a) are for the lifetime of the exempt vehicle.

(5) The exemptions from paragraph 3(5)(b) set out in articles 4(b) and 5(b) expire at 2:00 a.m. on 31st December 2030.

(6) The exemptions from paragraph 4(2) set out in articles 4(c) and 5(c) expire at 2:00 a.m. on 31st December 2030.

(7) The exemption from paragraph 10(4)(b) set out in article 5(d) is for the lifetime of the exempt vehicle.

(8) The exemption from paragraph 3 of Part 2 of the Schedule to the 2010 Regulations set out in article 5(e) expire at 2:00 a.m. on 31st December 2030.

(9) The exemptions set out in article 6(a) to (g) are for the lifetime of the exempt vehicle.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Transport



Date: 14.11.2025

Minister of State for Rail
Department for Transport

SCHEDULE

Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Table 1

Stations and platforms at which the exemption from paragraph 1(1) for B23 exempt vehicles will apply until 30th September 2025

Station and platform

Royal Albert 1 and 2

Prince Regent 1 and 2

All Saints 1 and 2

Westferry 1 and 2

Beckton 1 and 2

West Silvertown 2

King George V 1 and 2

West India Quay 2, 3 and 4

Lewisham 5 and 6

Pontoon Dock 2

Mudchute 2

Table 2

Stations and platforms at which the exemption from paragraph 1(1) for all exempt vehicles will apply until 1st April 2035

Station and platform

Canning Town 3 and 4

Poplar 4

Bow Church 1

West Ham 3 and 4

Table 3

Stations and platforms at which the exemption from paragraph 1(1) for all exempt vehicles will apply until 1st April 2060

Station and platform
Tower Gateway 1 and 2
South Quay 1 and 2
Crossharbour 1 and 2
Deptford Bridge 1 and 2
Blackwall 1 and 2
East India 1 and 2

Table 4

Stations and platforms at which the exemption from paragraph 1(1) for all exempt vehicles will apply for the lifetime of the exempt vehicle

Station and platform
Bank 10
Canary Wharf 4 and 5
Bow Church 2
Island Gardens 2
Greenwich 3 and 4
Royal Victoria 1 and 2
Custom House 3 and 4
Gallions Reach 1

Table 5

Stations and platforms at which the exemption from paragraph 1(1) for all exempt vehicles will apply for the lifetime of the exempt vehicle

Station and platform
Limehouse 3 and 4
Westferry 2
Poplar 2
All Saints 1
Mudchute 1