

Power Assist Matrix: Supporting Information

This document provides supporting information for the Power Assist Matrix found on the MASS website: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/mobility>

1.0 Risks and Benefits of Power Assist Devices

Power assist devices include any add-on device that is: a) designed to provide additional power to an occupied manual wheelchair, and b) intended to aid or improve movement.

If installed and used appropriately with a compatible wheelchair, power assist devices may improve a person's ability to mobilise. If used inappropriately, installed incorrectly, or combined with an incompatible wheelchair, power assist devices may result in harm and/or equipment damage.

Therefore, in the interest of client safety and to mitigate potential risks, MASS has requested statements from SOA suppliers, identifying which power assist devices are endorsed by wheelchair manufacturers for use with the suppliers' ranges of wheelchairs.

2.0 Power Assist Matrix

The "Power Assist Matrix" is provided to assist clients and prescribers identify if a power assist device / wheelchair combination is endorsed by the relevant manufacturer.

Please note the Power Assist Matrix is to be used as an indication of manufacturer endorsement only. For information regarding specific product endorsements, please contact relevant suppliers. For further clarification of MASS processes regarding this matter, please contact MASS directly.

3.0 Manufacturer Endorsement

Manufacturer endorsement refers to a claim made in writing by relevant wheelchair manufacturers, stipulating whether or not a power assist device is compatible with their wheelchair/s.

By endorsing a power assist device, the manufacturer is indicating that the wheelchair is able to withstand the additional stress, loading and functional changes created by the power assist device.

Manufacturer endorsement means that if the wheelchair is damaged as a result of an endorsed power assist device, the wheelchair manufacturer will honour the wheelchair warranty provided the following conditions are met:

1. The power assist device was correctly installed.
2. The user had demonstrated their capability in using the device before purchase.
3. The damage incurred was not a result of inappropriate use.

4.0 Implications for MASS funding

MASS currently does not have any available subsidy for the Power Assist device. MASS approval is required prior to a power assist device being used on a MASS funded wheelchair.

If a client applies for a power assist device and wheelchair combination which is endorsed by the wheelchair manufacturer, then MASS will follow usual procedures for processing MASS applications.

If the combination is not endorsed by the manufacturer, or endorsement is not specified, then approval of the application by MASS will be dependent on the client (or carer) signing a waiver, indicating the following:

1. The client (or carer) understands and accepts the potential implications of a non-endorsed combination, and;
2. The client (or carer) agrees to take ownership of the wheelchair and is responsible for funding repairs and maintenance.

FAQs

Clients & Prescribers

How do I apply for a power assist device to be used on my MASS funded wheelchair?

The [Equipment Letter Template](#) can be used by prescribers to request approval for a power assist device to be used on a MASS funded wheelchair. Details of the MASS funded wheelchair including plaque number and the power assist device is to be provided. No quote for the power assist device is required. MASS will advise the client and prescriber of the outcome in writing once this request has been reviewed.

Who is responsible for power assist device endorsement?

Wheelchair manufacturers determine which power assist devices they endorse as compatible with their wheelchairs. Endorsement information provided to MASS by wheelchair manufacturers is outlined in the Power Assist Matrix.

Can I apply for a non-endorsed power assist device / wheelchair combination?

Approval for non-endorsed products requires the client (or carer) to sign the waiver described in Section 4.0 of this document. In signing this waiver, the client agrees to take over ownership of the wheelchair including the ongoing costs of repairs and maintenance. All other aspects of the application will be assessed following normal MASS processes.

Where can I find endorsement information for items not listed in the Power Assist Matrix?

For the most up to date endorsement information, and for endorsement information of items which have not been listed in the Power Assist Matrix, MASS recommends contacting relevant wheelchair suppliers.

Manufacturers & Suppliers

How can I change the endorsement status of a listed device?

The Power Assist Matrix will be updated as required. All updates must be submitted to MASS.

Please submit your request along with signed and dated copies of manufacturer endorsement statements to email address: MASS-Engineer@health.qld.gov.au.

How can I get my power assist device added to the Power Assist Matrix?

Endorsement information provided to MASS for power assist devices not currently featured in the Power Assist Matrix may be added upon request, provided relevant endorsement documentation is provided. See above for how to submit your request.