

FACT SHEET 18

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APPLYING FOR A DISABLED PARKING BADGE

In Spain, as in other European countries, special provisions are made for the disabled; both drivers and passengers, to park their vehicles in specially designated parking bays. A number of disabled parking bays are available to those who are authorised to use them. They are recognisable by the yellow painted curb accompanied by the internationally known "disabled" sign.

However, a new European law now changes the type of badge which is acceptable and certain extra conditions apply to those requesting the facility. The new badge is issued to the person using it and not, as before, to the vehicle. The style of badge is now universal and is valid not only in the Valencian community and all Spain, but throughout the whole of Europe.

Those entitled to apply for the new badge should be recognised on the municipal **padron** of the town in which they are habitually resident. They should be over the age of three years and have a recognised condition of disability, which now must also include "reduced mobility", which would prevent them from using public transport. Entitlement is decided at a medical assessment, which is carried out by the regional health authorities.

The "disabled badge" is personal and not transferable to another person and can only be used when the holder is the actual driver or passenger in the vehicle at the time of use. It must be displayed prominently in the front windscreen of the vehicle so that it is clearly legible from the outside. Its terms of use can be temporarily changed by local police in different towns or randomly at the police officer's discretion. **Breaches of use of the badge could result in its suspension and removal of the vehicle.**

The parking bays which display the internationally recognised "disable" sign may **only be used** by badge holders. Drivers of other vehicles may not park in these designated spaces.

Disabled persons wishing to apply for the new badge should first make an application to the Town Hall of the municipality in which they are registered (empadronado). They should request usually from the "Social Services" department, a **Solicitud de Reconocimiento de la Condicion de la Minusvalide** (an application form for the disability) to be recognised by the regional authorities. Once completed and submitted, the applicant will receive an appointment to attend a medical examination at their nearest **Centro de Diagnostico y Orientacion** (centre for diagnosis). In the case of residents who live within the province of Alicante, the examination centre is situated in Calle Fernando Madronal 52, Alicante, telephone 965 934751.

Those badges which have been issued here in Spain by the local authority will continue to remain acceptable up to the date they expire. After this time, renewal should be made in accordance with the new regulations.

To the best of our knowledge this information was correct on the date given below. However, rules and regulations can and do change so it is advisable to check with our office that this fact sheet has not been superseded. JB October 08