

ADED

THE GOLD STANDARD IN DRIVER REHABILITATION

The **Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED)** is identified as the preferred, international thought-leader for driver rehabilitation specialist education and support. ADED is the only association that offers a Certification in Driver Rehabilitation (CDRS). This certification validates the education and experience benchmarks that identify the CDRS as an expert in the field. ADED's members are available in every major service area of the US and Canada.

Helping people fulfill their dreams of independent mobility is a team effort. Driver rehabilitation specialists, mobility equipment dealers and manufacturers all work together to achieve success for our clients.

NMEDA

THE BEST SOURCE FOR YOUR MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

The **National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA)** is a non-profit international organization made up of mobility equipment dealers, manufacturers and professionals. NMEDA Dealers and members of ADED partner together to ensure the installation of the mobility equipment is done correctly the first time and that it can be properly serviced.

NMEDA Dealers also know that ongoing adjustments may need to be made to ensure that the mobility equipment you are using continues to be safe and operational.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DRIVING INDEPENDENCE

LOOK FOR THESE SYMBOLS

Whether you drive or ride from a wheelchair or care for someone who needs to be transported, there is a definite value in working with qualified professionals to ensure a driver assessment and conversion or installation is done right the first time and that your vehicle can be properly serviced down the road.



FIND OUT MORE AT NMEDA.COM
AND ADED.NET



Driving with Adaptive Equipment

*From Functional Driver Assessment
and Rehabilitation to Working
with a Mobility Equipment Dealer*



NMEDA.com | 866.948.8341
ADED.net | 866.672.9466



This pamphlet describes the steps needed to drive with adaptive equipment as well as the purchase and installation process. A medical professional and the mobility equipment dealer work together to ensure you have the correct equipment and training to meet your unique needs to make driving successful.

The needs for specialized driving aids are as diverse and unique as are the products that exist to best meet those needs and provide positive outcomes for individual drivers. No one questions the need to visit an Optometrist for the purpose of determining your vision requirements. Nor do you show up and ask the eyeglass dispenser to build you a pair of corrective lenses. You are required to provide your prescription as determined by the medical professional.

The adaptive driving industry acts the same way. You will need an assessment with a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS) or an Occupational Therapist (OT) with advanced specialty training in assessing driving skills and providing driving rehabilitation before you purchase and install adaptive equipment.

What does it mean to be a NMEDA Dealer?

- Undergoing an inspection once a year that makes sure the dealer is in line with NMEDA Standards, local building codes for accessibility, Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, and Provincial laws.
- Having technicians who are trained in the specific equipment they install.
- Maintaining records of all adaptive work.
- Maintaining proper insurance coverage to make sure you and your vehicle are protected while work is being done and after work is completed.
- Providing 24 hour emergency service.
- Abiding by Mediation Committee decisions should a complaint be lodged by a consumer.

So what can you do if you do not have a NMEDA Dealer in your area?

- Ask the companies that do install mobility equipment if they have the practices listed above. If they do not, you may want to shop around for a company that does.
- It is important that the technician installing your equipment is trained and certified on that specific equipment.

I need to drive with Adaptive Equipment - What do I do next? > Complete a Functional Driving Assessment

Why do I need an Assessment?

- Driving a motor vehicle is a complex task that involves more than the physical ability to operate controls. Adequate vision, integrated reflexes, and appropriate cognitive skills are required to process what one sees and how one reacts, in a manner quick enough to ensure safe, efficient decisions behind the wheel.

Who does the Assessment?

- An Occupational Therapist (OT), who may or may not also be a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS), and is a member in good standing of the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED).
- The assessment for ability to drive with adaptive equipment as well as the prescription of the appropriate equipment is NOT completed by a vehicle modifier, family physician or other health professional (i.e. Physiotherapist).
- ONLY the OT/CDRS can complete this assessment and provide a prescription for the equipment.
- If your prescription for adaptive equipment is not completed by the appropriate professional, you will not be able to purchase and install the equipment.

Is there a cost for the Assessment?

- Yes. There is a fee that is not covered by OHIP. There are also costs to purchase and install the equipment, as well as to train for its use.
- Ask your OT/CDRS about funding options such as private insurance, extended benefits, or funding programs in your area.

What is included in an Assessment?

- A functional driver assessment has 2 parts: an “in-office” clinical assessment and an “in-car” or behind-the-wheel assessment.
- The OT/CDRS will work with you to find the adaptive equipment best suited to meet your specific needs.

Why do I need training or lessons?

- You are learning to use a different operating system, so you need practice to get used to driving with the adaptive equipment. The OT/CDRS can tell you who can provide the training in your area.
- Lessons can vary in length and frequency depending on the type of adaptive equipment prescribed, your unique needs, and the provincial requirements for licensing.

How do I get the adaptive equipment installed in my vehicle?

- After you have demonstrated the ability to use the adaptive equipment, the OT/CDRS will write a prescription for the recommended

adaptive equipment and you will take the prescription to a dealer, of your choice, to have the equipment installed in your vehicle.

- You should purchase and have your adaptive equipment installed by a “qualified” dealer or vehicle modifier who is a member, and follows the best practices, of NMEDA.
- Your OT/CDRS can provide you with a list of dealers in your area, if needed.

What do I do after the equipment is installed?

- Typically, a functional inspection of you and your vehicle is done by the OT/CDRS who did the initial assessment to verify that the adaptive equipment and modifications comply with what was recommended and that you can drive with the equipment.

What are the licensing requirements? Do I have to do anything with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO)?

- The decision regarding licensing rests with the MTO and not the OT/CDRS. You may have to comply with a MTO road test as a follow-up using the adaptive equipment prescribed and to code the license appropriately. However, your OT/CDRS will tell you what the licensing requirements are for your specific location/jurisdiction. In some cases, MTO will require a Re-Assessment After Training Report to ensure that the adaptive equipment assists in compensating for your disability.



NMEDA:

Consists of mobility equipment manufacturers, dealers and other professionals dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and assisting with driving independence using wheelchair accessible vehicles.

ADED:

Supports professionals working in the field of driver education/driver training and transportation equipment modifications for persons with disabilities through education and information dissemination.

To find a NMEDA Dealer in your area visit NMEDA.com or call 866.948.8341

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