

Parking Badge

If you struggle to get around as a result of your compromised health situation, you may be eligible for a disabled parking badge.

What does the parking badge offer?

The parking badge is **strictly personal** and may only be used when the holder is travelling in the vehicle that is parked, or when he/she is being collected. The parking badge is intended to be used by those with severe disabilities.

In Belgium, the badge **entitles you to:**

- park at locations that are reserved for persons with a disability;
- park for an unlimited time at locations where the stay is usually limited (blue zones);
- an exemption from parking fees, on the condition that this exemption is permitted by the municipality concerned. Ask for information at the administration office in the municipality or city where you wish to park. NOTE: do not use in parking spaces that are reserved for residents, using a 'P-sign'.

In other countries in the EU, and for non-European countries, you must ask for information from the embassy or check online at www.parkingcard.europa.eu (under 'publications and documents').

The badges are **protected from abuse** thanks to a hologram (three-dimensional photo) and the use of a unique serial number. In the event of unlawful use of the parking badge, it may be temporarily removed and a fine issued.

You must place the badge on your dashboard. The symbol of the person in a wheelchair must be clearly visible.

The parking badge is **valid for an unlimited period**, except when a validity date is indicated.

For whom?

For persons with serious transport issues or a high degree of disability, established by a certified doctor from the Federal Public Service Social Security (FOD SZ). Below, you will find a summary of the criteria which must be fulfilled by adults and children in order to be eligible for the parking badge.

Adults

- general, permanent disability of at least 80%;
- or permanent disability of the lower limbs of at least 50%;
- or full paralysis or amputation of the lower limbs;
- or a health condition that reduces the degree of self-reliance to 12 points (according to the general certification from FPS Social Security);
- or a health condition that reduces the capacity to move to 2 points (according to the general certification from FPS Social Security);

- or disabled war veterans with a disability level of 50% or more (civilian or military).

Children

- a permanent disability of at least 80%;
- or permanent disability of the lower limbs of at least 50%;
- or full paralysis or amputation of the lower limbs;
- or at least 2 points for the category 'mobility and movement', pillar 2.3 of the medical/social scale (a disorder established on the basis of child support benefit);
- or 6 points in pillar 1 of the aforementioned medical/social scale.

How to submit a request?

The process differs, depending on the personal situation

You are a person with a disability, with a dossier with the 'DG persons with a disability' and a medical recognition therein which allows you to apply for a parking badge.

You can apply for the parking badge as follows:

- Preferably online by using the contact form at <https://handicap.belgium.be/nl/contact/contactformulier.htm>. Click on point 'Persons with a disability, with a dossier with the service'.
- Enter the list 'What does your question concern?' click on 'Parking badge' under 'Social measures'.
- Under 'Formulate your question', explain that you would like to apply for a parking badge.
- You can also call 0800 987 99. Make sure that you have your state registration number to hand as the operator will ask for this.
- In writing: send a letter to the Directorate-General for Persons with a Disability (see under 'Written application').
- You can also submit your application to the healthcare insurance fund (Social Work service), the city of the municipality, the social offices or the Public Social Welfare Centre (OCMW).

You are a person with a disability, with a dossier with the 'DG Persons with a disability' but you do not score 2 points on the movement category or fewer than 12 points in total for reduced self-reliance, or you do not have permanent disability of the lower limbs of at least 50%.

- Contact the Social Work service within your healthcare insurance fund to review your application together.
- There is a chance that a medical review might be appropriate. This could have a negative effect on other benefits, however.

You are entitled to a parking badge as a war veteran.

You can apply for the parking badge as follows:

- Preferably online by using the contact form at <https://handicap.belgium.be/nl/contact/contactformulier.htm>. Click on point 2 'Persons with a disability, without a dossier with the service'.
- Enter your personal details;
- In the list 'What does your question concern?' click on 'Parking badge' under 'Social measures'.
- Under 'Formulate your question', explain that you would like to apply for a parking badge and that you are a recognised war veteran, as an invalid or as a person with a disability. You must indicate the institution that certified you and provide the corresponding evidence.
- You can also call 0800 987 99. Make sure that you have your state registration number to hand as the operator will ask for this.

- In writing: send a letter to the Directorate-General for Persons with a Disability (see under 'Written application').
- You can also submit your application to your healthcare insurance fund (Social Work service), the city or the municipality, the social offices or the Public Social Welfare Centre (OCMW).

You are not or are no longer recognised as a person with a disability with the 'DG Persons with a disability' and you have no official recognition with other institutions.

You must submit your application so that you can have a medical evaluation. This application runs via **My Handicap**. The request takes place by means of an interactive questionnaire. Your file will be sent electronically to the Directorate-General of Persons with a Disability. Medical information will be requested directly from your GP. Based on the information you submit, there will be an evaluation and, if necessary, you will be invited to attend a meeting or there will be communication with your GP.

Before you submit an application, you can complete a screening in order to see if you are entitled to this benefit and whether it is worth applying.

You can start the application yourself but you may also consult the municipality, the social offices or the welfare officer at your healthcare insurance fund.

The decision about whether or not you are entitled to this benefit will be communicated to you by letter.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

As well as the ordinary procedure, there is also a **short procedure**. This allows you to apply for a parking badge on the basis of approval by the Flemish social welfare (Zorgkas) for the purchase of a mobility aid. The condition is that this aid must appear on a specific list of wheelchairs. This does not include push-chairs, tricycles or scooters.

For more information: read the 'Parking badge - short application procedure' info sheet.

Written application:

- Send your letter to:
Federal Public Service Social Security
Directorate- General Persons with a Disability
Parking badge unit, certificates
Keizer Karellaan 50 bus 150 – 1000 Brussel
- In the letter, please indicate:
 - that it concerns an application for a parking badge;
 - your dossier number (= 11 figures from your State registration number);
 - that you are officially recognised as a war veteran (no evidence required) as an invalid or person with a disability by another institution (add the corresponding evidence).

Further progress of the procedure

If you are entitled to a badge, your photo will be retrieved from the State register. If that is not possible, you will be contacted and asked to provide a photograph.

The order will be placed for the badge to be created and delivered.

You will receive the badge in the post. Please bear in mind, it will take some time to process your request:

- Around 4 weeks if you are already recognised;
- It may take 4 months if you are not already recognised and your disability must still be evaluated.

You **must sign** the badge in the space provided.

Validity of the parking badge

In principle, the parking badge lasts a lifetime but this is not always the case.

- If your badge expires and you wish to have a new parking badge, you must indicate this six months prior to the expiry date.

- In the event of loss, theft or damage, you can apply for a new badge via the contact form, stating the reasons (theft, loss, etc.). You will be issued with a new badge with a new serial number. Your old badge will be blocked. Send your damaged badge back once your new one has arrived!
- In the event of death, your next of kin must send the parking badge back to the FPS Social Security (see below for address).

Handy tip: A parking badge for persons with a disability is a valuable commodity. Unfortunately, the available blue parking spaces are often taken by persons who are using a parking badge unlawfully. Police officers, municipal police and parking agents can scan a QR-code or enter the badge number to immediately verify whether the badge is valid. If you use an expired badge, you risk a fine of € 116 and the expired badge being destroyed.

Need more information?

Federal Public Service Social Security

Directorate-General Persons with a Disability

Kruidtuinlaan 50 bus 150, 1000 Brussel

Tel: 0800 987 99 (free number - from Monday to Friday, from 08.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Via the contact form on the website www.handicap.belgium.be

Consult your dossier online with your eID card www.handiweb.be.

For personal advice regarding the application process for a parking badge, you can contact CM near you www.cm.be

- the consultants
- De Zorglijn (The Care Line) – www.cm.be/zorglijn
 - Tel.: 02 204 32 34
 - Monday to thursday: 8.30 to 12 o'clock and 13 to 17 o'clock;
 - Friday: 8.30 to 12 o'clock and 13 to 16 o'clock;
 - E-mail: zorglijn@cm.be