

Flemish Agency for Disabled Persons (VAPH) - Devices and Adaptations

As a disabled person, you sometimes need certain devices and/or adaptations at home, at school or at work. These devices and/or adaptations are necessary to facilitate your social integration.



What?

The VAPH helps with specific devices and adaptations: adapted accelerator and brake pedals in the car, an adapted kitchen, a device for improved communication, incontinence materials and so on. A reference list summarises the devices and adaptations for which you can receive an allowance. You can consult them on the VAPH website (www.vaph.be/hulpmiddelen/refertelijst).

This list is divided into activity areas: daily life activities, communications, mobility, housing and other. You can find a device on the basis of the activity you wish to carry out. Every device is described in detail on the basis of an information card. You can also find out who is meant to use the device (e.g. person with a visual disability, a motor disability, ...)

The VAPH pays most of the costs that you, as a disabled person, incur compared to the costs incurred by an able-bodied person. A request for 'kitchen adaptations' for example will not result in a complete new kitchen being installed but just the adaptation costs you incur because of your disability.

You must also be able to show how suitable the requested item is, how often you will use it and when you need it (effectiveness). When there are multiple options, the most cost-effective one will be chosen.

There is a maximum amount (reference amount) for each item and an 'expected' life span (reference duration). If you need a device that is not on the reference list, your request will be examined by the Special Support Commission. In this instance, the device must cost a minimum of 300 euro.

The VAPH will not intervene with respect to medical equipment, an e-bike, home trainers, and so on.

Hiring devices in the event of a rapidly progressing, degenerative condition

If you are suffering from a rapidly progressing, degenerative condition (SDA), such as ALS, devices for communication, computer operation and environmental operation can be offered within a rental system. When you are suffering from a rapidly progressing degenerative condition, you might often need new devices or have to change the ones you have. The rental system allows you to do this.

If you are suffering from this type of disease, a specialised, multidisciplinary team can submit your request. More information can be found on www.vaph.be/hulpmiddelen/tegemoetkomingen/huur-hulpmiddelen-sda

'Aan deze publicatie kunnen geen rechten worden ontleend. Het is louter indicatief bedoeld'.

Uitgifte: Oktober 2023 – vertaald augustus 2022- EN - Vlaams Agentschap voor Personen met een Handicap – Hulpmiddelen & Aanpassingen

Exceptions

If you are a disabled person staying in a **serviced flat or sheltered accommodation**, you can receive an allowance for all devices and adaptations with the exception of a few residential modifications (e.g. shower chair, nursing bed...).

If you live in a **care home** and are recognised as a disabled person, there may be an allowance for devices for mobility and communication activities, a specific chair for those with Huntington's Disease, adapted chairs and tables, a turntable, an assistance dog, a colour detector or adapted clothing for persons with serious behavioural difficulties.

If the request for devices and/or adaptations is the result of a **work-related accident, (traffic) accident or a medical error**, in the first instance you must ask the insurance company or a specialised fund. While awaiting the investigation results, you can call upon the services of the VAPH (e.g. for support with devices or adaptations).

For specific **devices** required by children within **education**, you can consult the Centre for Pupil Guidance or consult the Education Flanders website (onderwijs.vlaanderen.be).

Technical devices that can be used in a broader social context, as well as the educational setting, and which are easy to move, will be financed by the VAPH.

People who are **deaf or hard of hearing** can call upon the services of an interpreter. The **VAPH** can allocate interpreting hours in relation to the **living situation**; these are called 'L-hours'. The interpreting assistance can be requested via the **VDAB** for **employment situations**: for professional training or job applications/interviews. Interpretation services in an educational establishment can be requested via the Special Educational Support cell (onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/SOL).

More information: Flemish Communication Assistance Office for the Deaf (non-profit organisation) (www.cabvlaanderen.be).

As an **employee**, if you **need adaptations** to your workstation, your employer can submit a request to the Flemish Service for Employment Mediation and Professional Training (VDAB) - Work-limiting Disabilities Service. An intervention for employment resources, clothing or an interpreter for deaf people and the hard of hearing can be requested by you (or your employer) from the VDAB. More information can be found in the 'Werkwinkel' in your neighbourhood or by calling VDAB on 0800 30 700.

'Aan deze publicatie kunnen geen rechten worden ontleend. Het is louter indicatief bedoeld'.

Uitgifte: Oktober 2023 – vertaald augustus 2022- EN - Vlaams Agentschap voor Personen met een Handicap – Hulpmiddelen & Aanpassingen

Who is it for?

There are conditions which must be met by the disabled person:

- your opportunities to participate in a social life are seriously limited, in the long term, by the combination of intellectual, psychological, physical or sensual disorders, limitations with respect to carrying out activities and personal and external factors;
- you are not aged 65 or above at the moment of registration;
- you live in Flanders or Brussels.

How to submit a request.

If you are an adult and are requesting this support for a device or adaptation for the first time, you must submit your request via the Provincial Department of the VAPH in the province in which you live. If you are a minor and were not recognised by the VAPH as a disabled person before 01-03-2014, you must submit your request to the Multidisciplinary Team's Intersectoral Access Port. For this purpose, we refer you to the information sheet '[VAPH – Request for registration](#)'.

You must direct your request to the VAPH in the event of a second or subsequent request for support too. In this instance, there is the possibility that the request will be dealt with via a shortened procedure.

Decisions are valid for two years, aside from home adaptations which are valid for four years. If you decide to buy the device or have the adaptation implemented after this period, you must submit a new application.

The VAPH will pay for this intervention based on the submitted invoice, taking the reference amount into account. If a device turns out to be more expensive than the amount in the decision, you will have to pay the excess yourself.

Important:

- request support before you buy the device or pay for the adaptation;
- your invoice must be sent to the VAPH within 12 months of the invoice date;
- If you have not had a decision before the moment of purchase, you may submit the invoice for up to 12 months after the decision date;
- if this is your first request, the date of the purchase invoice must not go back more than one year before your request;
- incontinence materials will be reimbursed by means of an annual, fixed amount;

Need more information?

For more information and advice, you can contact:

- De Zorglijn (The Care Line)– www.cm.be/zorglijn
- Flemish Service for Employment Mediation (Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling - VDAB) & the 'Werkwinkel': www.vdab.be/arbeidshandicap/default1.shtml
- Flemish Agency for Disabled Persons (VAPH): www.vaph.be/hulpmiddelen/

'Aan deze publicatie kunnen geen rechten worden ontleend. Het is louter indicatief bedoeld'.

Uitgite: Oktober 2023 – vertaald augustus 2022- EN - Vlaams Agentschap voor Personen met een Handicap – Hulpmiddelen & Aanpassingen

'Aan deze publicatie kunnen geen rechten worden ontleend. Het is louter indicatief bedoeld'.

Uitgifte: Oktober 2023 – vertaald augustus 2022- EN - Vlaams Agentschap voor Personen met een Handicap – Hulpmiddelen & Aanpassingen

Heb je een klacht? Laat het ons weten via www.cm.be/klachten of contacteer een CM-medewerker. Met jouw reactie verbeteren we immers onze service. Wij garanderen een eerste reactie binnen de zeven dagen en de volledige behandeling van je klacht binnen de

