

Janusz Poliński, Krzysztof Ochociński: Contribution of the Railway Track & Operation Department of the Railway Research Institute to the Improvement of Rail Transport Accessibility for People with Disabilities

The activities of the Railway Track & Operation Department of the Railway Research Institute to improve rail transport accessibility for people with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility have been presented in the article. These activities started in the 80s when the idea of universal design was not applied in Poland in designing new railway infrastructure and facilities. The most essential studies concerning the improvement of infrastructure accessibility and due to new technical solutions – easier access to board a train from the platform have been described. Numerous articles connected with accessibility written by the Department's employees have been listed and some problems that the disabled travellers using the railways encounter have been shown.

Keywords: railway transport, accessibility, transport of disabled people