

Providing Many People Enjoyment and Freedom of Movement Through Welfare Products

With the coming of an aging society and the spreading of social welfare, Toyota is developing and producing welfare vehicles and equipment to support the independence of the disabled and elderly with Toyota Auto Body as the top manufacturer, based on the Toyota Motor Corporation thinking of "Creating a an affluent society through vehicles." Our customers are not only domestic; we are expanding overseas.

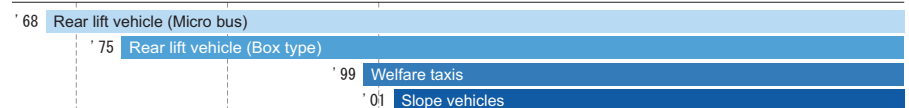
A Walk Through Welfare Vehicle Unit Development

Efforts toward welfare vehicle development at Toyota Auto Body began in 1968 by converting vehicles to move people in wheelchairs.

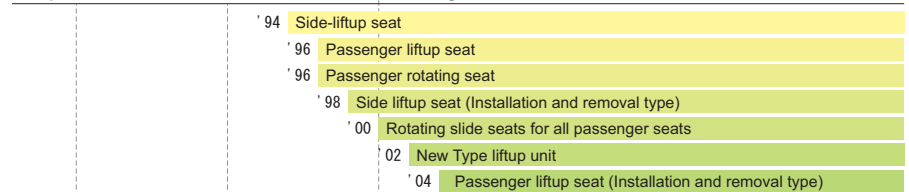
Thereafter, we achieved enhancements with equipment, machines, and vehicle types such as welfare vehicles which allow people in wheelchairs optimal self-operation for movement and side liftup seat vehicles that consider long-range movement.

Hereafter as well, we will continue developing welfare vehicles that are not only kind to those receiving treatment, but also to those giving treatment.

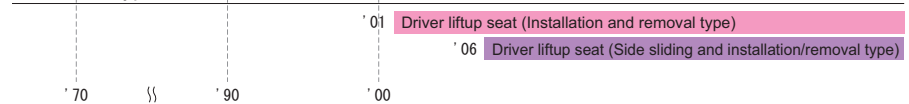
Wheelchair Specification Vehicles



Liftup-Seat Vehicles and Vehicles With Rotating Seats



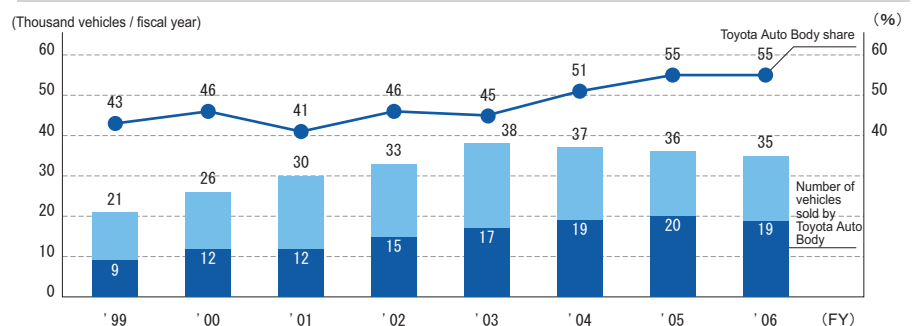
Automatic Type



Shifts in Sales of Toyota Auto Body Units

Through the spread of social welfare and aging of society, demand for welfare vehicles continues to increase yearly. In FY2006, Toyota Auto Body produced approximately 19,000 welfare vehicles, over 50% of the market, and we are making efforts to expand the use of welfare vehicles.

Toyota Auto Body Domestic Welfare Vehicle Market Share (Not including buses)



Customer Relations

Through visiting users and displaying our products in events held throughout Japan, we receive opinions and requests from our customers that we reflect in product development.



At the 33rd Home Care & Rehabilitation Exhibition (H.C.R. 2006)

Welfare Vehicles Development Efforts

In order to develop welfare products that can provide enjoyment and freedom of movement to our customers, we are working with Toyota Motor Corporation in meeting the requests of our customers by producing welfare products for the elderly that providing independence of movement. In addition, we are focusing our efforts on developing next generation technologies.

The Porte Welcab, and the Friendmatic Vehicle "Weldrive" model sold from September 2006



Development Concept

A vehicle developed in answering to the voices of those who find it difficult to transfer to the driver seat from their wheelchair and thus desire to "drive while staying in their wheelchair."

To achieve this goal, we developed a new driving assist device and a wheelchair that is the combination of a driver seat and self-operative electric wheelchair. This vehicle was realized by balancing our challenge of "low price" with "safety" by completely redesigning the electric lift and changing from use of a Minivan to a small vehicle.



Weldrive

The driver seat (well drive seat) slides to the passenger seat position by remote control, and the seat then rotates to right and slides down, allowing ingress and egress from the vehicle while sitting in the driver seat.



Weldrive Seat

After egress from the vehicle, the seat becomes a self-operative electric wheelchair controlled by joystick. This seat not only functions as a driver seat, but also offers functions that increase comfort.



New Driver Assist Device (Manual operation)

Further improvements in vehicle operation by allowing people with a weak grip or those who are unable to use their fingers to now be able to drive with less difficulty.

Voices for Planning and Development

Tetsuya Konno

(Conversion & Mobility Vehicle Development Div. Project General Manager)

For developing welfare vehicles, within changes in body status of the user and the environment for use, a fine vehicle is sought after that allows freedom of use and meets the desired price and safety.

For this to be achieved, there must be healing for targeted customers with reconsiderations spanning details in finishing the product.

When the vehicle went out into the world, we consider our efforts toward "the next vehicle" that brings happiness to many people with the feeling of joy and its ease of use.



Welfare Vehicles Production Efforts

"With the keywords of "the basis of special-purpose being 'making things by looking, touching, and confirming,' we are making efforts for making high quality things at the production site of welfare vehicles.



Mutsuo Inotsume (Conversion & Mobility Vehicle Div. Manufacturing Dept. Manager)

In building up my daily efforts, I communicate to my superior the "consideration" and "skill" that he passed down to me. Welfare vehicles we produce bring happiness to the our customers all over the country and this is a source of happiness for those who make the vehicles.



Rika Nakashima (Conversion & Mobility Vehicle Div. Manufacturing Dept.)



I began my work welfare vehicles as the place for making things. Working in the plant where welfare vehicles are made one by one, I feel pride being involved in this work when I come across one of our welfare vehicles on the street.



Hideo Sugiyama (Conversion & Mobility Vehicle Div. Manufacturing Dept. Kaizen Group Manager)

There are many types of welfare vehicles and differences in assembly time for each vehicle vary greatly. Producing these vehicles efficiently is quite difficult. I will continue daily kaizen to satisfy our many customers through product manufacturing of constant good quality.

