

CHAPTER 2

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This Design Manual aims to set out design requirements for providing proper access to and appropriate facilities in a building for persons with a disability and other sectors of the population, who do at times require the same provisions as persons with a disability.
- 2.2 The types of disabilities for which this Manual caters are -
- (a) locomotory disabilities;
 - (b) sensory disabilities which include
 - i) visual impairment
 - low vision
 - totally blind, and
 - ii) hearing impairment.
- 2.3 For the purpose of this Manual, the following terms are defined as -
- (a) "**Persons with a disability**" means persons who on account of injury, disease, or congenital deformity, are impaired in vision, hearing or locomotion.
 - (b) "**Locomotory disabilities**" affect mobility, i.e. impairment of the trunk, lower limbs, or the trunk and lower limbs. Persons who have impaired function in one or both upper limbs are manipulatory impaired. Many persons with impaired lower limbs also have impaired upper limbs. To satisfy the requirements of such persons, account should be taken simultaneously of the limitation imposed by both upper and lower limbs impairment.
 - (c) "**The wheelchair users**" are those persons who, except when using mechanised transport, depend solely on a wheelchair for mobility.
 - (d) "**The ambulant disabled persons**" are those who are able, either with or without assistance, to walk on the level and negotiate suitably graded steps with or without the aid of devices such as crutches, sticks, braces or walking frames.

- (e) "**Buildings intended to be used by the public**" means a building where the whole or any part of which the public or a section of the public has or may reasonably be expected to have access. Examples include hospitals, all types of transport termini and stations, banks, retail and wholesale shops and shopping complexes, markets, schools and any kind of educational institutes, sports facilities, places of public entertainment, places for worship and all government buildings.
- (f) "**Common areas**" are those areas of a building intended for the common use and benefit of the owners or occupants or visitors of the building as a whole and not only for the use and benefit of the owners or occupants or visitors of any particular unit.
- (g) "**Place of public entertainment**" means a place of public entertainment within the meaning of the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap. 172)
- (h) "**Access**" is means to enable persons with or without a disability to approach, enter and leave a building, and to reach and use its facilities without assistance and undue difficulties.