

CHAPTER 3

PRELIMINARY

1. INTERPRETATION

For the purpose of this Manual, the following terms are defined as: -

“Access” is means to enable persons with a disability to approach, enter and leave the building and to use the facilities therein without assistance or undue difficulties.

“Accessible” describes a site, building, facility or portion thereof that is barrier-free, can be approached, entered and used by persons with a disability and complies with this Manual.

“Accessible lift” means a lift fully complied with the obligatory design requirements in Division 19.

“Accessible route” is a continuous unobstructed path which is easily identifiable for persons with a disability or the elderly to approach, enter and leave the building and to use the facilities therein without assistance or undue difficulties.

“Assistive listening system” means a system which enables sound signs that are amplified in both volume and signal to be transmitted to persons with hearing impairment without interference from background noise or excessive reverberation.

“Common areas” are those areas open to and available for the common use and enjoyment of all occupiers of the building.

“Door” includes one leaf of a pair of double doors.

“Persons with a disability” means persons who on account of injury, disease, or congenital deformity, are impaired in vision, hearing or locomotion. Such persons shall include persons with ambulant disabilities, wheelchair users, persons with visual impairment, the blind, persons with hearing impairment and the deaf.

“Persons with ambulant disabilities” are persons with ambulant impairment who may require the aid of devices such as prostheses, orthoses, sticks or crutches for walking.

“Required staircase” means an access staircase in a firefighting and rescue stairway or a staircase required for means of escape in case of fire.

“Tactile guide path” means a standardized pattern applied to or built onto walking surfaces through the combined use of tactile directional tiles / blocks, positional tiles / blocks and tactile hazard warning tiles / blocks for way finding and orientation for persons with visual impairment.

1. INTERPRETATION (Cont'd)

“Tactile warning strip” means a standardized pattern applied to or built onto walking surfaces through the use of tactile hazard warning tiles / blocks to warn persons with visual impairment of certain construction features.

“Wheelchair users” are those persons who depend on wheelchairs for mobility.

“Luminous contrast” means the amount of light reflected from the surface of the object compared to the amount of light reflected from the surface of its surrounding background. Such contrast expressed in percent can be determined by:

$$[(B1-B2) / B1] \times 100$$

Where

B1 = light reflectance value (LRV) of the lighter area and

B2 = light reflectance value (LRV) of the darker area.

[Sources from AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES (ADAAG)]

“Unjustifiable Hardship” has the same meaning as ‘unjustifiable hardship’ referred to in section 4 of the *Disability Discrimination Ordinance Cap. 487*, which reads :

‘For the purposes of this Ordinance in determining what constitutes unjustifiable hardship, all relevant circumstances of the particular case are to be taken into account including: -

- (a) the reasonableness of any accommodation to be made available to a person with a disability;*
- (b) the nature of the benefit or detriment likely to accrue or be suffered by any persons concerned;*
- (c) the effect of the disability of the person concerned; and*
- (d) the financial circumstances of and the estimated amount of expenditure (including recurrent expenditure) required to be made by the person claiming unjustifiable hardship.’*