

DESIGN MANUAL : BARRIER FREE ACCESS 2008 (2025 EDITION)



Design Manual

Barrier Free Access

2008

(2025 Edition)

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CONTENTS

PREFACE		Page i
Chapter 1	FOREWORD	1
Chapter 2	EXTENT OF APPLICATION	
	2.1 EXTENT OF APPLICATION	3
	2.2 EXEMPTIONS	7
Chapter 3**	PRELIMINARY	8
Chapter 4**	DESIGN REQUIREMENTS	
Division 1	AUDITORIUM AND RELATED FACILITIES	10
Division 2	HOTELS, HOSTELS AND GUESTHOUSES	15
Division 3	CARPARKS	18
Division 4	ACCESS ROUTE	23
Division 5	RAMPS	28
Division 6	DROPPED KERBS	32
Division 7	STEPS AND STAIRCASES	37
Division 8	HANDRAILS	42
Division 9	CORRIDORS, LOBBIES AND PATHS	49
Division 10	DOORS	57
Division 11	TOILETS AND W.C. CUBICLES	63
Division 12	BATHROOMS AND SHOWER COMPARTMENTS	76
Division 13	SIGNS	81
Division 14	SPECIAL OBLIGATORY DESIGN REQUIREMENTS TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH VISUAL/HEARING IMPAIRMENT TO VARIOUS USES OF BUILDINGS IN TABLE 2	87

** The numbering system in Chapters 3 and 4 corresponds as far as practicable to the Third Schedule of Building (Planning) Regulations.

CONTENTS

	Page
Division 15 PUBLIC INFORMATION OR SERVICE COUNTERS	94
Division 16 ILLUMINATION	98
Division 17 EMERGENCY CALL BELLS IN ACCESSIBLE TOILETS	100
Division 18 ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM	102
Division 19 LIFTS, INDICATION AND NOTIFICATION	104
Division 20 ESCALATORS AND PASSENGER CONVEYORS	116
 Chapter 5 BUILDING SERVICES DESIGN REQUIREMENTS	
5.1 SWITCHES AND CONTROLS	118
5.2 FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS	120
5.3 PUBLIC TELEPHONES	123
5.4 REMOTE SIGNAGE SYSTEMS	126
5.5 VERTICAL LIFTING PLATFORMS	127
5.6 DRINKING FOUNTAINS	130
 Chapter 6 ELDERLY-FRIENDLY DESIGN GUIDELINES	133

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Anthropometrics	A/1-A/5
Appendix B – Guidelines for Wheelchair Transfer and Movement	B/1-B/5
Appendix C – Slip Resistance of Flooring Materials	C/1
Appendix D – Luminous Contrast	D/1-D/3

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1A - Wheelchair Space in an Auditorium	11
Figure 1B - Example of Wheelchair Spaces in a Lecture Hall	13
Figure 2 - Typical Guest Room Layout	17
Figure 3 - Dimension and Identification of Car Parking Space for Persons with a Disability	19
Figure 4 - Side by Side Parking Spaces for Persons with a Disability	20
Figure 5 - Parking Space Indication Signage	22
Figure 6A - Tactile Guide Paths at Building Entrances Linking up with Initial Access on the Lot Boundary and Interior Facilities	24
Figure 6B - Typical Tactile Guide Path Junction	25
Figure 6C - Examples of Details of Tactile Warning Tiles/Blocks	26
Figure 7 - Tactile Warning Strips and Landings for Ramps	29
Figure 8 - Running Slope and Length	30
Figure 9 - Dropped Kerb	33
Figure 10 - Examples of Design of Dropped Kerb	35
Figure 11 - Dropped Kerb at Street Corner	36
Figure 12 - Dropped Kerb for Access Road and Narrow Pavement	36
Figure 13 - Arrangement of Tactile Warning Strips and Handrails at Staircases	39
Figure 14 - Example of Staircase Plan for Persons with a Disability	41
Figure 15 - Handrails	43
Figure 16A - Handrails of Staircase	45
Figure 16AA - Examples of Acceptable Handrail Cross Section Profiles (other than tubular shape)	46
Figure 16B - Handrail in Recess	47
Figure 16C - Braille and Tactile Information on Handrail of Required Staircase	48
Figure 17 - Grating Size and Orientation	50
Figure 18 - Width of Controlled Passages	51
Figure 19 - Overhead Hazard	52
Figure 20 - Dimension and Space Allowance for Corridor in Building	54
Figure 21 - Examples of Design to Cater for Protrusion Hazards	56
Figure 22 - Plan of Door Suitable for Wheelchair	58
Figure 23 - Guardrails at Out-swinging Automatic Doors	61
Figure 23A - Example of Door Threshold	62
Figure 24 - Accessible Toilet	67
Figure 25 - Urinal for Use by Persons with Ambulant Disabilities	68

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 25A - Elevation of Power-operated Sliding Door (View from Outside of Accessible Toilet)	71
Figure 25B - Elevation of Power-operated Sliding Door (View from Inside of Accessible Toilet)	71
Figure 25C - Plan of Power-operated Swing Door (Control Button(s) on Separate Walls)	72
Figure 25D - Plan of Power-operated Swing Door (Control Button(s) on Same Wall)	72
Figure 26 - Flap-type Diaper Changing Station	73
Figure 26A - Indicating Tiles/Blocks for Urinal Used by Persons with Ambulant Disabilities	75
Figure 26B - Details of Indicating Tiles/Blocks	75
Figure 27 - Examples of Bathroom and Shower Compartment	80
Figure 28 - Proportional Layout for International Symbol of Accessibility	81
Figure 29 - Directional Signs	82
Figure 30 - Proportional Layout for International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss	83
Figure 31 - Specifications of Braille Cells and Tactile Signs	84
Figure 32 - Braille and Tactile Fire Exit Map	85
Figure 32A - Example of Braille and Tactile Plan of Toilet and Changing Room	86
Figure 33 - Tactile Guide Path to Lift Zone	88
Figure 34 - Tactile Guide Path to Information/Service Counter	89
Figure 35 - Tactile Guide Path to Tactile/Braille Directory Map/Floor Plan	89
Figure 36 - Tactile Warning Strip to Escalator or Passenger Conveyor	90
Figure 37 - Examples of Public Information Symbols	92
Figure 38 - Front View of Information/Service Counter for Wheelchair Users	95
Figure 39 - Key Heights of Counters and Reception Desks	96
Figure 40 - Accessible Lift	105
Figure 41 - Tactile Graphic for Lift Control Buttons	107
Figure 42 - Proposed Standardised Position of Buttons for Keypad Control Device	110
Figure 43 - Heights of Switches and Controls	119
Figure 44 - Digit 5 Indicator	123
Figure 45 - (repealed)	-
Figure 46 - Built-in Drinking Fountain	132
Figure 47 - Examples of Elderly-friendly Door Handles and Faucets	148


CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

		Page
Figure 48	- Sample of Lower Eye Viewer	149
Figure 49	- Sample Layout of Elderly-friendly Adaptive Design	149
Figure 50	- Example of Lower Window Level	150
Figure 51	- Sample of Elderly-friendly Toilet	151
Figure 52	- Knee Space under Planter for Community Farming	152

PREFACE

1. This Design Manual is an updated version of the “Design Manual : Barrier Free Access 1997”.
2. The Design Manual : Barrier Free Access 1997 sets out the design requirements of providing proper access to and appropriate facilities in a building for persons with a disability and other sectors of the population including the elderly, who at times require the same provisions as persons with a disability. Following a review of the 1997 Design Manual together with the legislation, legal framework and administration, it has been identified that while Hong Kong’s existing principal and subsidiary legislation caters for some of the needs of persons with a disability, it does not adequately address the specific needs of the elderly in terms of spatial requirements and facilities.
3. In the next 20 to 30 years we will see a significant demographic shift in the population of Hong Kong with a greater proportion of the elderly. It must be acknowledged that persons with a disability and the elderly are as much a part of our society as everyone else, would require better integration of facilities for barrier free access. During the review of the “Design Manual : Barrier Free Access 1997”, some of the standards in providing more reasonable and clearer guidelines have been re-examined. Those provisions that were open to interpretation have been refined to remove any possible ambiguities. Those provisions that were considered not necessary have been proposed to be relaxed after considering local conditions and users’ requirements. In addition, the scope of the Manual has also been expanded to include provision of facilities for the elderly to enhance their health and safety and to facilitate their movement within buildings.
4. The “barrier-free” design requirements, newly introduced design considerations and recommended design requirements aim to facilitate greater independence of not only persons with a disability and the elderly but also people with other forms of physical infirmities or limitations such as pregnant women, families with young children. It is intended that the implementation of this Design Manual will result in greater awareness of the public, professionals and developers who will come to appreciate the value of making the built-environment more accessible and friendly to as broad a spectrum of our community as possible.
5. Since its first publication in 2008, the Design Manual 2008 (2025 Edition) incorporates various amendments made in November 2012, September 2015, April 2017, June 2019, October 2020, December 2021, May 2024 and June 2025 as summarised below:

Amendment by PNAP APP-41	Reference
November 2012	https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/OldVersions/DM_BFA_ov.zip 
September 2015	
April 2017	
June 2019	
October 2020	
December 2021	
May 2024	
June 2025	

6. This Design Manual is available for viewing in the Buildings Department website www.bd.gov.hk under the “Codes, design manuals and guidelines” page of the “Resources” section. It may be downloaded subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in the website.

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CHAPTER 1

FOREWORD

1.1 The Disability Discrimination Ordinance was enacted in August 1995. It prohibits, among other things, discrimination against persons with a disability by failing to provide means of access to any premises that the public or a section of the public is entitled or allowed to enter or use, or by refusing to provide appropriate facilities. However, there is no discrimination in relation to the provision of access to premises if the premises are so designed or constructed as to be inaccessible to persons with a disability and any alteration to the premises to provide such access would impose unjustifiable hardship on the persons who would have to provide it. A person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in relation to access to premises or the provision of facilities may lodge a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission or may institute legal proceedings in the court. Reference may be made to this Manual as one sees fit in considering whether it is reasonable to require the provision of such access or facilities.

1.2 For a new building or for the alterations or additions to an existing building, section 84 of the Disability Discrimination Ordinance stipulates that:

“84. Building approvals

- (1) Notwithstanding any provision in any other Ordinance (whether enacted before or after the commencement of this Ordinance) but subject to subsection (3), a public authority which has the power to approve building works shall not, in respect of those works, approve building plans, whether for a new building or for the alterations or additions to an existing building unless the person seeking approval satisfies the public authority that such access as is reasonable in the circumstances to the building or premises will be provided for persons with a disability.*
- (2) In considering whether reasonable access will be provided under subsection (1), the public authority may take into account:*
 - (a) whether it is practicable to provide such access within the curtilage of the building, bearing in mind the physical location and immediate environs of the building; and*
 - (b) whether providing such access would impose unjustifiable hardship on the person seeking approval or on any other person.*
- (3) Subsection (1) has no application to:*
 - (a) buildings of 13 m or less in height above ground level which are used, or intended to be used, for occupation by a single family; or*
 - (b) temporary buildings or contractor's sheds referred to in Part VII of the Building (Planning) Regulations (Cap. 123 sub. leg.).*

1.2 (Cont'd)

(4) *In this section, “public authority” includes:*

- (a) *the Director of Lands;*
- (b) *the Building Authority;*
- (c) *the Housing Authority;*
- (d) *the Director of Architectural Services.”*

1.3 This Manual applies to the design and construction of new buildings or alterations and additions to existing buildings. Relevant Government authorities and departments will also refer to it in the design and construction of their buildings.

1.4 To ensure effective enforcement, the following obligatory design requirements of this Manual are put into the following legislation:

Legislation	Obligatory Design Requirements
Building (Planning) Regulations	Division 1 auditorium and related facilities Division 2 hotels, hostels and guesthouses Division 3 carparks Division 4 access route Division 5 ramps Division 6 dropped kerbs Division 7 steps and staircases Division 8 handrails Division 9 corridors, lobbies and paths Division 10 doors Division 11 toilets and W.C. cubicles Division 12 bathrooms and shower compartments Division 13 signs Division 14 special obligatory design requirements to assist persons with visual/hearing impairment to various uses of buildings in Table 2 Division 15 public information or service counters Division 16 illumination Division 17 emergency call bell in accessible toilets Division 18 assistive listening systems Division 19 lifts, indication and notification Division 20 escalators and passenger conveyors

For those obligatory design requirements which are not put into the above legislation, it is intended to incorporate them into the following codes of practice:

Code of Practice	Obligatory Design Requirements
COP for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment deemed to satisfy the requirements of the Director of Fire Services for the purpose of complying with Section 16(1)(b) of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)	Visual alarm and audible alarm in paragraph 5.2 in Chapter 5.
COP on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators and COP for Lift Works and Escalator Works deemed to satisfy Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 327)	Emergency call buttons in lifts in Division 19.

CHAPTER 2

EXTENT OF APPLICATION

2.1 EXTENT OF APPLICATION

2.1.1 The requirements set out in this Manual are classified into:

(a) Mandatory Section

- Performance Objectives

The Performance Objectives are guiding principles for the design and construction of the building or building works in the provision of barrier free access. Compliance with the Obligatory Design Requirements will achieve the Performance Objectives. Where alternative designs are proposed in lieu of strict compliance with the Obligatory Design Requirements, such alternative designs must be able to achieve the relevant Performance Objectives.

- Obligatory Design Requirements

All Obligatory Design Requirements shall be complied with.

(b) Best Practice Section

- Design Considerations

These are considerations to improve provisions leading to better and more convenient access and facilities. The considerations should facilitate efficient and effective access, and promote greater awareness to professionals and building owners for building more friendly and accessible built-environment for all its intended users.

- Recommended Design Requirements

These standards are included for the reference of professionals and building owners who intend to provide access and/or special facilities that are enhanced from the Obligatory Design Requirements for the use by all intended users.

2.1.2 Subject to “2.2 Exemptions” in Chapter 2, a new building or any alterations or additions to an existing building shall be designed in accordance with the Mandatory Section set out in this Manual provided that:

(a) the means of access and facilities stipulated in the Mandatory Section shall be provided to the categories of buildings specified in the left column of Table 1 and to the extent specified in the right column thereof; and

(b) the extent of application of additional assistive provisions to various uses of buildings shall be as specified in Table 2.

2.1 EXTENT OF APPLICATION (Cont'd)

TABLE 1

CATEGORY OF BUILDINGS & EXTENT OF THE APPLICATION OF DESIGN MANUAL	
Category of Buildings	Extent of application of this Manual
Domestic buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All common areas of buildings of more than four (4) storeys. - Main entrance and common area of the ground floor and means of access to buildings which do not exceed four (4) storeys. <p>Excluding the parts of the building stated in paragraph 2.2.2 in Chapter 2.</p>
Non-domestic buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All parts of such buildings. <p>Excluding the parts of the building stated in paragraph 2.2.2 in Chapter 2.</p>
Composite buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-domestic parts of such buildings. - All common areas of the domestic parts of such buildings, if the domestic parts exceed four (4) storeys. - Main entrance and common area of the ground floor and means of access thereto, if the domestic parts do not exceed four (4) storeys. <p>Excluding the parts of the building stated in paragraph 2.2.2 in Chapter 2.</p>

2.1 EXTENT OF APPLICATION (Cont'd)

TABLE 2

“Y” denotes “Applicable”

“-“ denotes “Not Applicable”

EXTENT OF APPLICATION OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTIVE PROVISIONS TO VARIOUS USES OF BUILDINGS						
Uses of buildings	Required Additional Assistive Provisions listed below:					
	Braille & tactile floor plan [para. 69(2) in Division 14]	Tactile guide path [para. 13 in Division 4 and para. 69(3) in Division 14]	Visual Display Board [para. 69(4) in Division 14]	Accessible Public Information / Service Counter [para. 70 in Division 15]	Visual Fire Alarm System [para. 5.2 in Chapter 5]	Assistive Listening System [para. 77 in Division 18]
1. Domestic use	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Common areas of Office	-	-	-	-	Y	-
3. Department store and shopping complex	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-
4. Hotel, guesthouse, hostel and bank	Y	-	-	Y	Y	-
5. Place for worship	Y	-	-	Y	Y	-
6. Cinema, theatre, concert hall, stadium, museum, theme park and purpose-built family amusement centre	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. School, college, university and public library	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-
8. Factory, workshop and place for industrial use	-	-	-	-	Y	-
9. Sports complex and public swimming pool complex	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-
10. Restaurant and food court	Y	-	-	-	Y	-
11. Indoor market and supermarket	Y	-	-	-	Y	-

2.1 EXTENT OF APPLICATION (Cont'd)

TABLE 2 (Cont'd)

EXTENT OF APPLICATION OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTIVE PROVISIONS TO VARIOUS USES OF BUILDINGS						
Uses of buildings	Required Additional Assistive Provisions listed below:					
	Braille & tactile floor plan [para. 69(2) in Division 14]	Tactile guide path [para. 13 in Division 4 and para. 69(3) in Division 14]	Visual Display Board [para. 69(4) in Division 14]	Accessible Public Information / Service Counter [para. 70 in Division 15]	Visual Fire Alarm System [para. 5.2 in Chapter 5]	Assistive Listening System [para. 77 in Division 18]
12. Hospital, purpose-built clinic	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13. Residential home for the elderly and welfare centre	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-
14. Club house	Y	-	-	Y	Y	-
15. Transport station, interchange, passenger terminal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
16. Carpark	Y	-	-	-	Y	-

2.2 EXEMPTIONS

2.2.1 The Obligatory Design Requirements shall not apply to the following buildings:

- (a) Buildings of 13 m or less in height above ground level which are used, or intended to be used, for occupation by a single family; or
- (b) Temporary buildings or contractor's sheds referred to in Part VII of the Building (Planning) Regulations (Cap.123 sub. leg.).

2.2.2 The Obligatory Design Requirements shall not apply to the following areas or parts of a building as there is a relatively high risk to persons with a disability in these areas/parts:

- (a) Commercial kitchen, cold room and cinema projector room.
- (b) Area only used for building services and maintenance (testing, inspection, verification, repair and overhaul) including:
 - (i) plant, cooling tower and power plant;
 - (ii) equipment and lift motor room, and electrical transformer room and switch room, battery room, machinery room, plant room and pump room;
 - (iii) boiler room;
 - (iv) non-tenantable spaces accessed only by ladder, catwalk or crawl space;
 - (v) access route for maintenance, pit, lift shaft and ventilation shaft; and
 - (vi) sub-station, telecommunication equipment room, metering area, or the like.
- (c) Area used for storage of raw material or produce or for bulk storage where:
 - (i) the stored material is hazardous; or
 - (ii) the public is not permitted to enter, such as waste containment area, chemical store, or the like.
- (d) Mezzanine floor used only for storage, plant and equipment installation or the like.
- (e) Raised platform used primarily for purpose of security or safety management, including, but not limited to, guard tower or fixed lifeguard stand.
- (f) Swimming pool (the water containing pool only).
- (g) Any path providing access only to an exempted area.

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.'*

CHAPTER 4

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Division 1 --- AUDITORIUM AND RELATED FACILITIES

2. This Division is applicable to the auditorium for audience and backstage facilities of theatre, cinema, concert hall, sports stadium, games hall and other entertainment related premises as well as lecture hall and conference hall.
3. In this Division, “relevant activity” means the activity for the purpose of which the audience in the premises attend the premises.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

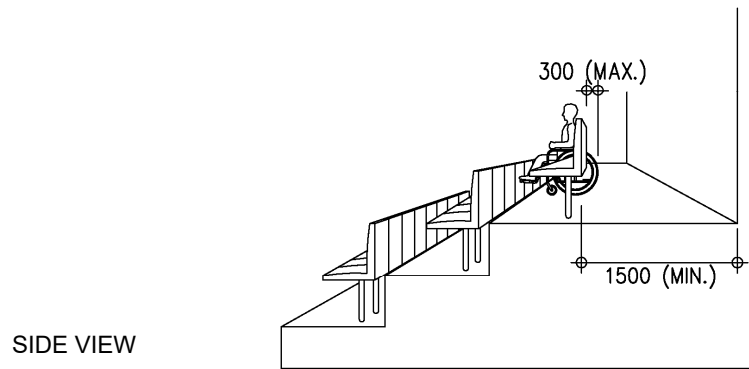
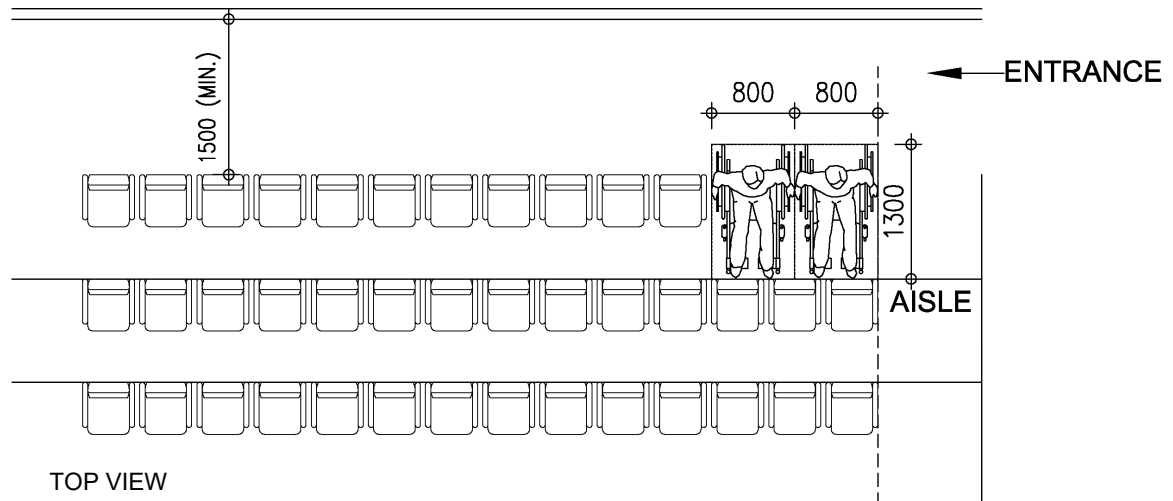
The seating areas of an auditorium, the stage and backstage facilities, shall be provided with safe and convenient access for all people including persons with a disability.

Obligatory Design Requirements

4. Wheelchair Spaces

A minimum of four wheelchair spaces shall be provided at spectator level in the auditorium with not more than 800 fixed seats. For auditorium with more than 800 fixed seats at spectator level, two wheelchair spaces shall be provided for every 400 fixed seats and any part thereof. (For example, at least six wheelchair spaces shall be provided if there are 900 fixed seats.) The spaces shall be grouped in pairs (not less than two) and also not separated from the seats for other audiences. Each wheelchair space shall have unobstructed line of vision to the stage areas at which the relevant activity takes place, and be of minimum size of 800 mm x 1300 mm, with the side of 800 mm facing towards the stage podium or screen. The minimum width of the passage leading to a wheelchair space from an accessible entrance of the auditorium shall not be less than 1500 mm (see Figure 1A).

Readily removable seats can be installed in wheelchair spaces when the spaces are not occupied by wheelchair users.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 1A – Wheelchair Space in an Auditorium

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

5. Access for Wheelchair Users

The auditorium, the stage, backstage facilities, changing rooms, rehearsal rooms, dressing rooms, rest rooms, toilets and shower rooms shall be accessible to wheelchair users. If there is an access connecting two or more of them, an equivalent accessible route shall be provided for wheelchair users, e.g. by a ramp in compliance with Division 5, an accessible lift in compliance with Division 19.

6. Braille and Tactile Fire Exit Maps and Tactile Warning Strips

- (1) Braille and tactile fire exit maps as shown in Figure 32 shall be provided at all entrances to the auditorium.
- (2) Tactile warning strips complying with paragraph 26 shall be provided at both the top and bottom ends of the staircases leading to the stage.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Seating allocation for persons with a disability should be accessible by provision of a direct, easily identifiable route free from obstructions, and preferably adjacent to the means of egress and accessible toilets.
- (b) The wheelchair spaces should be so located that the wheelchair user may have the choice of sitting with another wheelchair user or conventionally seated companion.
- (c) The lines of sight provided by the wheelchair spaces should be comparable to those of other normal viewing positions.
- (d) It is a good practice to provide wheelchair spaces at different levels of the seating area in order to have a variety of viewing locations. An example of wheelchair space arrangement is shown in Figure 1B.
- (e) Safety barrier should be provided to wheelchair spaces located at high level to minimise the risk of the wheelchair falling over the edge.

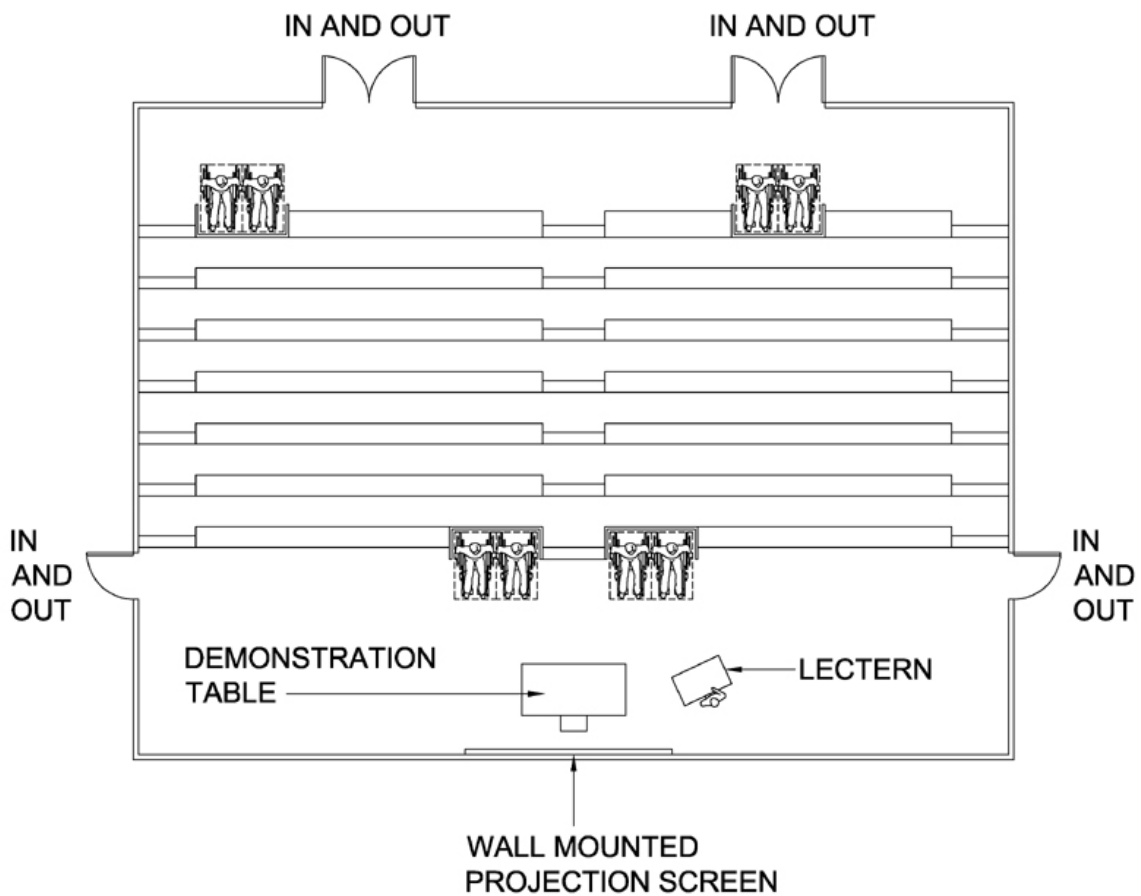


Figure 1B – Example of Wheelchair Spaces in a Lecture Hall

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) A conventional companion seat may be provided next to each wheelchair seating location.
- (b) Removable seats may be provided in wheelchair seating locations for spare use by persons other than wheelchair users.
- (c) Access should be provided to the low and high levels of the auditorium.
- (d) Removable seats should be provided at accessible spectator levels in an auditorium for the use by large group of wheelchair users for special functions/occasions. Adequate numbers of removable seats to accommodate sixteen wheelchair spaces should be provided in the auditorium with not more than 800 fixed seats. For the auditorium with more than 800 fixed seats, adequate numbers of removable seats to accommodate eight wheelchair spaces should be provided for every additional 400 fixed seats and any part thereof.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

- (e) Where conventional seat numbers are provided, Braille and tactile seat number should be provided at the top of each seat rest. The specification of Braille cells is provided in Figure 31.
- (f) Sound enhancement system may be provided at the designated areas for persons with hearing impairment.
- (g) Eight wheelchair spaces should be provided at spectator levels in an auditorium with not more than 800 fixed seats. For auditorium with more than 800 fixed seats, four wheelchair spaces should be provided for every additional 400 fixed seats and any part thereof.
- (h) Visual display of subtitles should be provided at an appropriate location.
- (i) A room with a view of the performance for “audio description” should be provided for the visually impaired persons.

Division 2 --- HOTELS, HOSTELS AND GUESTHOUSES

This Division is applicable to guest rooms designated for the use of persons with a disability in hotels, hostels and guesthouses.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

7. Guest Rooms

- (1) The accessible guest rooms provided in a hotel, hostel or guesthouse shall be accessible by persons with a disability not only to the rooms but also to all sleeping, bathing and sanitary facilities in the rooms.

Obligatory Design Requirements

Minimum Provision

- (2) A minimum of two accessible guest rooms with full facilities for persons with a disability shall be provided in a hotel, hostel and guesthouse. Two such accessible rooms shall be provided for every 100 guest rooms and any part thereof. (For example, a total of four such accessible rooms shall be provided if there are 150 guest rooms.)

The bathroom and shower facilities serving an accessible guest room shall comply with Division 12.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

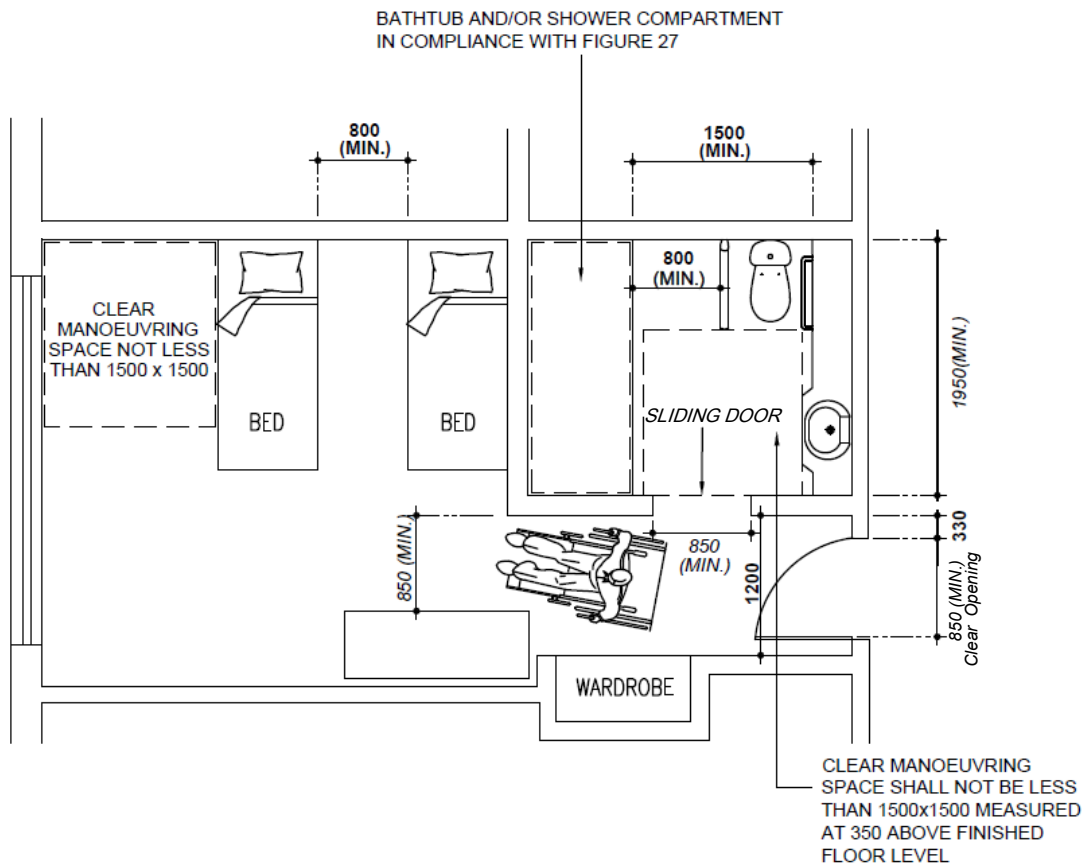
- (a) Within an accessible guest room, wheelchair user should be able to manoeuvre around and use the facilities in the room, and operate switches and controls. The internal layout should be large enough to enable a wheelchair user to transfer to one side of a bed, with or without assistance.
- (b) In addition, it is important to ensure that the built-in wardrobes and shelving in all guest rooms are accessible and convenient to use.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) A typical guest room layout is shown in Figure 2 and typical bathroom and shower compartment are shown in Figure 27.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

- (b) For every 100 guest rooms and any part thereof, in addition to accessible guest rooms, the following types of guest rooms should be provided:
 - (i) A minimum of two guest rooms with visual door bells installed at a prominent location and the function can be switched on or off conveniently by the guest; and
 - (ii) A minimum of two guest rooms located near lift lobby with Braille and tactile fire exit maps at the back of guest room doors, and Braille and tactile information for main lamp switch controls.
- (c) Where planning allows, the accessible guest rooms required under paragraph 7(2) of Division 2 should be provided with the facilities in paragraph (b)(i) and (ii) above in full or in combination.
- (d) Where planning allows, the guest rooms in paragraph (b)(i) above should be provided with the facilities for accessible guest rooms in paragraph 7(2) of Division 2 and facilities in paragraph (b)(ii) above in full or in combination.
- (e) Where planning allows, the guest rooms in paragraph (b)(ii) above should be provided with the facilities for accessible guest rooms in paragraph 7(2) of Division 2 and facilities in paragraph (b)(i) above in full or in combination.
- (f) For floors with guest rooms provided under paragraph (b)(ii) above, Braille sign should be installed on the wall adjacent to the open side of each door leading to an exit staircase to indicate such information. The sign should be placed at 900 mm to 1500 mm above the finished floor level.
- (g) A sign with guest room number in raised Arabic numerals/characters and Braille should be installed on the wall adjacent to the door lock of all guest rooms. The sign should be placed at 900 mm to 1500 mm above the finished floor level.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm
 DIMENSIONS PRINTED IN **BOLD** FORM DENOTE OBLIGATORY DESIGN REQUIREMENTS
 DIMENSIONS PRINTED IN *ITALIC* FORM DENOTE RECOMMENDED DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Figure 2 – Typical Guest Room Layout

Division 3 --- CARPARKS

This Division aims to provide standards for accessible car parking spaces designated for the use of persons with a disability.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

8. Ratio of Accessible Parking Spaces

- (1) Adequate numbers of accessible car parking spaces shall be provided with proper access, proper designation and directional signage in the carparks.

Obligatory Design Requirements

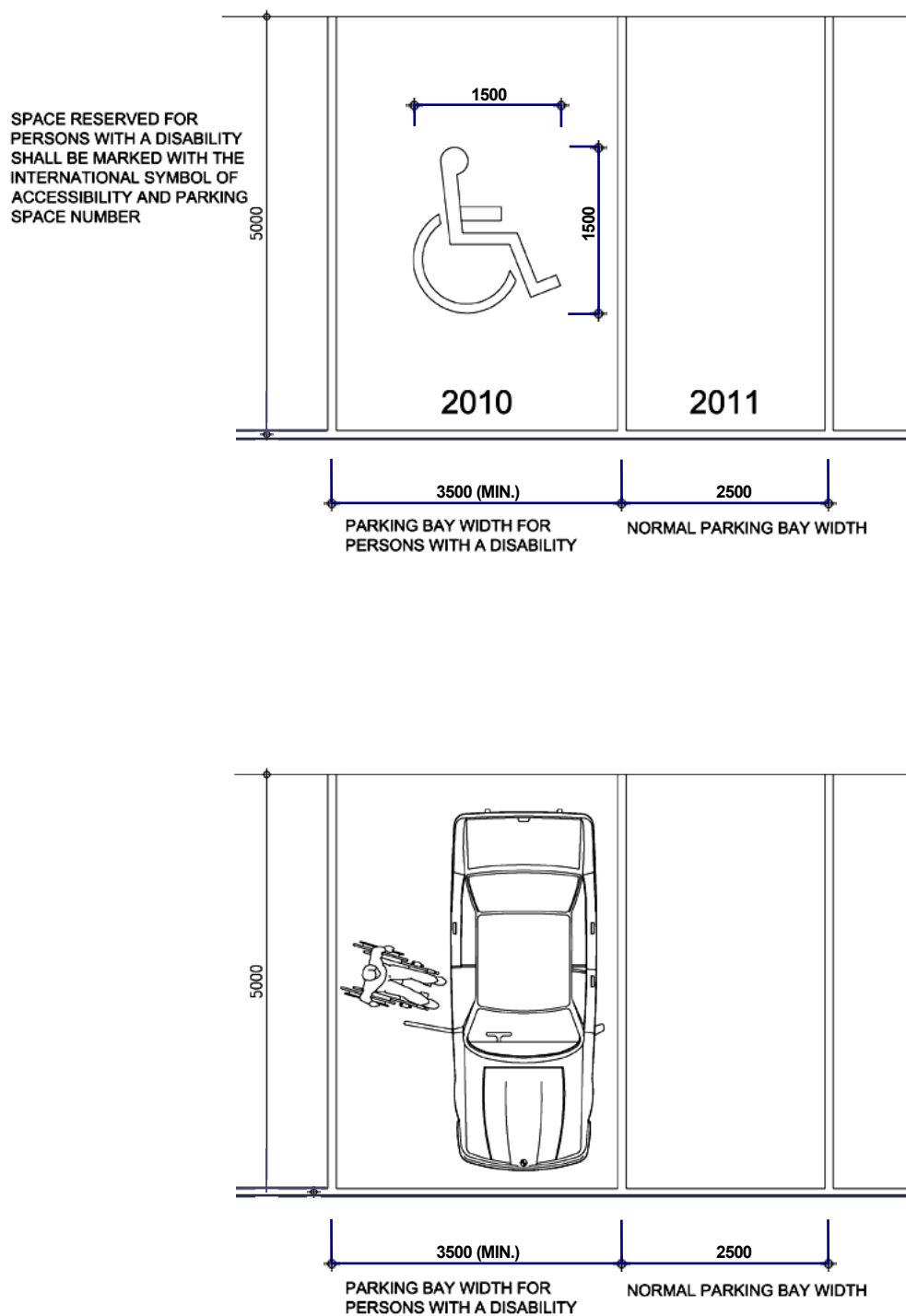
(2)	Total No. of Car Parking Space in Lot	Required No. of Accessible Car Parking Spaces
	1-50	1
	51-150	2
	151-250	3
	251-350	4
	351-450	5
	Above 450	6

9. Requirements for Accessible Parking Spaces

- (1) The parking spaces reserved for persons with a disability shall be located in proximity and with an accessible route to the lobby with an accessible lift or entrance.
- (2) The minimum width for a parking space for persons with a disability shall be 3500 mm.
- (3) Where a common loading/unloading area is provided between two parking spaces for persons with a disability, such parking spaces shall be not less than 2500 mm in width.
- (4) The common loading/unloading area shall be of at least 1200 mm wide and be marked with yellow hatched markings as shown in Figure 4.

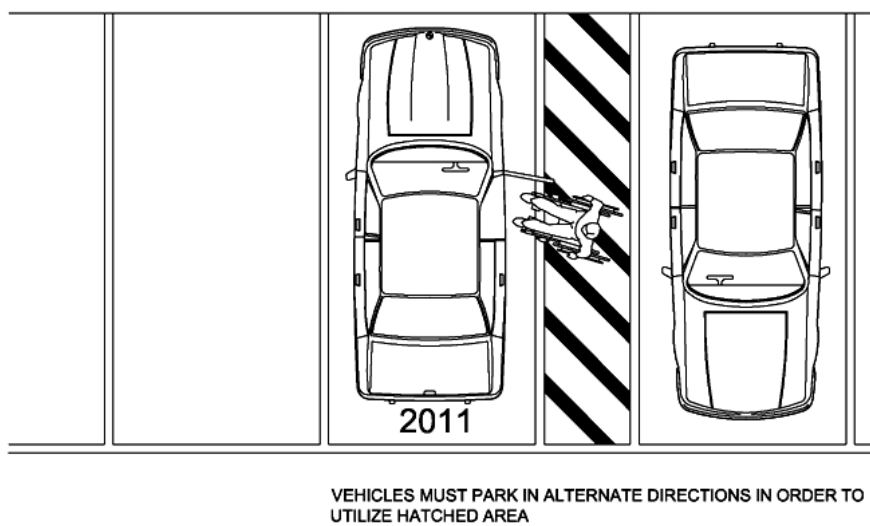
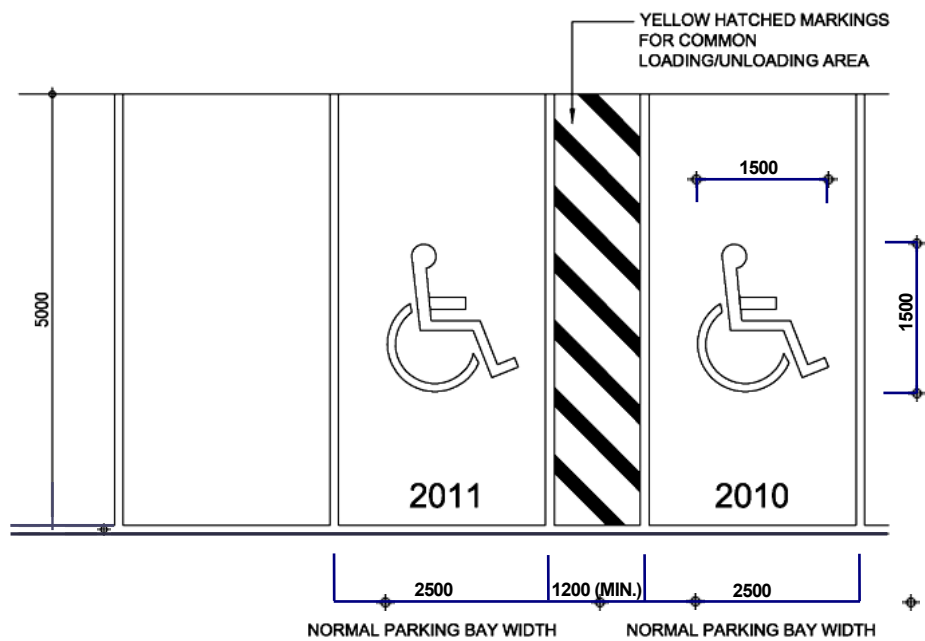
10. Marking Requirements for Accessible Parking Spaces

The parking space shall be clearly marked with the international symbol of accessibility and the parking space number on the floor as shown in Figure 3.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 3 – Dimension and Identification of Car Parking Space for Persons with a Disability



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 4 – Side by Side Parking Spaces for Persons with a Disability

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Persons with ambulant impairment who arrive as passengers should be able to alight conveniently from a vehicle close to the principal entrance, or alternative accessible entrance, of the building.
- (b) The parking bay surface should allow the safe transfer of a passenger or driver to a wheelchair and transfer from the parking bay to the access route to the building without undue effort, barriers to wheelchairs or hazards from tripping.
- (c) Where a ticket dispensing machine is installed, it should be located properly to allow wheelchair users, or persons of short stature, to approach conveniently to the machine and perform the payment and ticket dispensing functions.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) At the entrance of public parking facilities, signage should be displayed in prominent positions to indicate the designated numbers of the parking spaces reserved for persons with a disability (see Figure 5).
- (b) Indication/directional signage along driveway showing the way leading to the parking spaces reserved for persons with a disability should be provided.
- (c) Accessible car parking spaces should be provided as follow:

Total No. of Car Parking Space in Lot	No. of Accessible Car Parking Spaces
1-25	1
26-50	2
51-100	3
for each additional increment of 100 or part thereof	one additional space

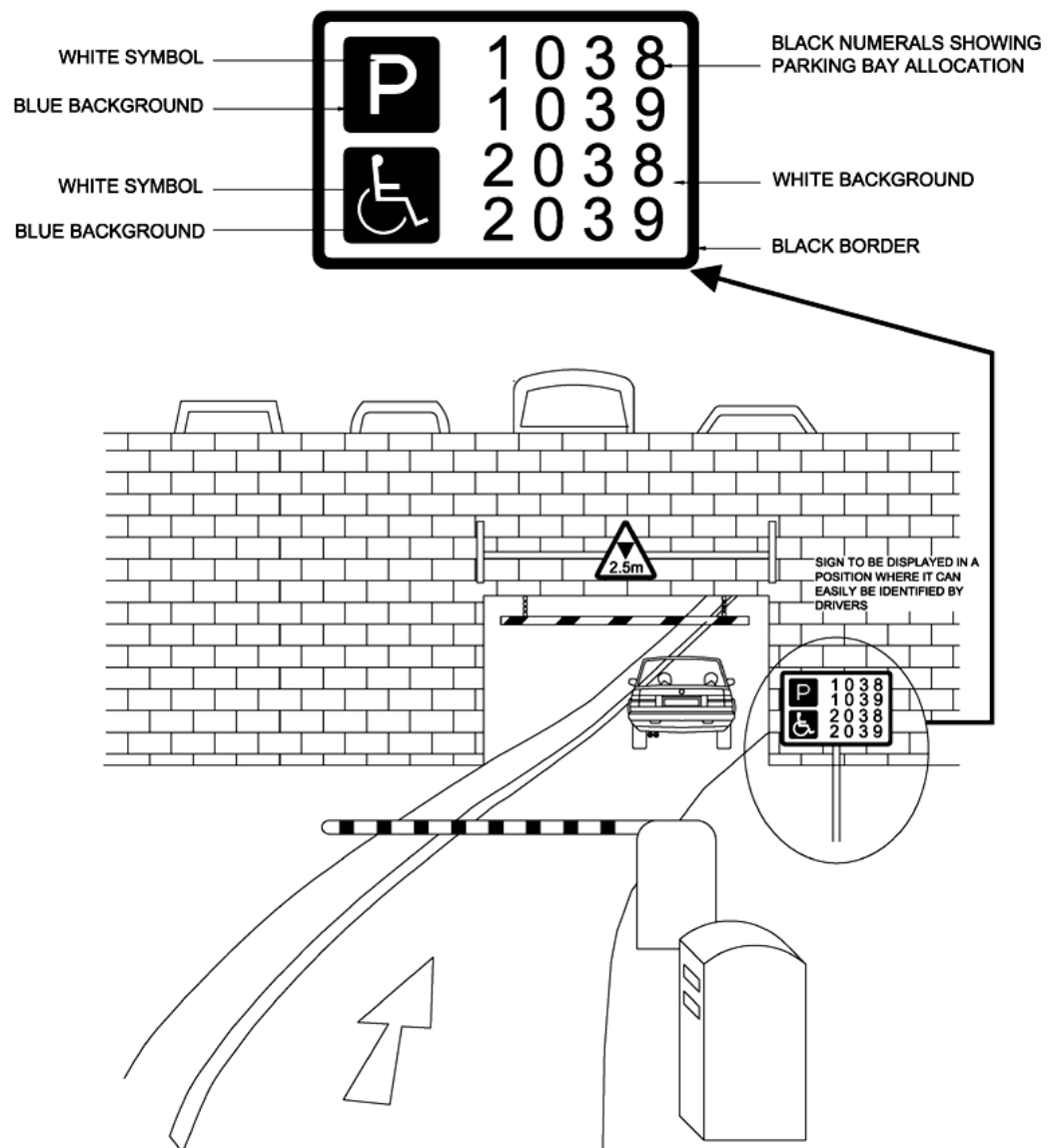


Figure 5 – Parking Space Indication Signage

Division 4 --- ACCESS ROUTE

This Division aims to ensure proper access for all people, with or without disabilities to approach, enter or leave a building independently to reach and use its facilities, such as foyers, lifts, toilets, shops, restaurants, cinemas, etc. without undue difficulty.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

An easily identifiable continuous and relatively level path free from obstruction or any kind of hazards shall be provided for persons with a disability to enter, move within and leave a building to reach the accessible facilities.

Obligatory Design Requirements

11. Provision of Access Route

Access shall be provided from a prominent point or points on the lot boundary, which is accessible to a public street or pedestrian way, directly to at least one entrance which is commonly used by the public or to a point directly adjacent to one entrance which is commonly used by the public and to an accessible lift, unless it is impractical to do so because of difficult terrain or unusual characteristics of the site.

In case where the main entrance is not an accessible entrance or it is impractical to provide a commonly used entrance at prominent point on the lot boundary due to difficult terrain or unusual characteristics of the site (e.g. in the case of a sloping site or presence of steep access road/driveway), this would be acceptable provided that persons with a disability could reach the building by means of vehicle and adequate directional signs shall be posted at conspicuous location of the main entrance to show clearly the location of and the route to an accessible entrance.

12. Requirements for Access Route

Width

(1) The clear width of an access route shall be not less than 1050 mm.

Free from Barriers

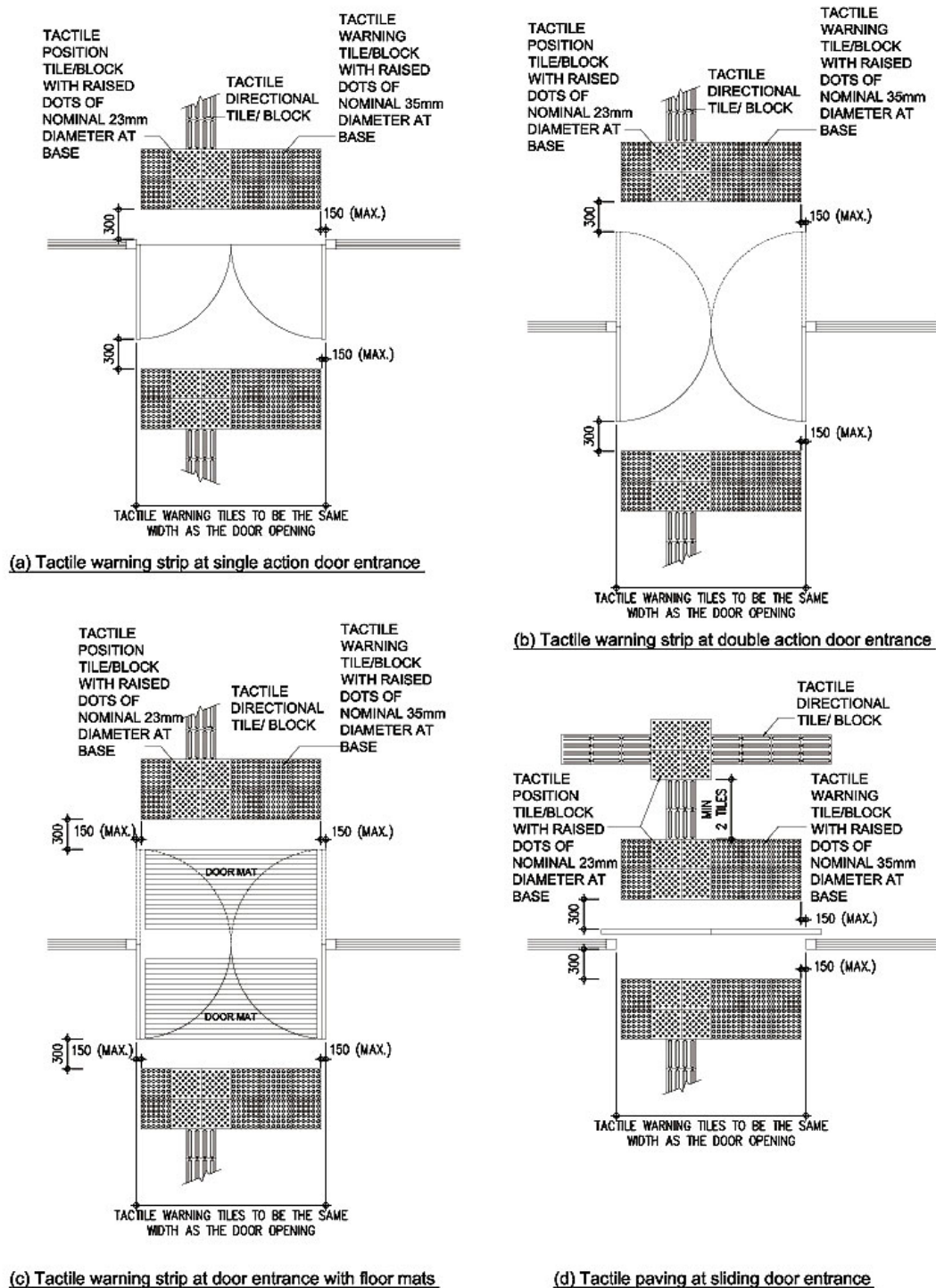
(2) Such access shall be free from protrusion hazards, steps, kerbs other than dropped kerbs, steep ramps, doors or doorways which will impede the passage of a wheelchair, or other form of barrier which will prevent access by persons with a disability.

Surface

(3) The surface of an access route shall be firm.

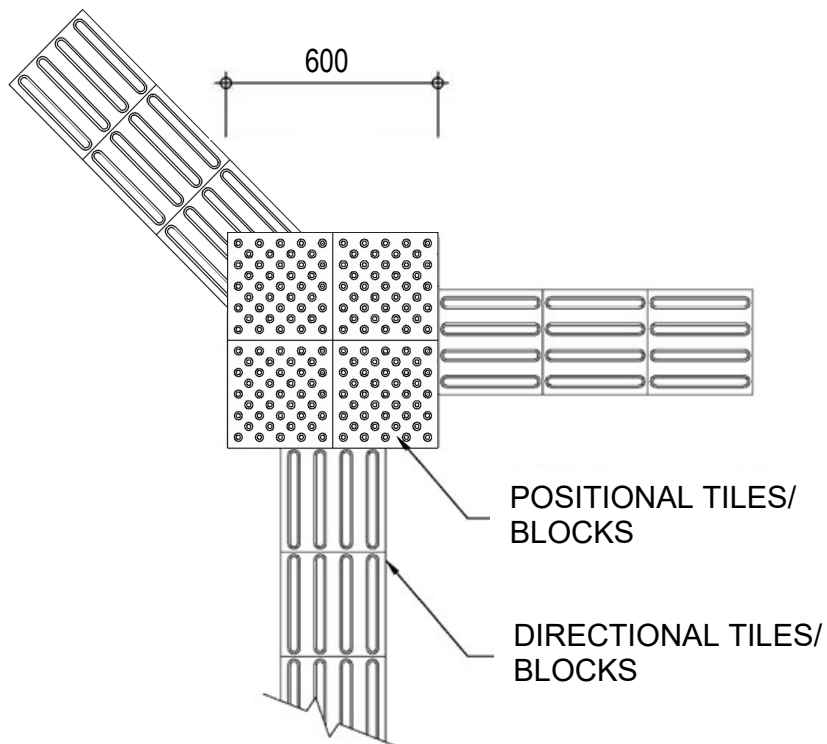
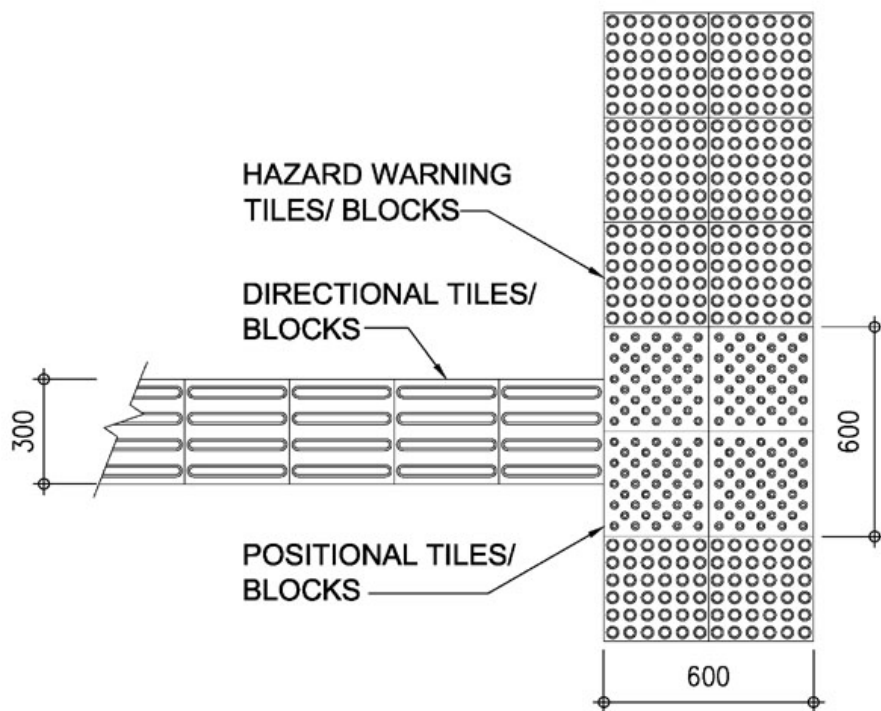
13. Tactile Guide Path

For categories of buildings as required in Table 2, such access shall be provided with a tactile guide path as illustrated in Figures 6A and 6B. Examples of specification of tactile tile/block are shown in Figure 6C.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 6A – Tactile Guide Paths at Building Entrances Linking up with Initial Access on the Lot Boundary and Interior Facilities



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 6B – Typical Tactile Guide Path Junction

Three kinds of tactile tiles/blocks as shown in Figure 6C are commonly used in constructing a tactile guide path:

i) Directional Tile/Block

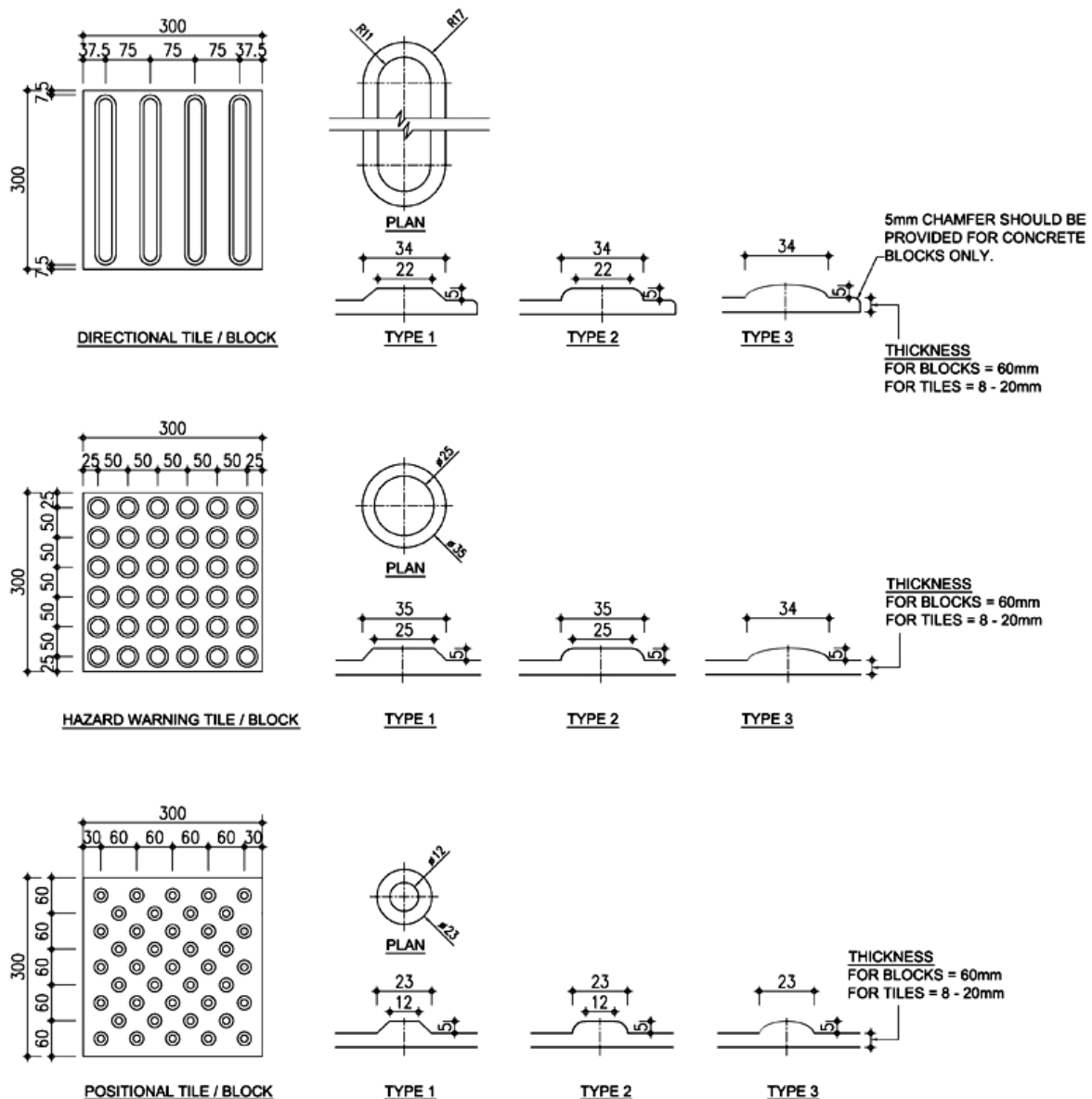
This has parallel raised bars for guiding the users along an intended safe path.

ii) Hazard Warning Tile/Block

This has raised big dots (35 mm in diameter) arranged in square grid parallel to the sides of the slab for indication of potential hazards ahead. This type of tile/block could be used alone to form tactile warning strips at the top and bottom ends of staircase or ramps, and at dropped kerb.

iii) Positional Tile/Block

This has raised small dots (23 mm in diameter) placed in staggered positions for indication of possible change in walking directions.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 6C – Examples of Details of Tactile Warning Tiles/Blocks

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) In designing an access to the building, it should be recognised that changes in level are difficult for many people to negotiate, including wheelchair users, people who use walking aids and persons with visual impairment.
- (b) Access routes from the lot boundary to the entrance of a building should be wide enough to allow wheelchair users and other users to pass simultaneously.
- (c) Easily identifiable access route e.g. tactile guide path for persons with visual impairment should be provided from the lot boundary to the entrance of a building.
- (d) Indication signage for accessible entrances should be provided where more than one entrance exist in a complex building.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Width

- (a) The clear width of the access route should not be less than 1500 mm.

Floor Space

- (b) In large floor space of more than 200 m² where the cues of physical edges such as walls and handrails are not present, tactile guide paths should be used to facilitate orientation of persons with visual impairment.

Surface

- (c) The surface of the access should be firm and slip-resistant with a “static coefficient of friction” of “Good” grading (see Appendix C).

Directional Tiles/Blocks

- (d) A minimum clearance between directional tiles/blocks of tactile guide path and an obstruction should be maintained as follows:

Clear Width of Access Route	Minimum Clearance
1050 mm – less than 1200 mm	350 mm
1200 mm – less than 1350 mm	450 mm
1350 mm – less than 1500 mm	500 mm
1500 mm or above	600 mm

Division 5 --- RAMPS

A ramp is a sloping walkway leading from one level to another.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

14. Ramps of an appropriate design shall be provided at all changes in level other than those served by an accessible lift or accessible lifting mechanism accommodating the specific requirements of persons with a disability.

Obligatory Design Requirements

15. **Width**

A ramp shall not be less than 1050 mm in width.

16. **Landing**

A clear space of not less than 1500 mm x 1500 mm shall be provided at the head and foot of every ramp, i.e. door swing and alike shall not be allowed to swing onto the landing.

17. **Running Slope and Length**

No ramp shall be steeper than 1 in 12 gradient except in the following situations of minor rise:

Maximum slope	Maximum length	Maximum rise
1:10 i.e., 10%	1500 mm	150 mm
1:8 i.e., 12.5%	600 mm	75 mm

18. **Requirements for Ramps**

Combination of ramps of minor rise as stated in paragraph 17 shall not be permitted.

- (1) If the gradient of a ramp is 1 in 20 or steeper, the ramp shall be provided with:
- (a) a landing of not less than 1200 mm long for each 10 m length of horizontal run or part thereof; (see Figure 7)
 - (b) handrails complying with Division 8 on both sides; and
 - (c) tactile warning strips at the head, foot and landings (see Figure 7).
- (2) The above items shall not apply to ramp access to lift or ramp with a length less than 300 mm.

19. **Protection and Surface**

- (1) Any ramp with a rise greater than 200 mm, leading down towards an area where there may be vehicular traffic, shall have a railing or barrier across the full width of its lower end, and be not less than 1500 mm from the foot of the ramp.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

- (2) Raised traction strip shall be avoided.
- (3) A kerb of at least 100 mm high, or a rail 200 mm above ramp level shall be provided on both sides to prevent wheelchair from slipping over the edge.
- (4)&(5) No appliances, fixtures and fittings shall project beyond 90 mm from the surface of any wall below a level of 2000 mm above the ramp level unless they are unavoidable, in which case they shall also be extended downwards to the ramp level or be guided by tactile flooring materials.
- (6) The floor and wall along ramps shall be in contrasting colours.

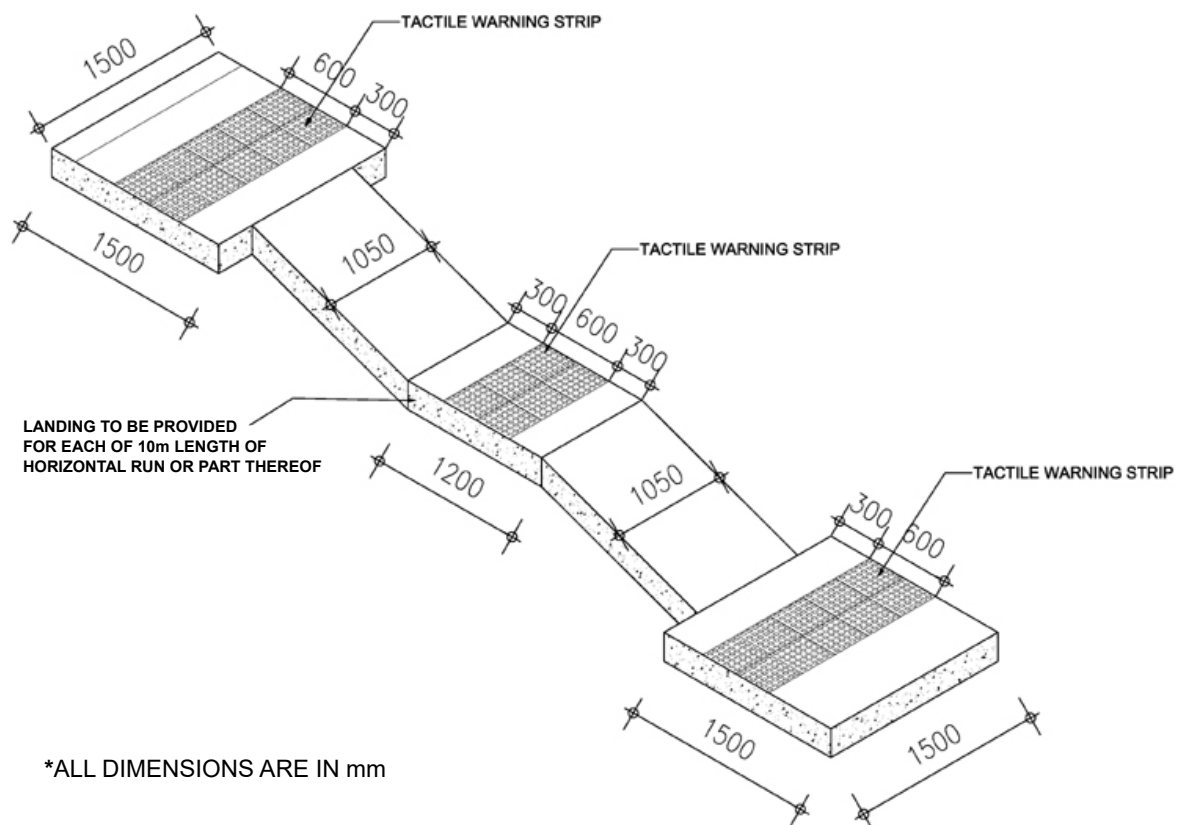


Figure 7 - Tactile Warning Strips and Landings for Ramps

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Where there is a change in level, the provision of a ramp is an effective method to ensure largely independent accessibility for persons with a disability and the elderly. Interior ramp is preferred as a means of egress to stair as it accommodates a wider range of building user, including wheelchair user.
- (b) The more gradual the slope of the ramp (i.e. the less steep it is) the more easily persons can use it without assistance. Therefore, slope with the ratio of 1:20 (5%) to 1:15 (6.7%) is preferred. It can take much energy to get up ramp with steep gradient, which also makes speed control difficult when going down. Steep inclines can put a wheelchair in danger of tipping backwards or forwards as many users cannot lean or adjust their balance to accommodate gradient (see Figure 8).
- (c) A level resting space outside the swing of any door at the top of a ramp should be provided to avoid the possibility of 'roll-back' for wheelchair user when trying to open the door.
- (d) A ramp should have handrails on both sides so that it can be used in both directions by people with a mobility problem on one side such as may be the case for stroke sufferers.
- (e) A ramp that surmounts a major change in level has to be very long, and requires multiple ramp and landing combinations. In such circumstances, other design solutions should be considered.
- (f) A curved ramp is not a preferred design solution. Similarly a cross fall can put a wheelchair user at risk and may adversely affect steering, particularly on manually propelled chair.

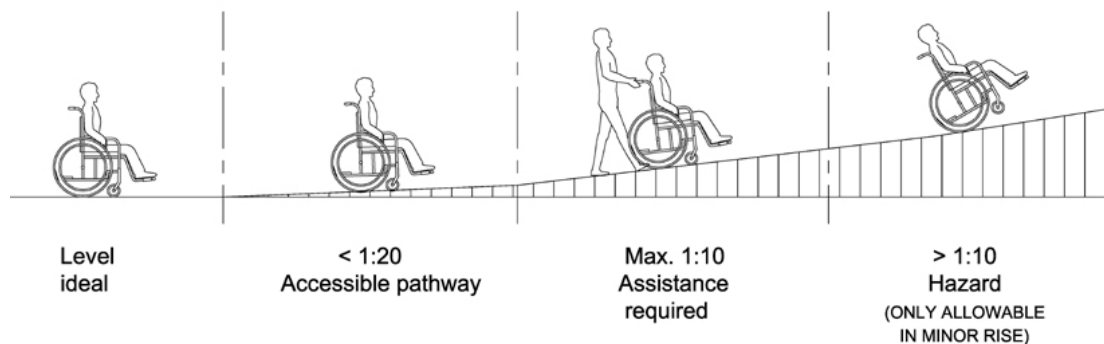


Figure 8 - Running Slope and Length

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) A ramp should have a running slope 1:12 (8.33%) to 1:20 (5%).

Maximum slope	Maximum length	Maximum rise
1:20 i.e., 5.00%	10000 mm	500 mm
1:16 i.e., 6.25%	6400 mm	400 mm
1:14 i.e., 7.14%	4200 mm	300 mm
1:12 i.e., 8.33%	1800 mm	150 mm

- (b) Width should be at least 1200 mm to enable a wheelchair to turn or preferably at least 1500 mm to allow 2 wheelchairs to pass.
- (c) A ramp should have slip-resistant surface with a minimum “static coefficient of friction” of “Very Good” grading (see Appendix C).
- (d) Tactile warning strips at the head, foot and landing should have a minimum luminous contrast of 70% with the adjoining surfaces.
- (e) The floor and wall along a ramp should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30%.

Division 6 --- DROPPED KERBS

A dropped kerb is a ramp built on a footpath or pavement to accommodate the change in level towards vehicular areas.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Dropped kerbs shall be of appropriate design and provided with adequate visual and tactile warning.

Obligatory Design Requirements

20. General Provision

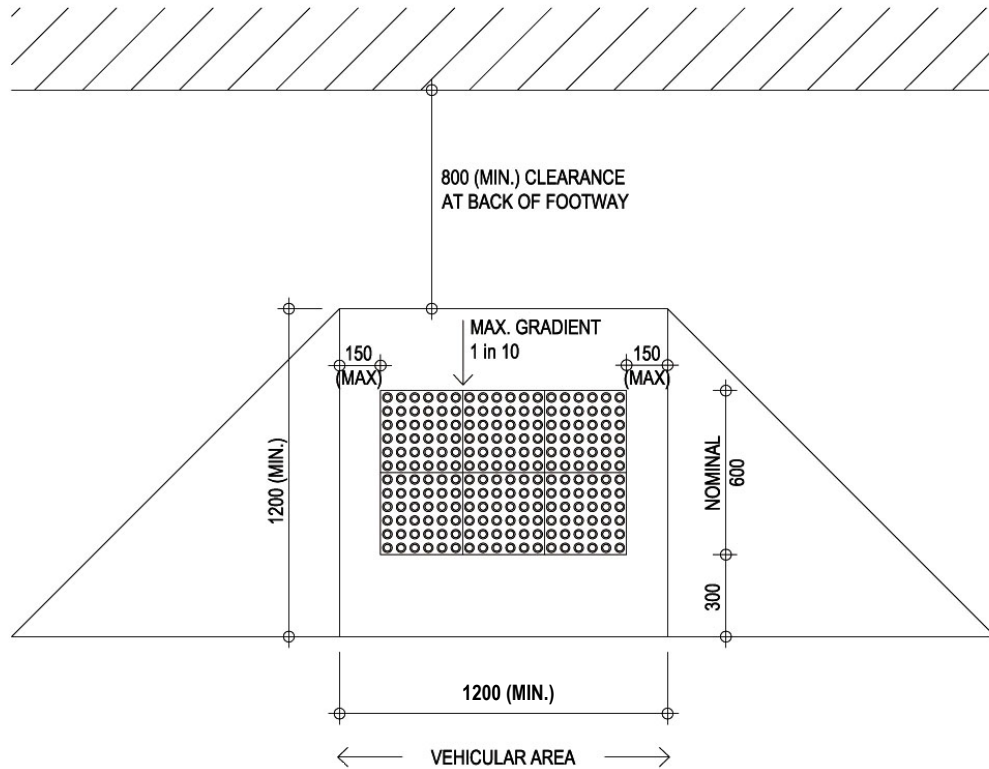
Changes in level at kerbs shall be by a dropped kerb as illustrated in Figure 9. Dropped kerb shall be provided at pedestrian crossing and at each end of the footpath of a private street or access road. Kerb separating footpath or ramp from vehicular area shall also be a dropped kerb.

21. Requirements

Dropped kerb shall be constructed as follows:

- (a) not less than 1200 mm in length and 1200 mm in width;
- (b) with a clearance of at least 800 mm long at the back of the footway;
- (c) ramped at a gradient not steeper than 1:10;
- (d) with a level difference of not more than 15 mm with the vehicular areas;
- (e) provided with a tactile warning strip at 300 mm from the vehicular areas;
and
- (f) provided with a tactile warning strip of the nominal width of 600 mm at the ramp.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 9 – Dropped Kerb

22. Location

Dropped kerb shall be so located to enable users to have an unobstructed view of traffic approaching from any direction.

23. Surface

Raised traction strips shall be avoided.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) The provision of a dropped kerb is to overcome potential hazard arising from change in level for persons with or without a disability.
- (b) The tactile warning strip should be provided in order to notify the presence of traffic.
- (c) The tactile warning strip should have luminous contrast for the elderly and persons with visual impairment.
- (d) Dropped kerb should have slip-resistant surface. Raised traction strips should be avoided in order to reduce the hazard to everyone.
- (e) Examples of dropped kerb are shown in Figures 10, 11 and 12.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Slip Resistance

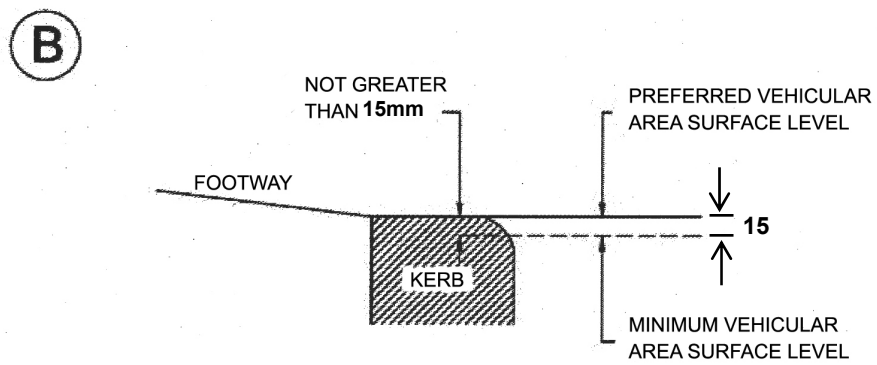
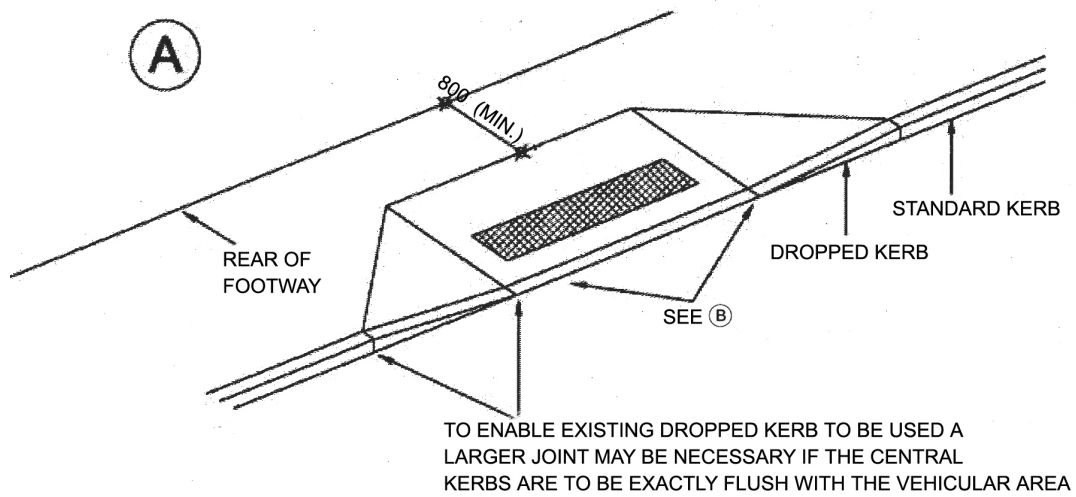
- (a) Dropped kerb should have slip-resistant surface with a minimum “static coefficient of friction” of “Very Good” grading (see Appendix C).

Luminous Contrast

- (b) Tactile warning strip should have a minimum luminous contrast of 70% with the adjoining surfaces.

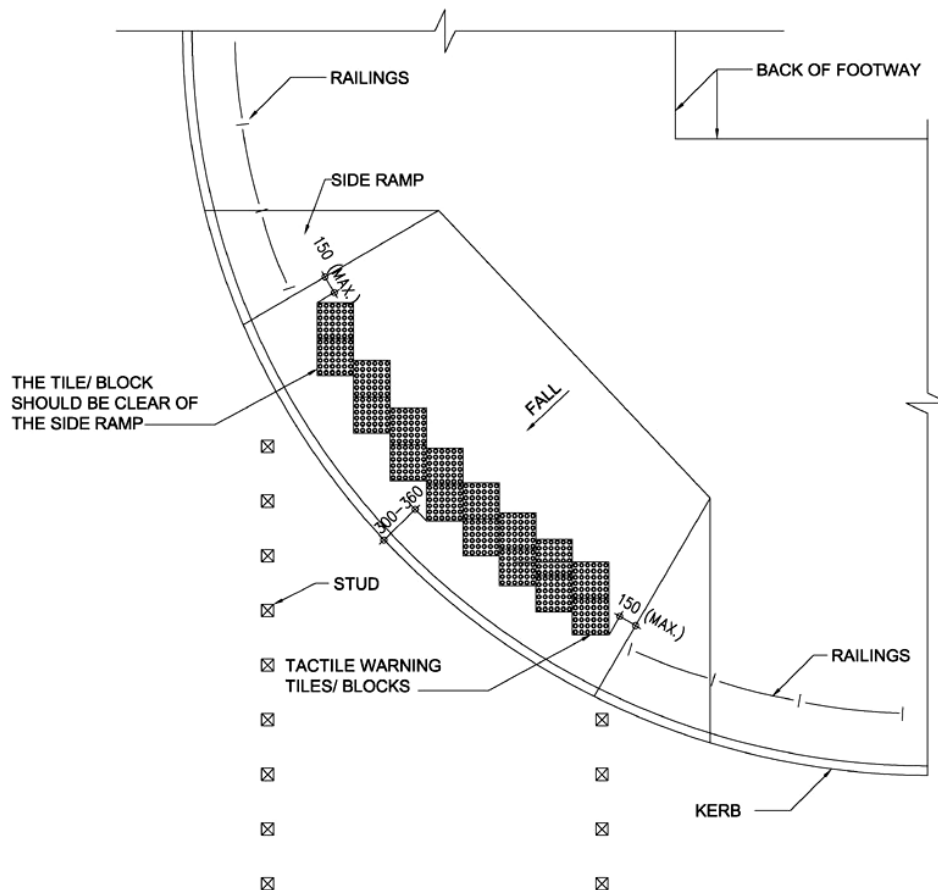
Conjunction with Pedestrian Crossings

- (c) Dropped kerb should be provided where necessary and in conjunction with pedestrian crossings, which should include visible, audible and tactile crossing devices with traffic lights.



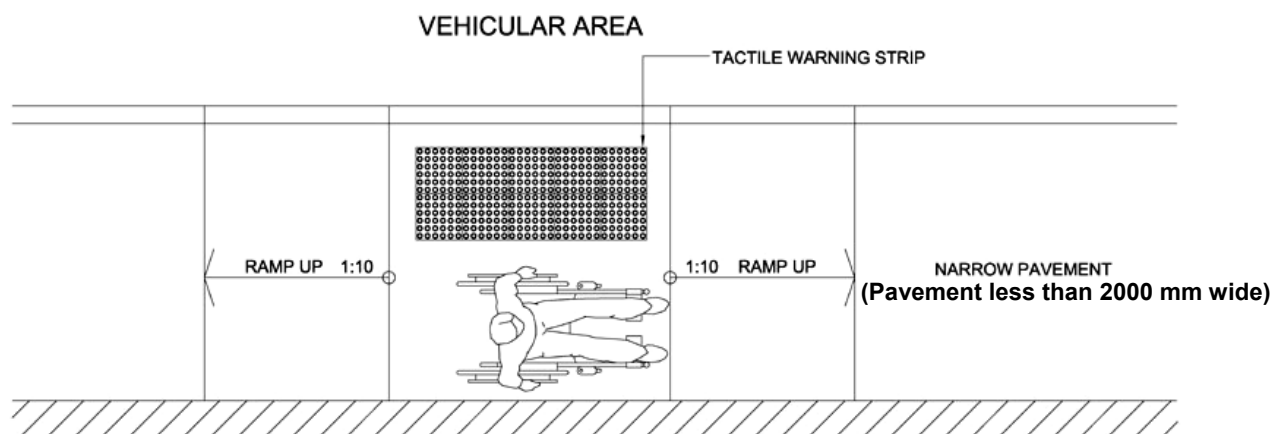
*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 10 - Examples of Design of Dropped Kerb



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 11 – Dropped Kerb at Street Corner



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 12 – Dropped Kerb for Access Road and Narrow Pavement

Division 7 --- STEPS AND STAIRCASES

- 24.** This Division applies only to the required staircase and the main circulation staircase in the common areas of a building, and sets out requirements to help people including persons with ambulant disabilities and persons with visual impairment to negotiate steps and staircases.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Steps and staircases shall be intended as an alternative to lift access in buildings and shall be of adequate design to allow all persons, with or without a disability, to travel safely and independently.

Obligatory Design Requirements

25. Dimension and Orientation

The required staircases and the main circulation staircase in common areas of a building shall:

- (a) be constructed with treads not less than 225 mm in width (measured at the centre of the flight) from the face of one riser to the face of the next riser and with risers not more than 175 mm in height;
- (bi) have risers built with vertical or receding face not more than 15 mm from the vertical, without a projecting nosing;
- (c) have not more than 16 steps in any flight without the introduction of a landing;
- (d) be provided on both sides with properly fitted handrails (see paragraph 28(2));
- (e) be provided with non-slip nosing in contrasting colour; and
- (f) have risers reduced to not more than 160 mm high and treads increased to not less than 280 mm wide for greater ease of use for external steps and stairs.

Colour Contrast

- (g) Treads and walls of a staircase shall be in contrasting colours.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

26. Tactile Warning Strip

Tactile warning strips shall be provided at landings and at both the bottom and top ends of a staircase, regardless of the number of steps it comprises. For landings leading to a floor or those enclosed by wall, railing or balustrade, tactile warning strips of 300 mm in width shall be provided; for those leading to an open space or the entrance/exit of a building, the tactile warning strips shall be 600 mm in width (see Figure 13). In this case, Braille and tactile information signs shall be provided on the adjacent wall to indicate the presence of an opening. For a staircase with intermediate steps between two flights, the provision of tactile warning strips shall follow the arrangement in Figure 13.

27. Avoidance of Projection

No appliances, fixtures or fittings shall project beyond 90 mm from the surface of any wall in a staircase below a level of 2000 mm above the treads of the staircase unless they are unavoidable, in which case they shall also be extended downwards to the level of the treads.

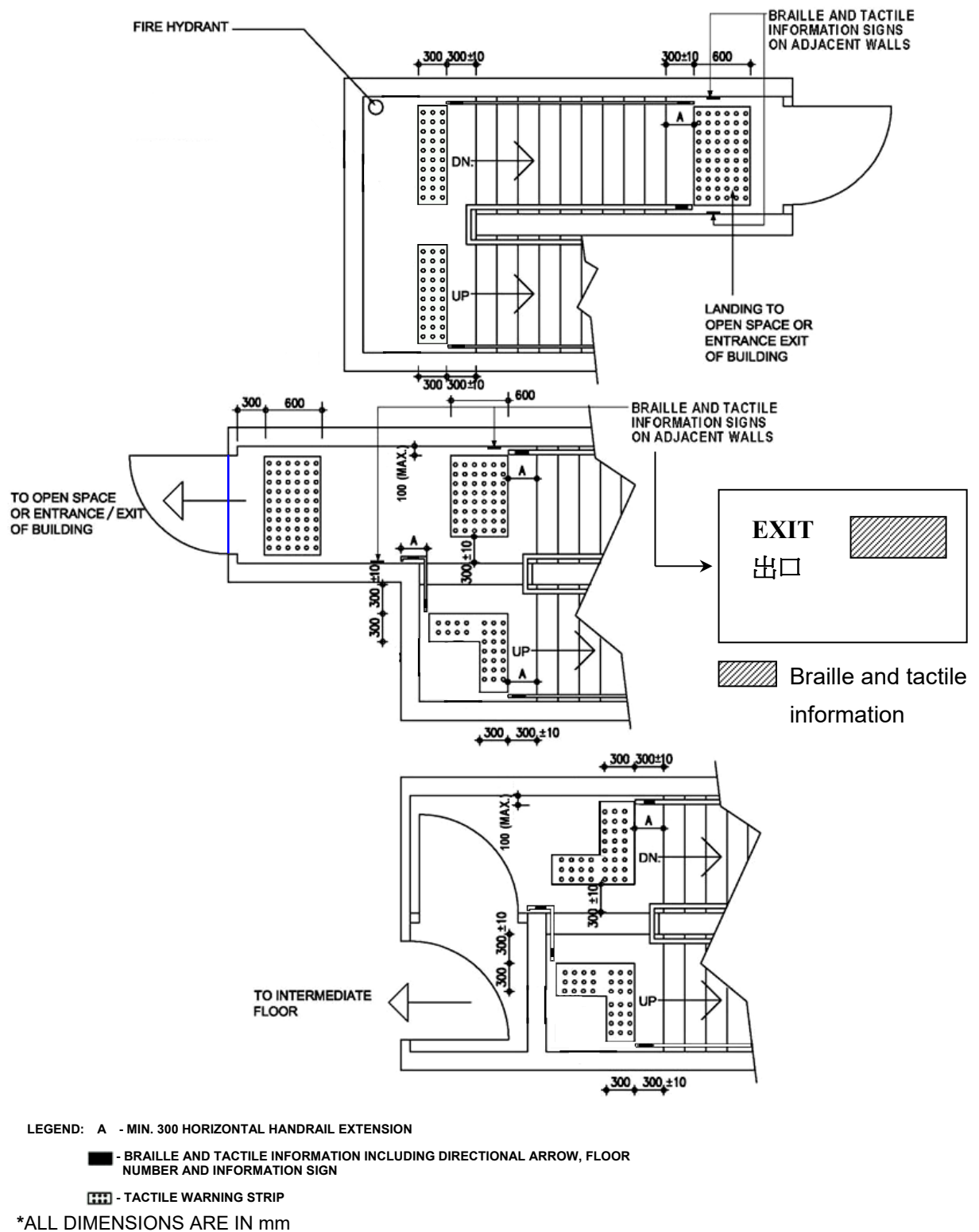


Figure 13 – Arrangement of Tactile Warning Strips and Handrails at Staircases

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

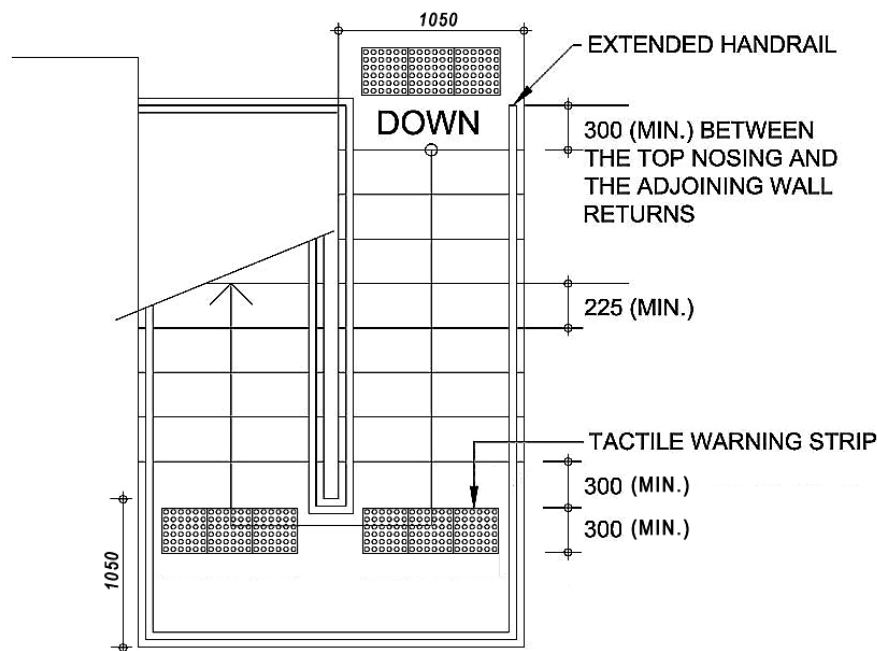
A. Design Considerations

- (a) Where steps or stairs are in an accessible route, complementary ramps, lifts or escalators should be provided.
- (b) All steps should be uniform.
- (c) Circular stair and sloped landing should be avoided.
- (d) It is necessary to provide safe and well-dimensioned staircase for the comfort of all people, especially those with mobility problems.
- (e) When ascending a stair, people who wear calipers or who have stiffness in hip or knee joints are particularly at risk of trapping the toes of their shoes beneath projecting nosings.
- (f) Stair should be designed with more generous dimensions, e.g. wider tread, and shorter travel distance is recommended. No open risers should be installed.
- (g) Unawareness of steps is dangerous to persons with visual impairment. Timely tactile or audible warning of change in level is therefore essential. Warning should be placed sufficiently in advance of any potential dangers.
- (h) The provision of Braille and high luminous contrast signs is recommended. For persons with visual impairment, high luminous contrast, larger font, more prominent and well-defined shape of sign/signage is recommended.
- (i) Despite the design requirements of tactile guide paths and tactile warning strips would help orientation for persons with visual impairment, they sometimes impose hazards to people with limited mobility, children and the elderly.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Dimension and Orientation

- (a) For any internal stair with heavy circulation and any external steps and stairs, riser should be reduced to 150 mm high and tread be increased to 300 mm wide for greater ease of use.
- (b) Individual flight should not exceed 1800 mm in height nor a total of 12 risers.
- (c) The top nosing of any flight should be built not less than 300 mm from the point at which the adjoining wall returns (see Figure 14).
- (d) Winder, spiral staircase and splayed step should be avoided.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 14 – Example of Staircase Plan for Persons with a Disability

Luminous Contrast

- (e) Non-slip nosing should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with the adjoining surfaces.
- (f) Treads of staircase should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with the walls.

Division 8 --- HANDRAILS

Handrails provide support for everyone and are especially helpful for persons with a disability and the elderly to use staircases, to pull themselves up inclines, check themselves on declines and to assist them in moving within the building.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Handrails shall be of the correct sizes, strengths and shapes and be conveniently located to provide secure hand-grips, and be capable of taking the entire weight of the persons using them.

Obligatory Design Requirements

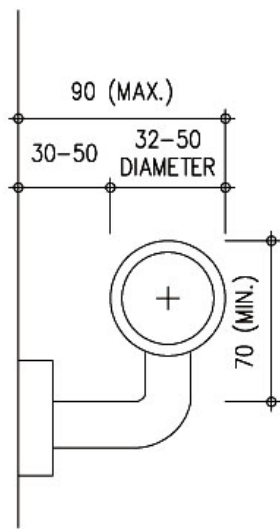
28. Dimension and Shape of Handrail

- (1) Handrail to ramp and step shall be fixed not less than 30 mm and not more than 50 mm clear of wall and with a clear height of 70 mm from the top of the bracket to the top of the handrail.
- (2) The top of handrail shall be at a height of not less than 850 mm and not more than 950 mm above any nosing, floor or landing.
- (3)&(4) Handrail shall be:
 - (i) tubular, not less than 32 mm and not greater than 50 mm in external diameter; or
 - (ii) in other shapes that can provide the user a grip similar to that specified in the case of tubular handrails.
- (5)&(6) Handrail shall extend horizontally not less than 300 mm beyond the first and last nosing of every flight of steps or beyond the ends of a ramp and terminate into a closed end which shall turn down or return fully to end post or wall face and which shall not project into a route of travel. Where a door opening is in place, a shortened extension of not less than 100 mm shall be permitted.

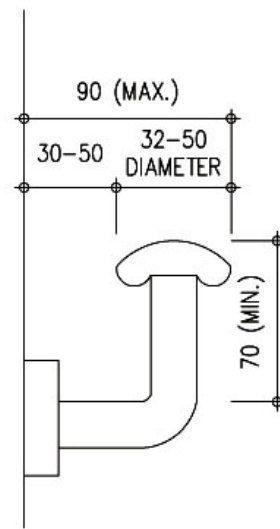
Typical handrail sections are shown in Figure 15.

29. Loading

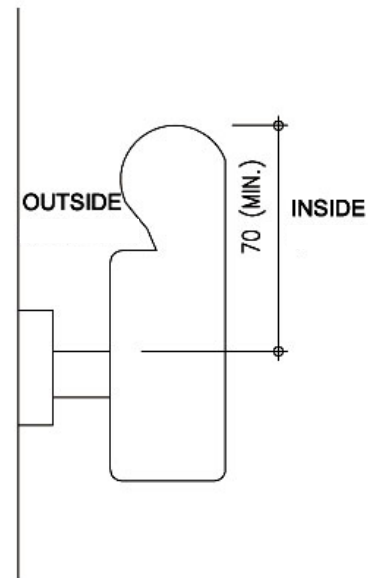
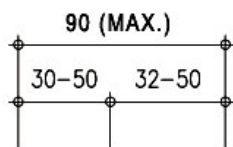
- (1) Handrail shall be installed to resist a load of not less than 1.3 kN applied vertically or horizontally.
- (2) Handrail shall not rotate within its fixing fittings.



TYPE 1



TYPE 2



TYPE 3

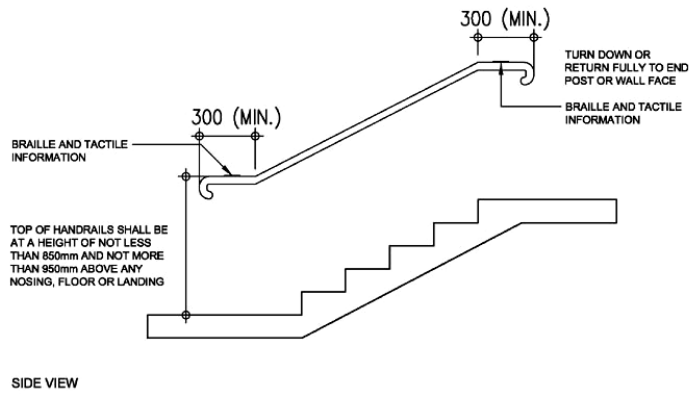
*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 15 - Handrails

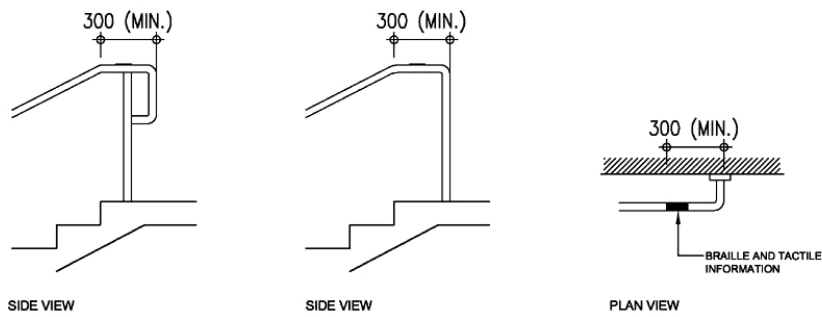
Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

30. Braille and Tactile Information

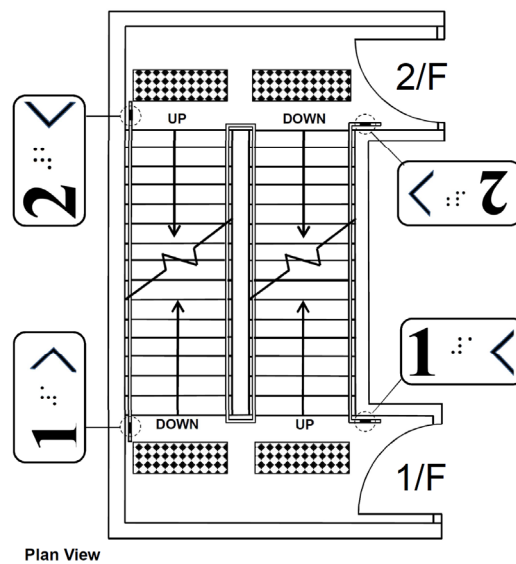
Braille and tactile information on directional arrow and floor number shall be provided on handrail on every floor at a designated location as illustrated in Figures 16A to facilitate persons with visual impairment. Where a directional sign exists on handrails, Braille and tactile information shall also be provided as illustrated in Figure 13.



Other alternatives of end of handrail



Braille and Tactile Information (From Left to Right: Floor Number, Braille, Directional Arrow)



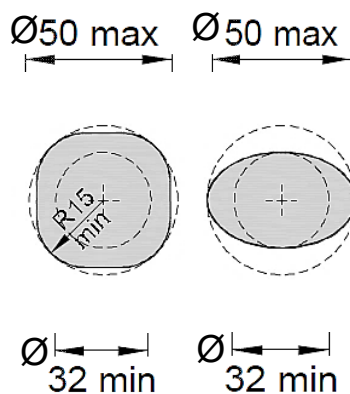
*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 16A – Handrails of Staircase

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Handrail should be designed to provide easy, firm and comfortable grip to all users and should have no obstruction when people slide their hands along the handrail. Handrail in shape other than tubular should provide user a grip similar to tubular handrail and adequate space should be provided for installation of the Braille and tactile information as stated in paragraph 30. Examples of acceptable handrail cross section profiles (other than tubular shape) are shown in Figure 16AA.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

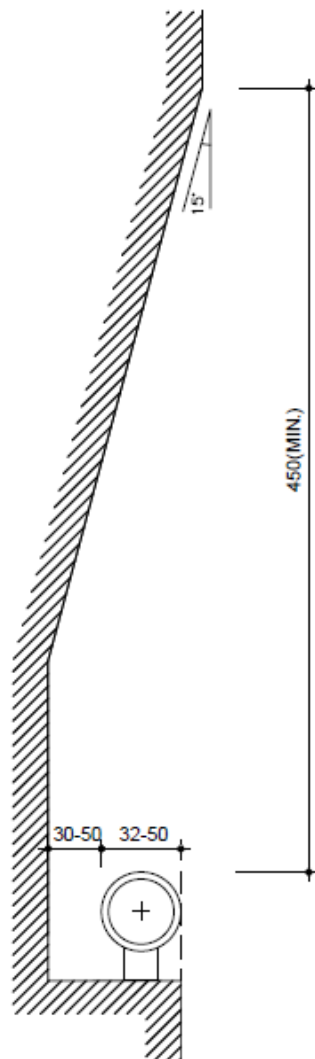
**Figure 16AA – Examples of Acceptable Handrail Cross Section Profiles
(other than tubular shape)**

- (b) The installation level of the handrail and clearance dimensions should facilitate a safer grip and prevent hand injuries especially for the elderly and persons with visual impairment.
- (c) Handrail finished in more noticeable colours with Braille and tactile information should facilitate self-help circulation of persons with visual impairment.
- (d) The materials and shapes of handrail should be carefully designed to suit the elderly. In addition, handrail designed with different levels of grab bars should be recommended for different users' purposes.
- (e) Handrail should be set at a height that is convenient for all users of the building and should extend safely beyond the top and bottom of a flight of steps, or a ramp, to give both stability and warning of the presence of a change in level.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Clear Space

- (a) Where the wall has a rough surface, the clear space should be not less than 45 mm between the handrail and the wall.
- (b) A recess containing a handrail should extend not less than 450 mm above the top of the handrail as illustrated in Figure 16B.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 16B – Handrail in Recess

Double Handrail

- (c) One more handrail should be provided at a height of not less than 700 mm and not more than 800 mm above any nosing, floor or landing for schools and places of public entertainment.

Luminous Contrast

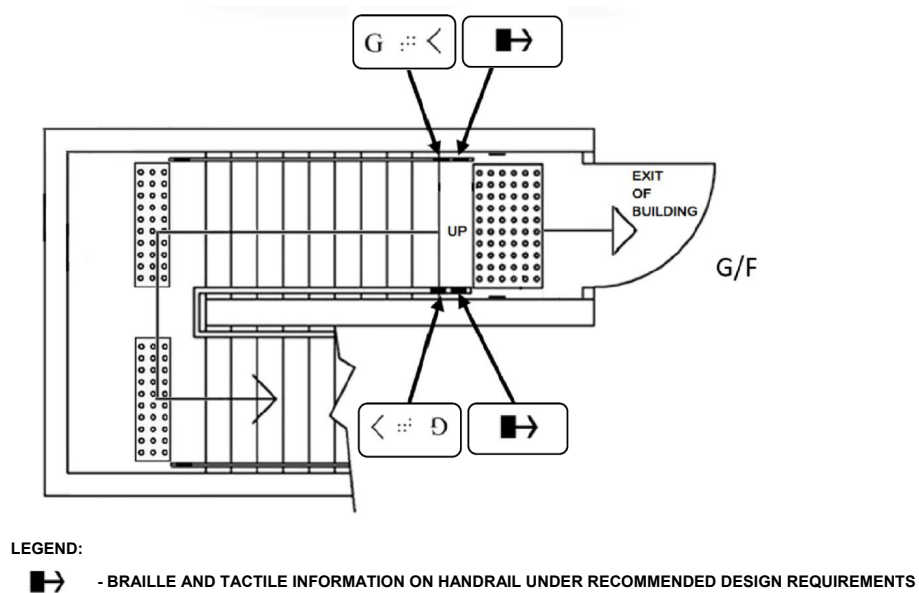
- (d) Handrail should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with the surrounding wall surfaces.

Slip-resistant

- (e) The surface of the handrails provided under paragraph 28 in Division 8 should be slip-resistant, e.g. stainless steel with hair-line finish.

Braille and Tactile Information for Exit of Building

- (f) For landings of staircase leading to the exit of a building, Braille and tactile information on exit of building (see Figure 16C) should be provided on handrails of staircase as illustrated in Figure 13.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 16C - Braille and Tactile Information on Handrail of Required Staircase

Division 9 --- CORRIDORS, LOBBIES AND PATHS

Corridors are passages providing for internal circulation within a building. Lobbies provide interceptions at entries to staircases or lifts and connections to corridors where appropriate.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Corridors, lobbies and paths shall be designed to an appropriate standard to allow all people to travel within a building safely and independently.

Obligatory Design Requirements

31. Manoeuvring Space

Space shall be allowed for manoeuvring wheelchairs in corridor, lobby, path and similar areas as follows:

- (a) area shall have a clear width of not less than 1050 mm;
- (b) a space not less than 1500 mm x 1500 mm shall be provided within 3500 mm of every dead end;
- (c) any lobby in a corridor shall have a length of not less than 1200 mm, excluding space for door swings;
- (d) a level area, extending not less than 1200 mm beyond the swings of the doors and not less than 1500 mm in width shall be provided on both sides of every entrance of a building; and
- (e) this paragraph shall not apply to lobby which lead to staircase only.

For the purpose of this paragraph, “dead end” is a corridor, lobby or path where the means of exit for persons with a disability is in one direction only.

32. Channel Covers

On footpath, cover to a channel shall be flush with the surface of the footpath. Any hole in such cover or between such covers shall have a dimension of not more than 20 mm.

33. Gratings

Slot of gratings shall have a width of not more than 13 mm and shall not be parallel with pedestrian travel path (see Figure 17).

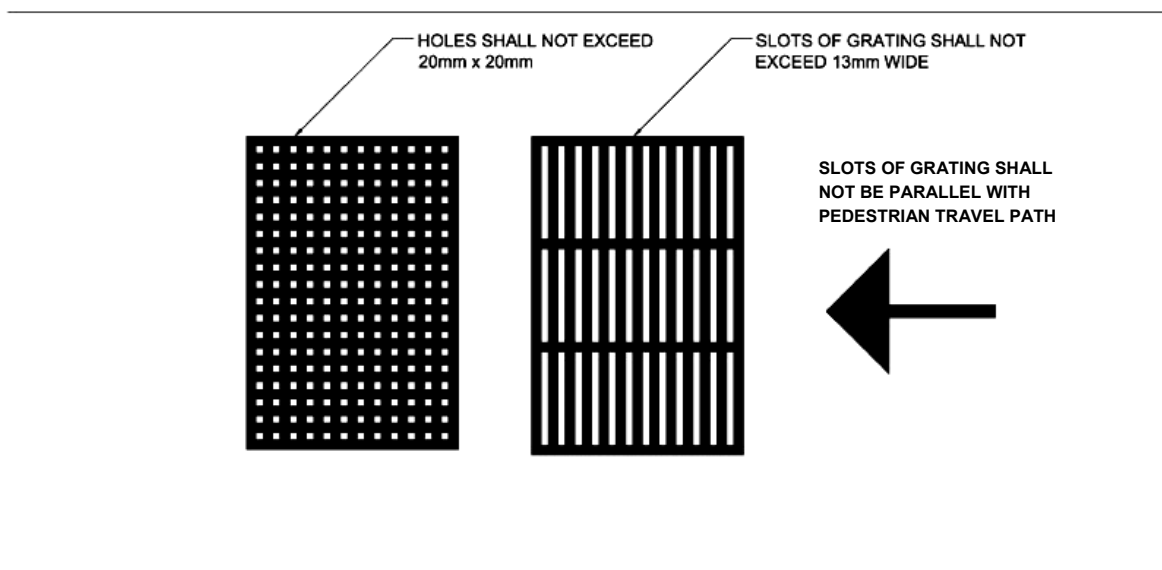


Figure 17 – Grating Size and Orientation

34. Protrusion

No appliances, fixtures and fittings shall project beyond 90 mm from the surface of any wall in corridors, paths and lobbies below a level of 2000 mm above the finished floor level unless they are unavoidable, in which case they shall also be extended downwards to the finished floor level or guided by tactile flooring materials.

35. Controlled Passage

For cashier counter, security device installed at shop entrance or turnstile controlled passage accessible to the public, each shall have at least one path of minimum 800 mm in width for the use by wheelchair users and clearly marked with international symbol of accessibility, unless an alternative passage adjacent to the controlled passage is provided (see Figure 18).

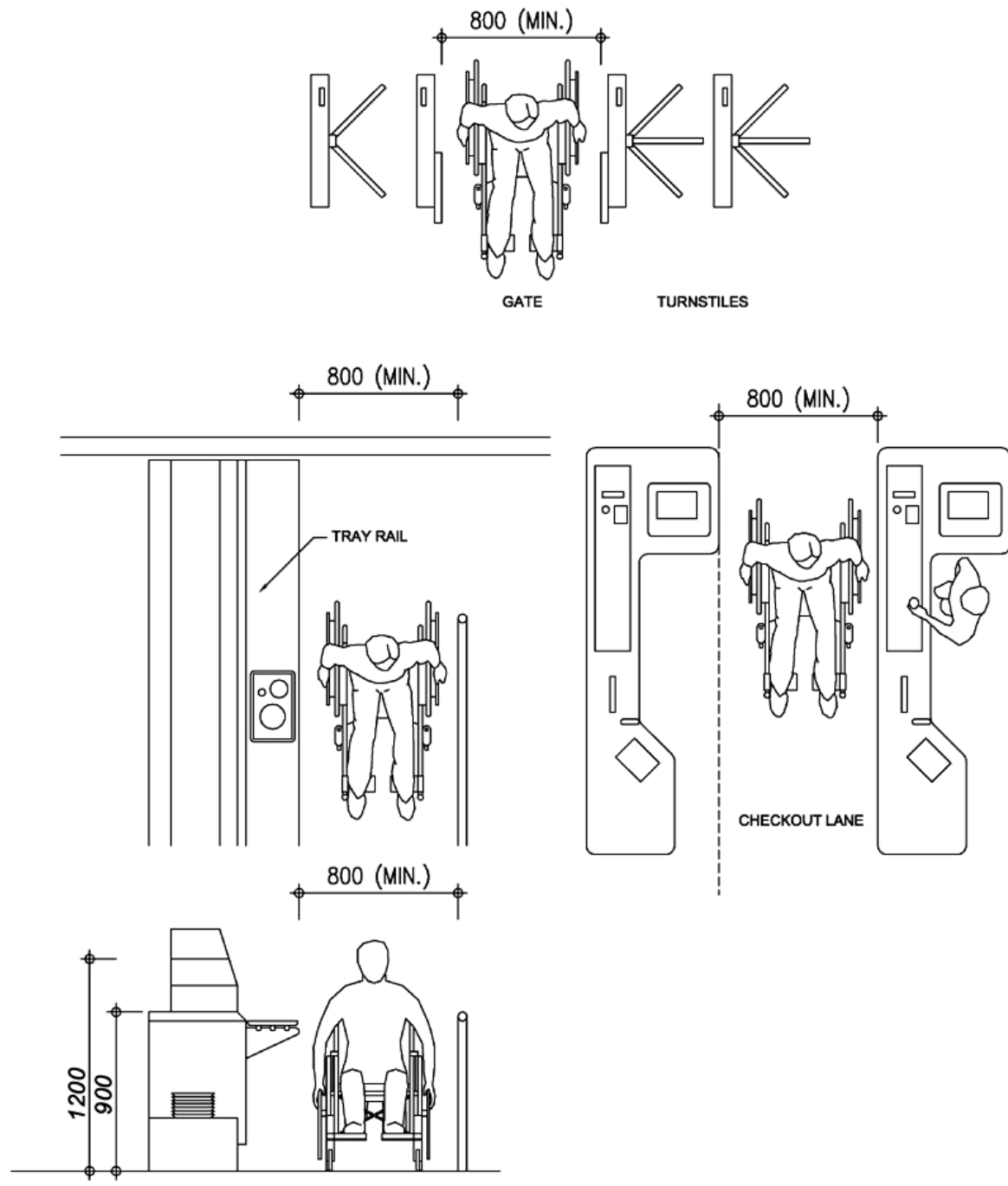
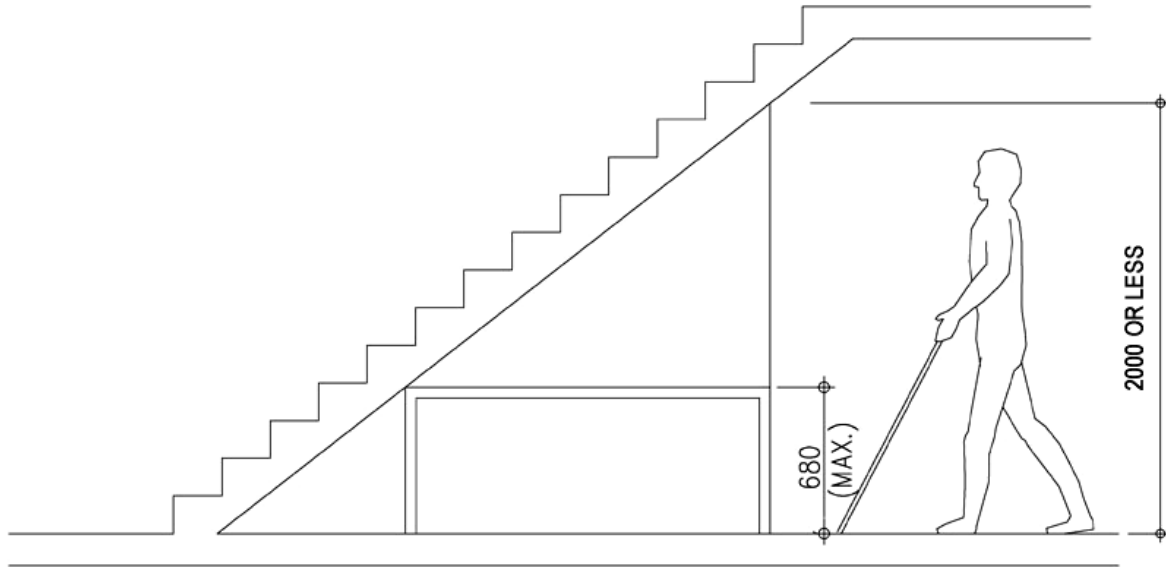


Figure 18 – Width of Controlled Passages

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

36. Headroom

Where the headroom is 2000 mm or less from the finished floor level, a warning guardrail or other barrier shall be provided for detection, having its leading edge at or below 680 mm above the finished floor level (see Figure 19).



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 19 – Overhead Hazard

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

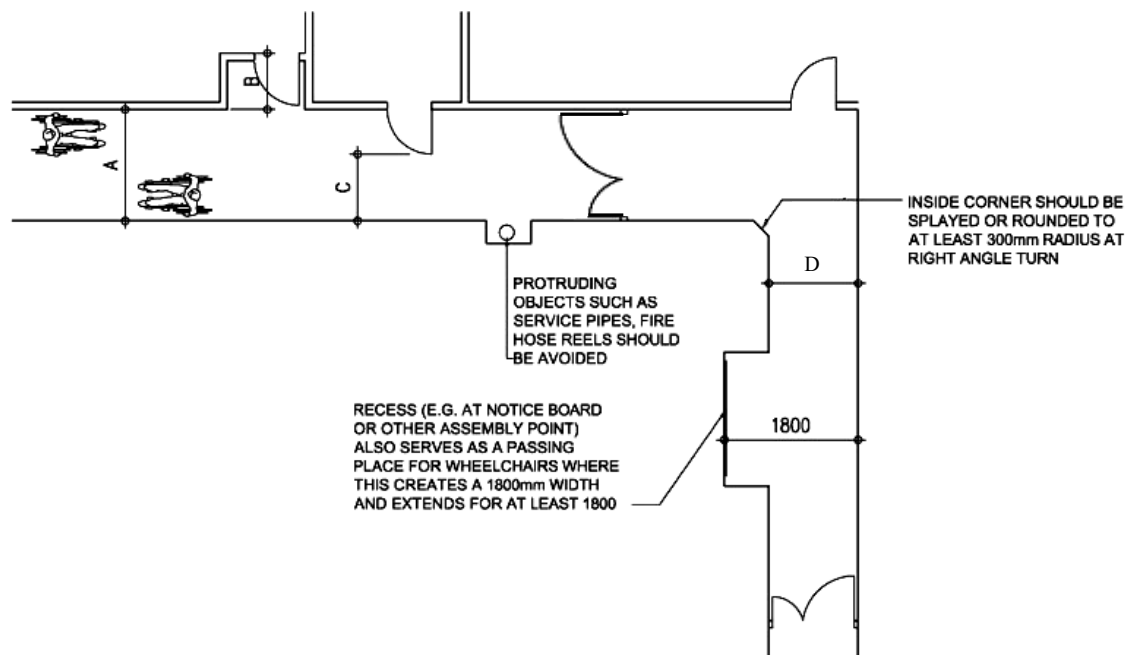
A. Design Considerations

- (a) Corridors, lobbies and paths should be designed to have appropriate dimensions to allow people using wheelchair or other forms of mobility aids to pass others on the access route.
- (b) To facilitate the way finding for persons with visual impairment, surfaces and finishes with luminous contrast between the wall and the ceiling, and between the wall and the floor should be adopted. Appropriate lighting design with adequate illumination should also be considered.
- (c) Adequate manoeuvring space for wheelchair particularly in lobby and corridor of domestic building should be provided in order to facilitate the wheelchair users in passing through corridor especially when turning through 180° is required.
- (d) Protruding object can be extremely hazardous to the persons with visual impairment as well as the general public. Examples of protruding obstruction are sign, drinking fountain, fire extinguisher, telephone enclosure, and underside of stairway or escalator, etc. Protruding object should be recessed into the wall as far as possible.
- (e) Long corridors and passageways are difficult for persons with locomotion impairment to negotiate. Therefore, adequate resting places with resting facilities should be provided therein. Such resting facilities should not reduce the statutory requirements on the clear width of access and manoeuvring space and should not cause obstruction to access, circulation and exit routes.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Width

- (a) Path width should be more than 1200 mm to enable a wheelchair user to pass anyone who is on the same path or preferably at least 1500 mm to allow two wheelchairs to pass. For a hospital, purpose-built clinic, welfare centre, transport station, transport interchange, passenger terminal, school and shopping complex on a site of an area of not less than 1000 m², width of access routes, corridors, lobbies and paths which are commonly used by the public should be not less than 1500 mm. At right angle turns, inside corner should be splayed or rounded to at least 300 mm radius (see Figure 20).



- A. A CLEAR WIDTH OF 1500 mm WILL ALLOW TWO WHEELCHAIR USERS TO PASS EACH OTHER.
- B. DEPTH OF RECESS SHOULD NOT BE LESS THAN THE WIDTH OF THE DOOR LEAF.
- C. 900 mm CLEAR SPACE WHERE DOORS OPEN INTO A CORRIDOR.
- D. A CLEAR WIDTH OF CORRIDOR SHOULD NOT BE LESS THAN 1200 mm

*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 20 – Dimension and Space Allowance for Corridor in Building

B. Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Surface

- (b) All corridors should have slip-resistant surfaces with a “static coefficient of friction” of “Good” grading (see Appendix C).
- (c) Surface paved with loose gravel or stone is hazardous and should be avoided.
- (d) Hazards on floor, caused by unnecessary projection or by unexpected change in level should be avoided.

Luminous Contrast

- (e) A minimum luminous contrast of 30% should clearly define between wall, floor and door surfaces

Protruding Objects

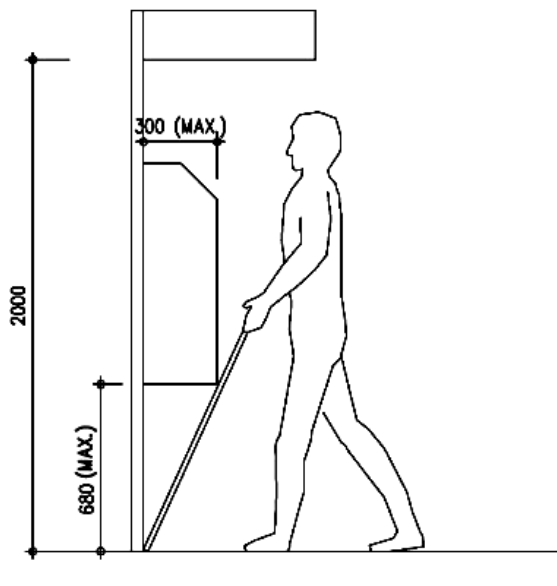
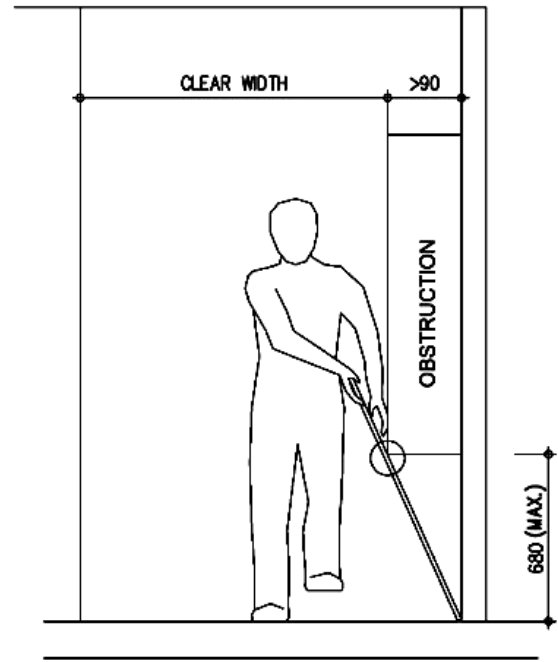
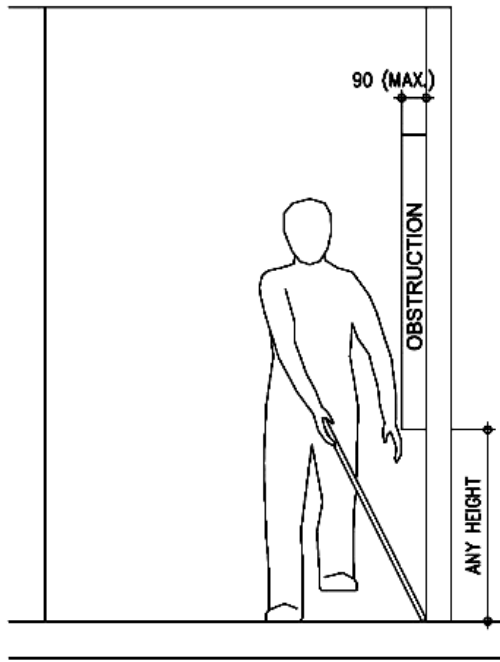
- (f) The protruding object should not reduce the statutory required clear width and height of access and manoeuvring space (see Figure 21).
- (g) Protruding object should include but not limited to sign, telephone enclosure, drinking fountain, fire extinguisher, underside of stairway or escalator.
- (h) Where it is reasonable to anticipate visit of persons with visual impairment, protruding object should be avoided at pedestrian areas include walkway, hall, corridor, aisle, lobby, mall and all areas open to the public.

Round Edges

- (i) The counters or devices installed at controlled passages and the warning guard rails provided for low headroom should be designed with round edges.

Resting Places

- (j) Seats (including fold-down seats) or lean-on railings should be provided in recessed areas at maximum intervals of 50 m in:
 - (i) long corridors and passageways within transport stations, interchanges and passenger terminals; and
 - (ii) public passages within a building connecting with transport stations, interchanges and passenger terminals.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 21 – Examples of Design to Cater for Protrusion Hazards

Division 10 --- DOORS

- 37.** The requirements of this Division apply to doors on accessible routes.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Doors and doorways shall be designed to enable all people especially wheelchair user to enter and leave any room unaided or without undue difficulties.

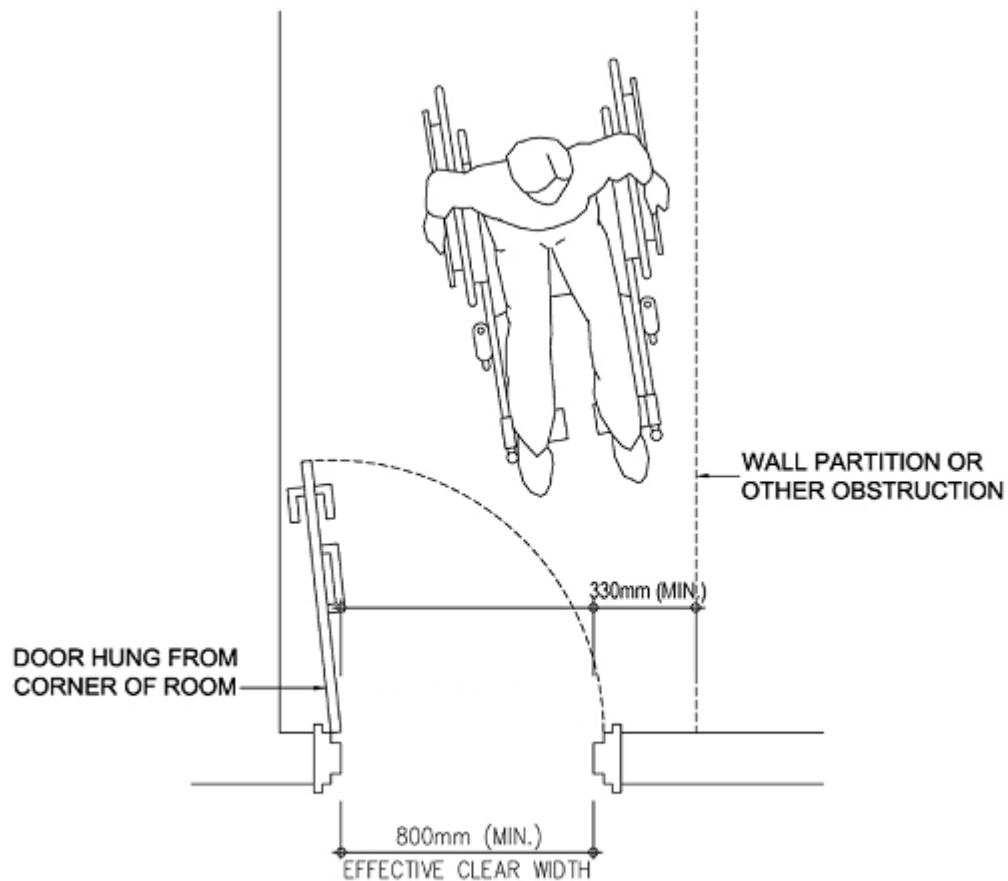
Obligatory Design Requirements

38. Width of Doors

Door, including one leaf of a pair of double doors, shall have a clear width of not less than 800 mm between the open door and opposite jamb or the other leaf (see Figure 22).

39. Unobstructed Area

- (1) The unobstructed area adjacent to the door handle on the leading face of a single door shall not be less than 330 mm in width (see Figure 22).
- (2) Door, if less than 330 mm from the corner of a room, shall swing from the side nearer to that corner.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 22 – Plan of Door Suitable for Wheelchair

40. Double-action Self-closing Doors

Double-action self-closing door shall have a check mechanism to prevent the door swinging beyond the closed position and a transparent vision-panel with a bottom edge not more than 1000 mm above the floor and the top edge not less than 1500 mm above the finished floor level.

41. Handles

Door handle shall not be less than 950 mm and not more than 1050 mm above the finished floor level, measured from the top surface of the grip.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

42. Door Thresholds

Door threshold shall not exceed 20 mm in height and shall be bevelled to facilitate passage of wheelchairs.

43. Door Closing Devices

Door closing devices shall be designed to allow exterior and interior doors to be opened with horizontal force of not more than 30 N and 22 N respectively. Door required to have fire resistance period installed along accessible routes shall be opened with horizontal force of not more than 30 N. Closer for interior door shall have a closing period of at least 3 seconds measured from an open position of 70° to a point 75 mm from the closed position measured from the leading edge of the door. Door closing devices include door closer, spring hinge and floor hinge.

44. Frameless Glass Doors

If frameless glass door is used, it shall be prominently marked so as to make it visible. The marking shall be placed across on the glass door such that at least a portion of the marking is placed between 900 mm and 1500 mm above the finished floor. The colour marking shall also be provided to glass panel adjacent to the glass door.

45. Automatic Main Entrance Doors

Automatic door shall be provided to one of the main entrances, which is commonly used by the public, of sports stadium, town hall, civic centre, theatre, museum, public library, shopping complex, sports complex, public swimming pool complex, office building, hotel and hospital.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Door may be manually operated without powered assistance, or power operated under manual or automatic control. An automatically operated sliding door is a preferred solution for most people as it avoids the risks associated with automatic swing door and its use can make it possible to reduce the length of entrance lobbies.
- (b) A door fitted with a self-closing device to stand against wind force is difficult to be openable by many people, particularly those who are wheelchair users or who have limited strength. Where closing devices are needed for fire control, the use of electrically powered hold open devices or swing-free closing devices is appropriate.
- (c) All doors should be wide enough to allow unrestricted passage for different users, including wheelchair users, people carrying luggage and parents with baby carriages and small children.

A. Design Considerations (Cont'd)

- (d) Sufficient space alongside the leading edge of a door should be provided to enable a wheelchair user to reach and grip the door handle, then open the door without releasing hold on the handle and without the wheelchair footrest colliding with the return wall.
- (e) The presence of door, whether opened or closed, should be apparent to persons with visual impairment through the careful choice of colour and materials for the door and its surroundings. Provision of marking on glass doors would help persons with visual impairment to distinguish obstacles and passage as well as for public to avoid collision.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

External Doors

- (a) External door should be single-action and open outwards to obviate high tension in spring closers in sustaining wind pressure.

Latched Doors

- (b) Where door is latched, lever-type handle should be used.

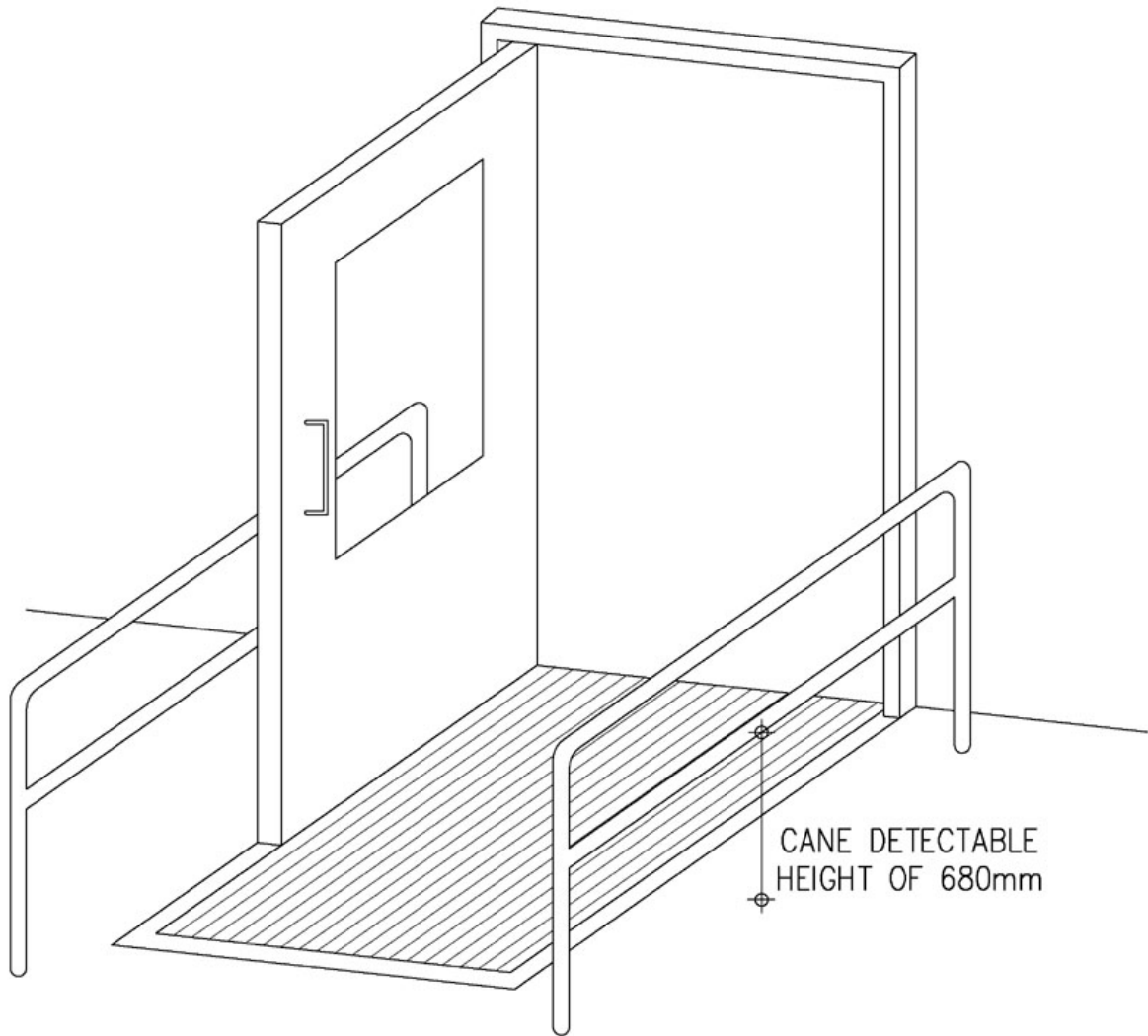
Kick-plates

- (c) All doors which allow the passage of wheelchairs should have kick-plates of not less than 200 mm high fitted on the face which swings away.

Automatic Door Openers

- (d) Other than a domestic building, automatic door openers should be provided on all entrance doors of a building which are commonly used by the public, and should:
 - (i) remain open for a minimum of 5 seconds;
 - (ii) have a guardrail where it opens into a route of travel (see Figure 23);
 - (iii) have a sign showing automatic door; and
 - (iv) be located outside of the door swing.

Sliding automatic door with overhead sensor operating device or manual large button control should be provided.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 23 – Guardrails at Out-swinging Automatic Doors

Vision Panels

- (e) Transparent vision-panel should be provided to door in between accessible path. The vision-panel should be installed with bottom edge not more than 1000 mm and top edge not less than 1500 mm above the finished floor level.

Glass Doors

- (f) The leading edge of glass door should be marked to indicate glass.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

- (fa) The marking provided at a frameless glass door should consist of at least a horizontal band with a minimum height of 100 mm and contrasting colours with the background to assist visibility. The marking including those in broken or solid lines, patterns or company logos, etc., should cover at least 10% of the glazing area within the zone between 900 mm and 1500 mm above the internal finished floor. If the horizontal band design is not adopted, other types of marking should still be designed horizontally across the glass door. Such kind of marking should cover at least 30% of the glazing area within the zone between 900 mm and 1500 mm above the internal finished floor.

Luminous Contrast

- (g) Door handle of manually operated doors and control switch or button of door with powered open devices should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with the background finishes.

Doors to Areas with Accessible Facilities

- (h) Fire rated doors leading to areas with accessible facilities should be provided with hold-open device except for doors to a required staircase forming part of a protected exit and its protected lobby. Doors not for fire safety purposes leading to areas with accessible facilities should be automatic.

Width of Doors

- (i) Door, including one leaf of a double-leaf door, should have a clear width of not less than 850 mm between the open door and opposite jamb or the other leaf.

Unobstructed Area

- (j) An unobstructed area adjacent to the door handle on the leading face of a single door should not be less than 600 mm in width.

Door Thresholds

- (k) Door threshold (see Figure 23A) should have a bevelled and round edge on each side at a gradient not steeper than 1:2.

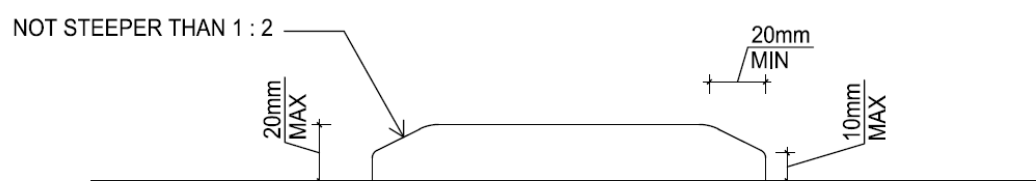


Figure 23A – Example of Door Threshold

Division 11 --- TOILETS AND W.C. CUBICLES

This Division explains the requirements to enable persons with a disability, including wheelchair users to use the facilities provided in a toilet independently as far as possible. A typical toilet is shown in Figure 24. Different approaches for transferring the person from a wheelchair to a watercloset are shown in Figures B5, B6 and B7 in Appendix B.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Sufficient, properly designed and located toilet and W.C. cubicles shall be available for use by everybody including people of either sex, people with babies and small children, persons with a disability, wheelchair users and the elderly and elderly with frailty, etc. with or without any assistance from others. Space requirements are set to enable a wheelchair user to manoeuvre into position for frontal, side or diagonal transfer to and from the W.C. seat.

Obligatory Design Requirements

46. Provision of Accessible W.C. Cubicle

There shall be at least one accessible W.C. cubicle on a floor, or in that part of a floor designed for access by the persons with a disability where the total number of W.C. cubicles provided on that floor or in that part of a floor is 20 or less, or 2 where the total number exceeds 20. This paragraph shall not apply to domestic buildings and the domestic parts of composite buildings or where there is no toilet provided on the particular floor.

Where the accessible W.C. cubicles are within a toilet with multiple cubicles, the minimum number of such accessible W.C. cubicles to be provided for each sex shall be based on the total number of W.C. cubicles for each sex on that floor or in that part of a floor designed for access by persons with a disability.

The W.C. cubicles required by this Manual shall be deemed to be included in the number of soil fitments required under the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations (Cap. 123 sub. leg.) and Part VII of the Education Regulations (Cap. 279 sub. leg.).

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

47. Accessible Unisex Toilet

Where toilet is provided on a floor, at least one shall be designed as an accessible unisex sanitary facility for use by persons of both sexes and access to which does not necessitate traversing an area reserved for one sex only. It shall be designed for general use and include adequate circulation space for wheelchair users in accordance with the obligatory requirements as set out in this Division.

48. Location of Accessible W.C. Cubicle

W.C. cubicles shall be accessible:

- (a) directly from a public corridor; and
- (b) where situated within a toilet containing other W.C. cubicles, through a clear space not less than 1500 mm x 1500 mm immediately in front of the compartment to allow manoeuvrability or by direct approach where no turning of the wheelchair is necessary.

49. Design of Accessible W.C. Cubicle

The accessible W.C. cubicle shall not be less than 1500 mm x 1750 mm in area and the clear manoeuvring space within the cubicle shall not be less than 1500 mm x 1500 mm measured at 350 mm above finished floor level and the cubicle shall have in it a watercloset at a height not less than 380 mm and not more than 450 mm, measured to the top of the toilet seat. Waterclosets shall be equipped with a back support such as a seat lid and seats shall not be spring-actuated.

50. Flushing Controls

Flushing control shall be mounted on the wide side of the cubicle at a height between 600 mm and 1050 mm above the finished floor level and shall be hand-operated or automatic. Hand-operated controls shall be capable of being operated with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist. The force required shall not be greater than 22 N.

51. Wash Basins

The toilet shall be provided with a wash basin mounted with the rim not higher than 750 mm above the finished floor level. A clearance of 550 mm shall be maintained from the finished floor level to the bottom of the apron.

Tap for wash basin shall be automatic or of lever control type without spring loading, subject to the approval of the Water Supplies Department. Tap shall not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist. The operating force required shall not be greater than 22 N.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

52. Toilet/Cubicle Doors

Door shall be installed with push-type or lever-type handles and capable of being easily opened/closed by one hand. Any door fastening shall be capable of being released from the outside in the event of an emergency.

No coin box shall be affixed to the door of the cubicle.

53. Grab Rails

There shall be at least two grab rails which shall not be less than 32 mm and not more than 40 mm in external diameter and shall be fixed on the wall leaving a grip space of not less than 30 mm clear of the mounting wall. The two grab rails constructed in one continuous piece is acceptable. The length of grab rail shall not be less than 600 mm.

There shall be one grab rail fixed on each of both the inner and outer surfaces of the cubicle door; which shall not be less than 32 mm and not more than 40 mm in external diameter. The grab rail shall have a grip space of not less than 30 mm clear of each door surface.

There shall be one folding grab rail on the wide side of the cubicle adjacent to the watercloset at a height between 725 mm and 750 mm above the finished floor level when lowered from the wall. Simple instructions in English, Chinese and Braille on how to unfold the rail should be affixed to the wall. The grab rail, folding grab rail and wash basin shall be capable of carrying a static load of 150 kg.

The grab rail shall not rotate within its fixing fittings.

54. Emergency Call Bell

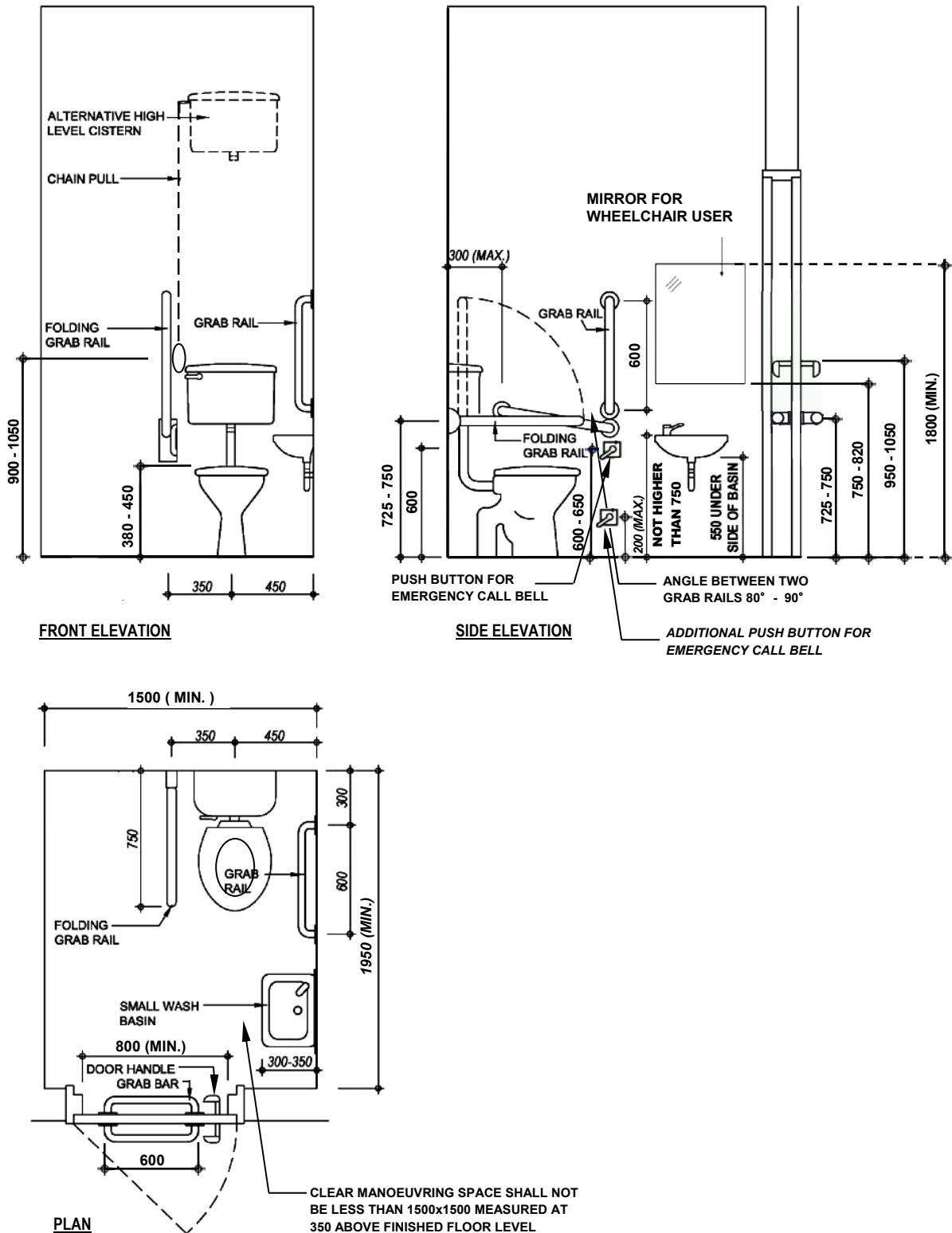
An emergency call bell complying with Division 17 shall be provided in an accessible W.C. cubicle.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

55. Urinals

If more than one urinal is provided, at least one urinal shall:

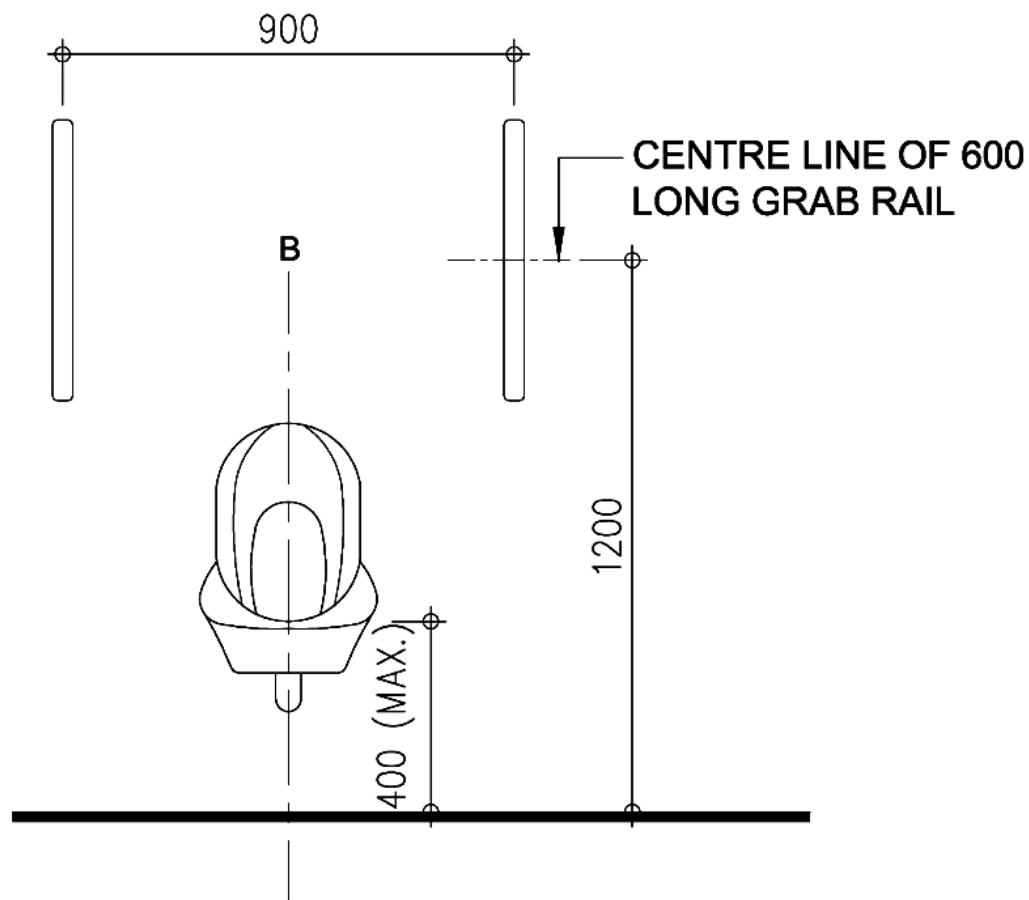
- (a) have a clear levelled space of not less than 800 mm wide x 1500 mm deep in front; and
- (b) be wall hung urinal with a front rim not higher than 400 mm, and have vertical grab rails of not less than 32 mm and not more than 40 mm in external diameter and of 600 mm length on both sides at a height of 1200 mm above the finished floor level for use by persons with ambulant disabilities (see Figure 25).



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm
 DIMENSIONS PRINTED IN **BOLD** FORM DENOTE OBLIGATORY DESIGN REQUIREMENTS
 DIMENSIONS PRINTED IN *ITALIC* FORM DENOTE RECOMMENDED DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

(Opposite - Handed Layout is Acceptable)

Figure 24 – Accessible Toilet



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 25 – Urinal for Use by Persons with Ambulant Disabilities

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Adequate and convenient provision of toileting facilities commensurate with the anticipated use by all users either with or without assistance from others.
- (b) Appropriate sanitary accommodation should be available to all, including persons with ambulant disabilities, wheelchair users, the elderly and people of either sex with babies and small children.
- (c) Provision of a safe environment capable of accommodating the toileting needs and requirements of persons with a disability or the elderly.

Design Considerations (Cont'd)

- (d) If there is adequate space inside the toilet or cubicle units, double swing door open both inwards and outwards or sliding door may be provided to enable assistance during emergency situations.
- (da) Power-operated door is considered convenient for persons with a disability, and a power-operated sliding door is preferable to power-operated swing door from safety point of view. The swing path and mechanism of power-operated swing doors should not pose a risk of colliding with passers-by.
- (e) Urinals should be accessible and can be easily found by persons with visual impairment. The grab rails for aiding the elderly and tactile surface materials for aiding persons with visual impairment should be provided.
- (f) Accessible unisex toilet facilities can serve both sexes, those with or without assistance, and accommodate a greater number of users. It is more easily identified than a facility in a separate-sex toilet and more likely to be available when required, particularly as the elderly and some persons with a disability need to use toilets more frequently than others. In addition, a unisex facility enables assistants of either sex to assist the user.
- (g) There is a tendency for the specification of sanitary fittings and fixtures to be in white colour to make cleanliness easily observable. Often the fittings are set against light or white coloured tiling which makes clear identification difficult for the persons with visual impairment. Sanitary fittings should have luminous contrast or colour contrast against the background finishes.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Unisex Facilities

- (a) W.C. cubicles should, where possible, be unisex and accessible from a corridor so that they can be used by either sex with assistance from members of the opposite sex, if necessary.
- (b) If two or more accessible unisex facilities are provided, at least one should be of opposite handed layout to the other(s).

W.C. Cubicles

- (c) The clear distance between the watercloset and the wash basin should not be more than 600 mm for the users' convenience after toileting. The clear manoeuvring space within the cubicle shall not be less than 1500 mm x 1950 mm.
- (d) The angle between the two grab rails should be within the range of 80° to 90°.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Toilet/Compartment Doors

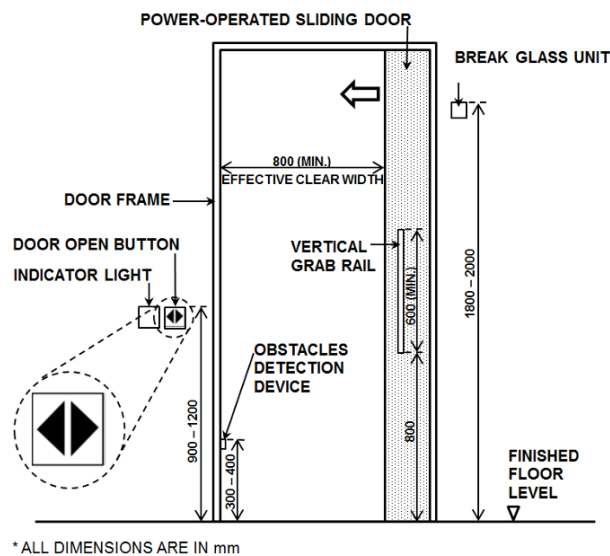
- (e) Double swing doors which open both inwards and outwards may be provided in any toilets or cubicles. Sliding door fixed with vertical grab rails on both sides of the door in accordance with paragraph (ea) (viii) below is equally acceptable provided that it is not heavy or awkward to use. The requirements of door handle and horizontal grab rail will not be applicable to sliding doors.
- (ea) A power-operated door should be designed as follows:
 - (i) push pad type control buttons having a minimum dimension of 20 mm should be used to open or lock the door;
 - (ii) after the door is open, the door should be automatically closed after a minimum of 10-second time lapse. An audible signal should be provided to signify the door opening and closing action;
 - (iii) a detection device should be provided to re-open the door in the event of hitting any obstacle. The device should be positioned at a height between 300 mm and 400 mm above the finished floor level;
 - (iv) a lock button should be provided inside the toilet. The locking device should be able to be released from the outside manually upon activation of an emergency break glass unit installed between 1800 mm and 2000 mm above the finished floor level outside the toilet. The maximum horizontal force for opening the door manually should comply with the requirements stipulated in paragraph 43 in Division 10;
 - (v) in case the lock button is pressed before the door-closing action is complete, the door should still be able to be locked;
 - (vi) an audible message should be provided in English, Cantonese and Putonghua to inform the user after the door is locked;
 - (vii) an indicator activated by the locking device signifying the toilet is being occupied should be provided both inside and outside the toilet;
 - (viii) the door should be provided with vertical grab rails fixed on both sides of the door at the height of 800 mm from the finished floor level (measuring from the bottom of the grab rails) and with a grip space of not less than 30 mm clear of the door. Grab rails should not be less than 32 mm and not more than 40 mm in external diameter and not less than 600 mm in length;
 - (ix) the door including control buttons should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with the door frame and their surrounding finishes;
 - (x) a back-up emergency power supply should be provided for at least 20 minutes in power failure situation;
 - (xi) the control buttons should be installed at the wall adjacent to the door opening such that the user will not be interfered by the door movement. For a door swinging into an area with internal corner, the buttons should be located at least 600 mm from the internal corner of a room and the button should have a clear 1000 mm minimum distance from the swing of the door;
 - (xii) the control buttons should be located at not less than 900 mm and not more than 1200 mm above the finished floor level;

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

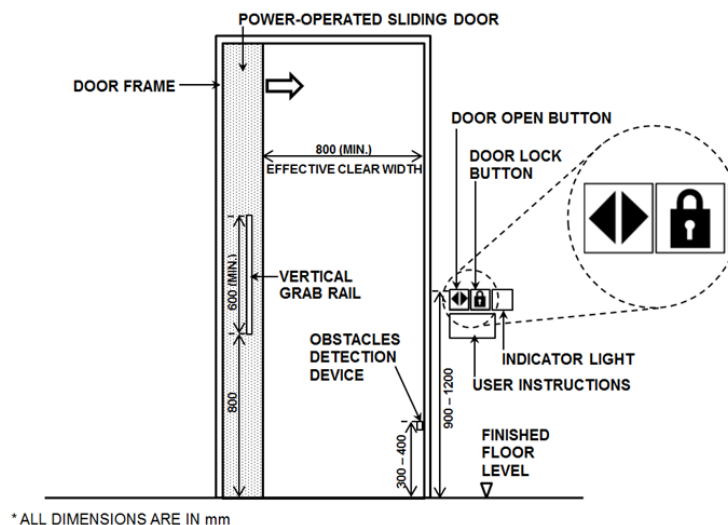
Toilet/Compartment Doors (Cont'd)

- (xiii) separate door open and lock buttons should be provided inside the toilet and placed together;
- (xiv) Braille and tactile marking should be provided to the control buttons in compliance with the requirements stipulated in paragraphs 80(5) and 80(6) in Division 19 and Figures 25A and 25B; and
- (xv) user instructions in Chinese, English and Braille on how to open and lock the door should be provided adjacent to the control buttons inside the toilet.

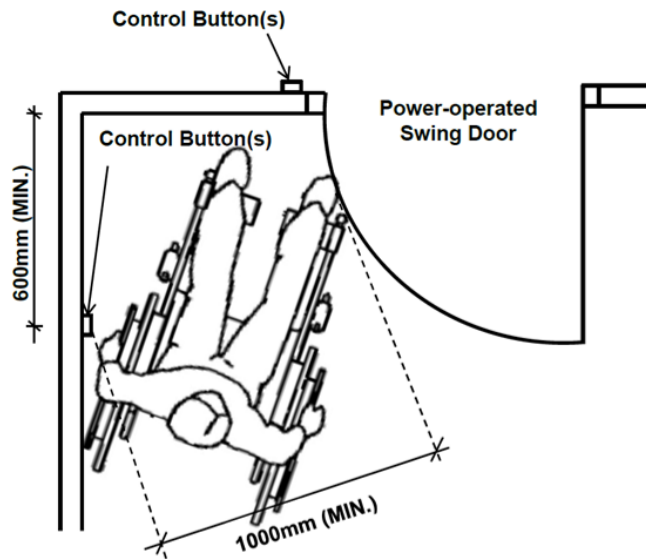
See examples in Figures 25A to 25D.



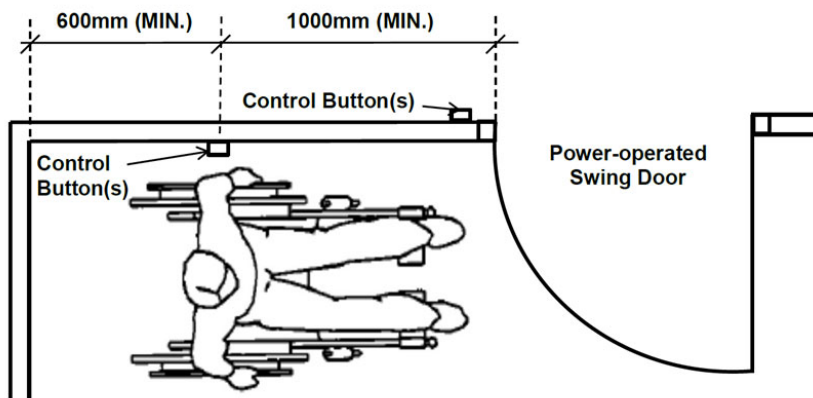
**Figure 25A – Elevation of Power-operated Sliding Door
(View from Outside of Accessible Toilet)**



**Figure 25B – Elevation of Power-operated Sliding Door
(View from Inside of Accessible Toilet)**



**Figure 25C – Plan of Power-operated Swing Door
(Control Button(s) on Separate Walls)**

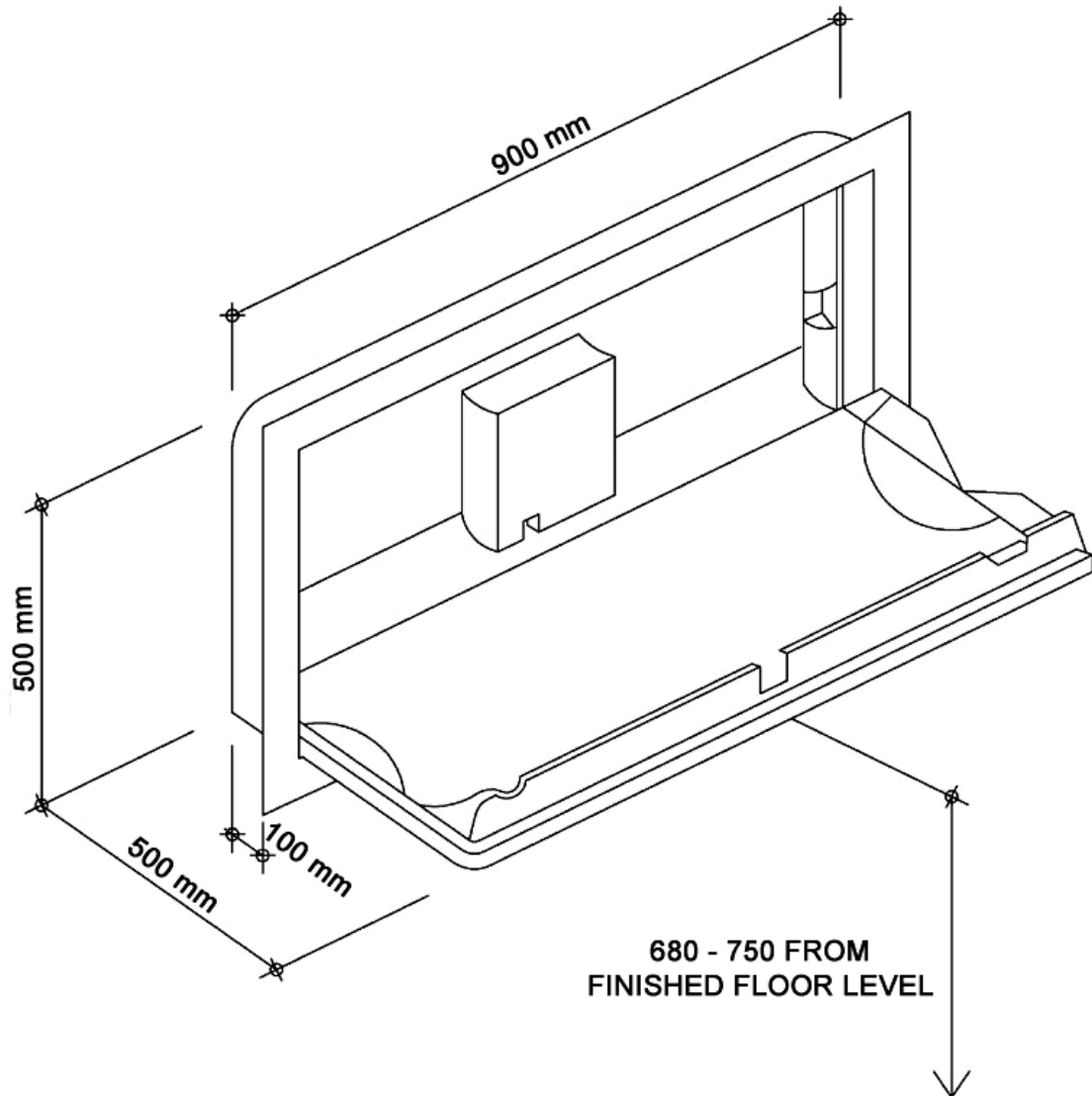


**Figure 25D – Plan of Power-operated Swing Door
(Control Button(s) on Same Wall)**

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Diaper-changing Facilities

- (f) Diaper-changing facilities should be provided in all toilets unless there is absolutely no sufficient space (see Figure 26).



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 26 – Flap-type Diaper Changing Station

Baby Care Room

- (fa) The room should be provided with a clear manoeuvring space not less than 1500 mm x 1500 mm measured at 350 mm above finished floor level.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Bathroom/Shower Compartment

- (g) The floor of the bathroom and the shower compartment should be slip-resistant with a minimum “static coefficient of friction” of “Good” grading (see Appendix C) and self-draining.

Luminous Contrast

- (h) Wall tiling should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with sanitary appliances and fittings, grab rails and toilet roll holders, etc.
- (ha) Toilet door and compartment door should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with its frame and adjacent wall.

Avoidance of Obstruction

- (i) Waste pipe, disposal bins and other fittings within the toilet should be located to avoid any obstruction or creating a tripping hazard including those under the wash basin.
- (j) Toilets and W.C. cubicles for use by persons with a disability should be located to avoid proximity to or obstruction by exit doors to the staircase.

Emergency Call Bell

- (k) An additional emergency call bell near the toilet seat should be provided, if practicable.

Large Size Symbols

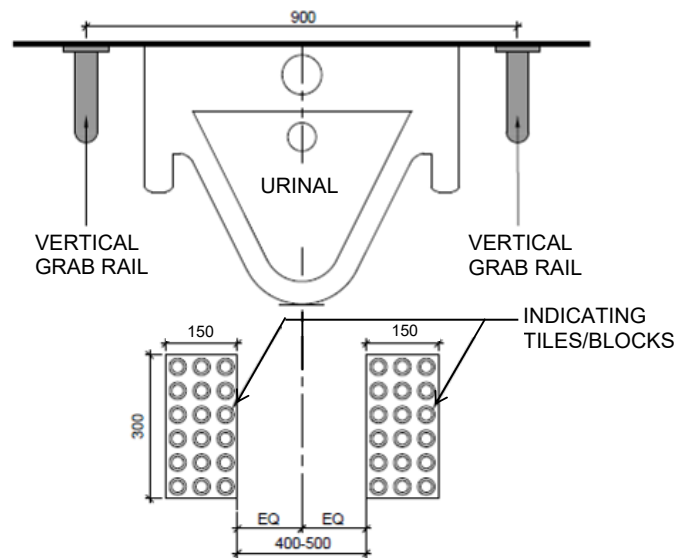
- (l) Large size symbols with luminous contrast for male and female toilets should be used.

Grab Rails

- (m) The surface of the grab rails should be slip-resistant, e.g. stainless steel with hair-line finish.

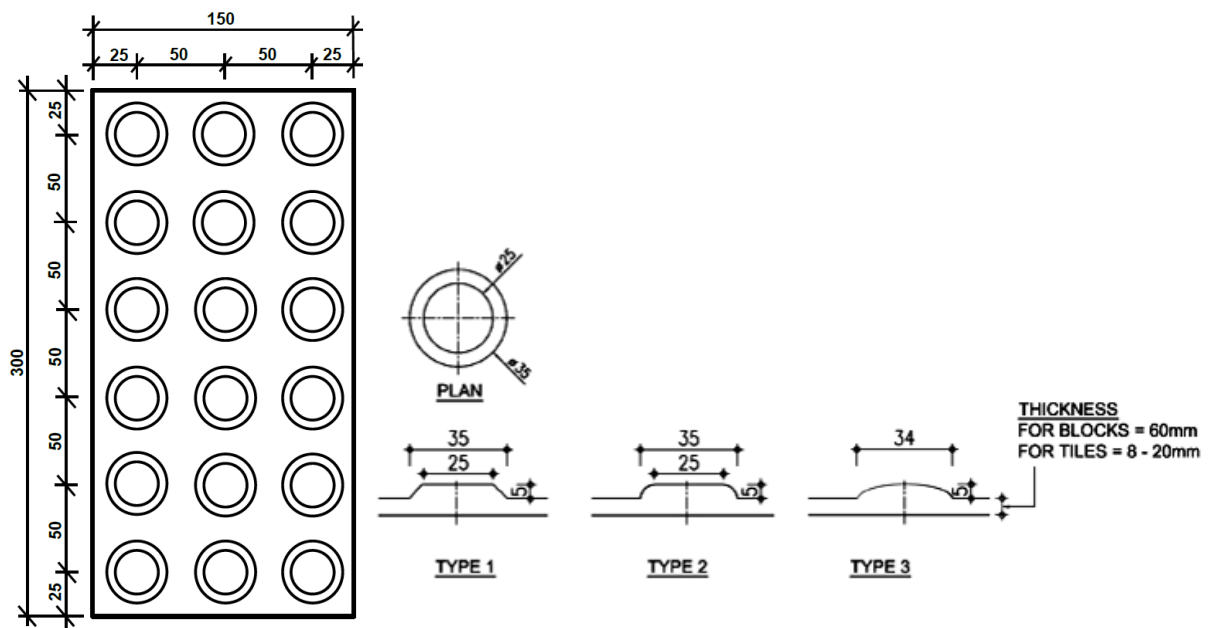
Indicating Tiles/Blocks

- (n) Two indicating tiles/blocks on the floor to facilitate the use by persons with visual impairment (see Figures 26A and 26B) should be provided in front of the urinal for use by persons with ambulant disabilities.
- (o) The indicating tiles/blocks should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with the floor finishes.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 26A – Indicating Tiles/Blocks for Urinal Used by Persons with Ambulant Disabilities



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 26B – Details of Indicating Tiles/Blocks

Washroom Accessories

- (p) The manually operated controls of washroom accessories should be at a position which is not higher than 1100 mm above the finished floor level.

Division 12 --- BATHROOMS AND SHOWER COMPARTMENTS

This Division sets out requirements for accessible bathrooms and shower compartments as required under paragraph 7 in Division 2.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

The accessible bathrooms and shower compartments shall be so designed and equipped with sanitary fittings and installations to allow persons with a disability and the elderly to use them without assistance from others.

Obligatory Design Requirements

56. Bathtubs

- (1) There shall be a clear floor space of not less than 1500 mm x 800 mm in front of the bathtub (see Figure 27);
- (2) The bathtub shall be provided with a seat of not less than 250 mm in width (see Figure 27); and
- (3) The bathtub shall have a maximum height of 380 mm.

57. Grab Rails for Bathtub

Grab rails shall:

- (a) not rotate within their fixing fittings;
- (b) have a diameter between 32 mm and 40 mm and have a grip space of not less than 30 mm clear from the wall;
- (c) be at least 900 mm long, installed horizontally or slanting at an angle not exceeding 20 degrees along the length of the bathtub and at a height between 150 mm and 300 mm above the rim of the bathtub ; and
- (d) be at least 600 mm long, installed vertically at the plug end of the bathtub adjacent to the clear floor space with the lower end 150 mm to 300 mm above the rim of the bathtub.

58. Taps and Controls of Bathtub

Taps and other controls shall:

- (a) have lever type handles at least 75 mm long from the centre of rotation to the handle tip;
- (b) be installed at the plug end of the bathtub; and
- (c) be not more than 450 mm above the rim of the bathtub.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

59. Shower Heads

- (1) Shower heads shall:
 - (a) be of the hand-held type;
 - (b) be provided with a hose not less than 1500 mm in length; and
 - (c) be provided with a wall mounting bracket to allow use in a fixed position.
- (2) Where shower heads are mounted on a vertical bar, the bar shall:
 - (a) have a minimum length of 500 mm with the lower end not less than 450 mm above the finished floor level;
 - (b) be installed so as not to obstruct the use of grab rails referred to in paragraph 57; and
 - (c) be so mounted to be able to carry a static load of 150kg in case they are mistakenly used as a grab rail.

60. Shower Compartments

Shower compartments shall have internal dimensions of not less than 1500 mm x 900 mm. The minimum clear floor space in front of the shower entrance shall be 1500 mm x 800 mm with the 1500 mm dimension parallel to the shower entrance.

61. Grab Rails for Shower Compartments

Grab rails for shower compartments shall:

- (a) comply with paragraph 57 (a) and (b);
- (b) be L-shaped or two bars arranged in L-shaped configuration and not be less than 750 mm by 900 mm in length;
- (c) be installed at a height between 700 mm and 800 mm from the shower floor; and
- (d) be capable of carrying a static load of 150kg.

62. Thresholds

Thresholds for roll-in shower compartments shall:

- (a) not be more than 13 mm high; and
- (b) have bevelled edges.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

63. Shower Seats

The shower seats shall:

- (a) have a rounded edge and be self-draining;
- (b) be installed on the wall next to the taps and controls;
- (c) not be less than 550 mm in width and 400 mm in depth; and
- (d) be installed at a height between 430 mm and 480 mm from the top of the seat to the finished floor level.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

Wheelchair users generally require larger space for access to the bathrooms. A proportion of guest rooms should be designed to accommodate the need of wheelchair users.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Taps and Controls

- (a) Taps and other controls should be installed between the centre line and the outer edge of the bathtub.

Grab Rails

- (b) The surface of the grab rails should be slip-resistant, e.g. stainless steel with hair-line finish.
- (c) Two additional vertical grab rails should be installed for shower compartments and they should:
 - (i) have a minimum length of 750 mm;
 - (ii) be installed at a height between 700 mm and 800 mm measured from the bottom of the bars to the finished floor level; and
 - (iii) be provided adjacent to the shower seat such that one is mounted beside the shower seat and another one is mounted not more than 450 mm from the edge of the shower seat (see Figure 27).

Shower Seats

- (d) The depth of shower seats in shower compartments should be 450 mm.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Emergency Call Bells in Accessible Bathrooms and Shower Compartments

- (e) The push button of the emergency call bell should be appropriately located and conveniently accessible to all users. The emergency call bell when activated should emit audible or visible alarm signal which should be readily noticeable for summoning assistance for the person in the bathroom/shower compartment. The emergency alarm should be installed outside the bathroom/shower compartment and connected to a public information or service counter.
- (f) An emergency call bell should be equipped with a weatherproof push button for activating the alarm. The push button should be installed at the wall outside but immediately adjacent to the bathtub or shower compartment at a height between 400 mm and 600 mm above the finished floor level. A notice "Emergency Call" in English, Chinese and Braille shall be fitted next to the emergency push button.

Division 13 --- SIGNS

It is essential that suitable signs are erected at prominent and conspicuous positions inside and outside a building to indicate clearly the exact locations of facilities that are available for use by persons with a disability. To design an effective signage system, the needs of different types of users in a building and the complexity of the building layout must be considered.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Signs shall give clear directions, information and instructions for the users of the building.

Obligatory Design Requirements

Signs shall be erected to indicate clearly the exact locations of facilities available for use by persons with a disability.

64. The International Symbol of Accessibility

The international symbol of accessibility shall be the wheelchair figure in white on a blue background and is to be provided at conspicuous location as shown in Figure 28 for the purposes of identifying/advertising/signifying:

- (a) accessible entrance to the building;
- (b) accessible exit from the building;
- (c) reserved car parking facilities for persons with a disability;
- (d) the location of toilets for persons with a disability;
- (e) usable vertical circulation facilities;
- (f) usable cloakroom facilities; and
- (g) the availability of special services of information/service counter and telephone in the building.

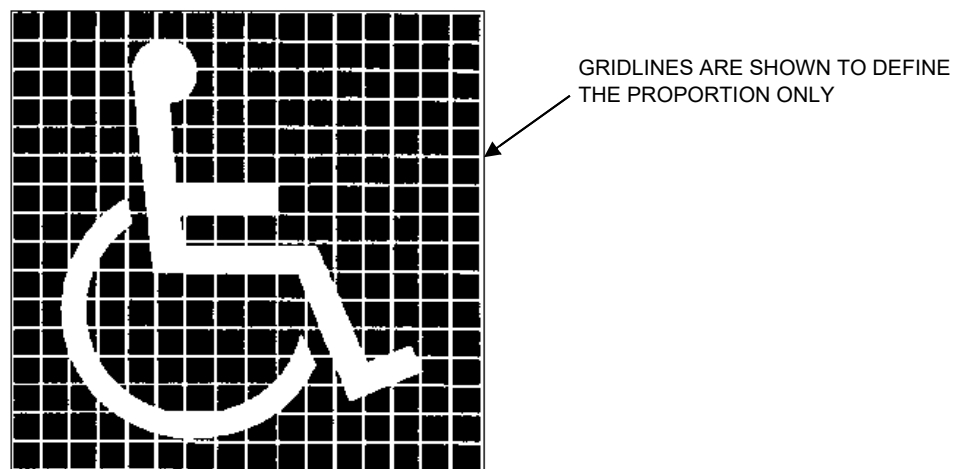
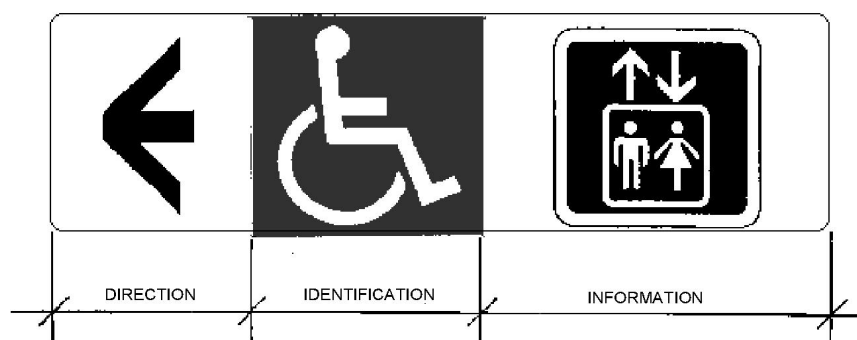


Figure 28 – Proportional Layout for International Symbol of Accessibility

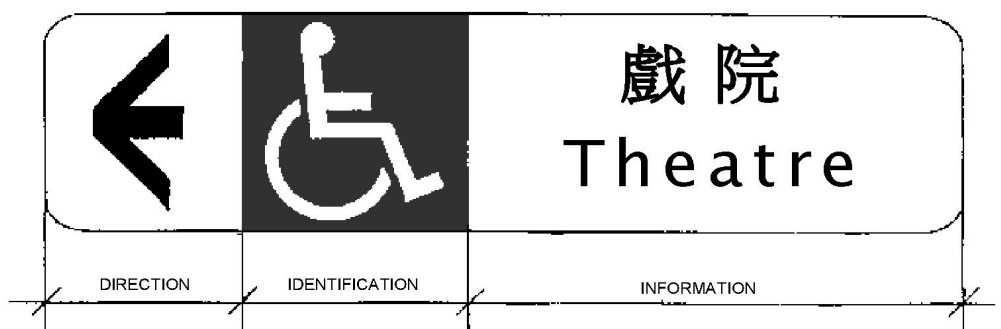
Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

65. Directional Signs

Directional arrows and visual information shall be provided at conspicuous location in conjunction with the international symbol for accessibility to guide persons with a disability to the exact locations of the accessible facilities (see Figure 29).



(A) EXAMPLE OF A SIGN IDENTIFYING A FACILITY AND INDICATING ITS DIRECTION USING A STANDARD SYMBOL [LIFT]



(B) EXAMPLE OF A SIGN IDENTIFYING A FACILITY AND INDICATING ITS DIRECTION USING A WORD

Figure 29 – Directional Signs

66. Size

The height of signs shall be not less than the following:

- (a) 60 mm for doors;
- (b) 110 mm for corridors; and
- (c) 200 mm for external use.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

67. Sign for Persons with Hearing Impairment

International symbol of access for hearing loss as shown in Figure 30 shall be provided if there is an assistive listening system provided for persons with hearing impairment.

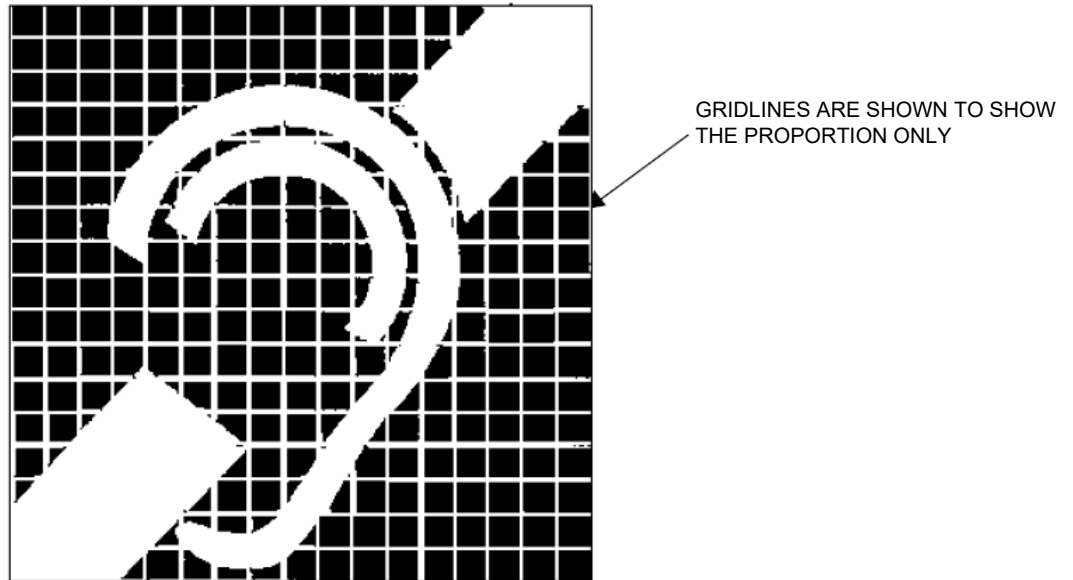


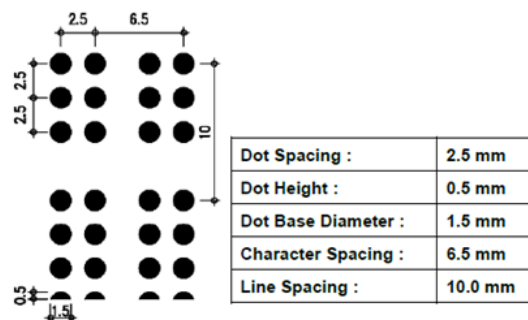
Figure 30 – Proportional Layout for International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

68. Braille and Tactile Sign

- (1)&(2) Braille and tactile signs shall be installed on adjacent wall or door of public toilet to indicate whether the toilet is for male, female or unisex. The signs shall be placed at 900 mm to 1500 mm above the finished floor level. Specifications of Braille cells and tactile signs are shown in Figure 31.
- (3) If there is no door, the sign shall be provided on the wall in front of the toilets.
- (4)&(5) A Braille and tactile fire exit map as shown in Figure 32 shall be provided directly above the call button of the accessible lift in the lobby of the accessible lift in a building if a fire exit map for the use of the public is provided. The map shall be placed at 800 mm to 1200 mm above the finished floor level.

(a) BRAILLE CELL



(b) TACTILE SIGN

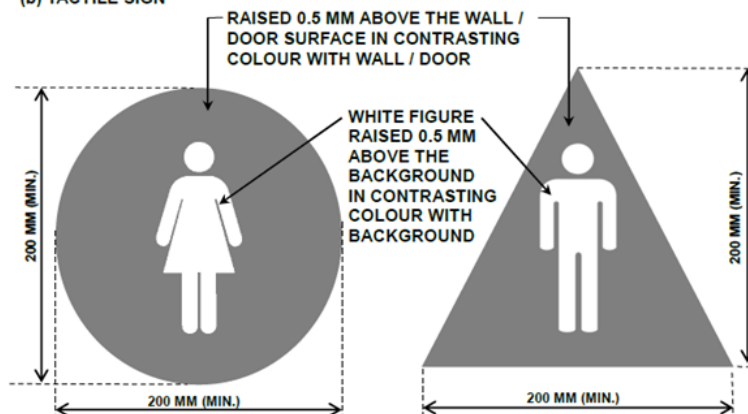


Figure 31 – Specifications of Braille Cells and Tactile Signs

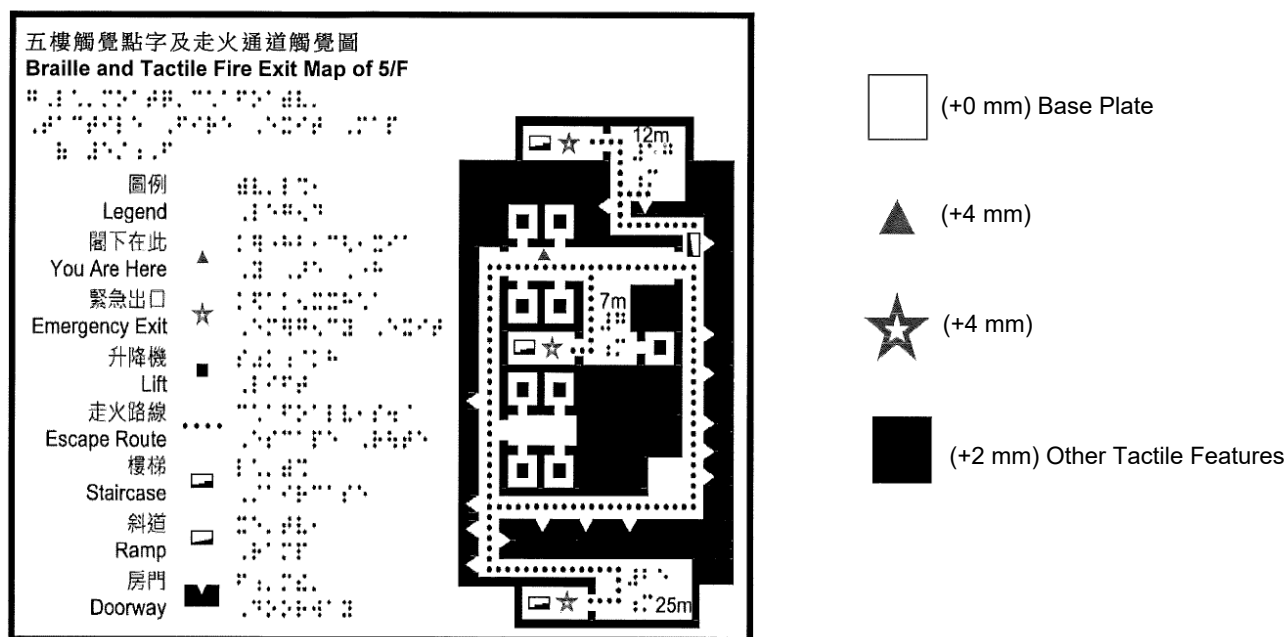


Figure 32 – Braille and Tactile Fire Exit Map

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

Persons with visual impairment may have difficulty in identifying their locker for public use, and sanitary fittings in a public toilet or changing room.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) Each locker door in a sports complex, public swimming pool complex or public area should be provided with the locker number in Braille and raised Arabic numerals/characters*.

* The locker key holders should be provided with raised Arabic numerals/characters.

- (b) A Braille and tactile plan (see Figure 32A) should be provided for the toilets with five or more waterclosets (urinal in a public male toilet and changing room is regarded as a watercloset for this purpose) in a public toilet/changing room. The plan should be installed on the wall adjacent to the door of the public toilet/changing room, or their entrance if entrance door is not provided. The plan should be placed at 900 mm to 1500 mm above the finished floor level.

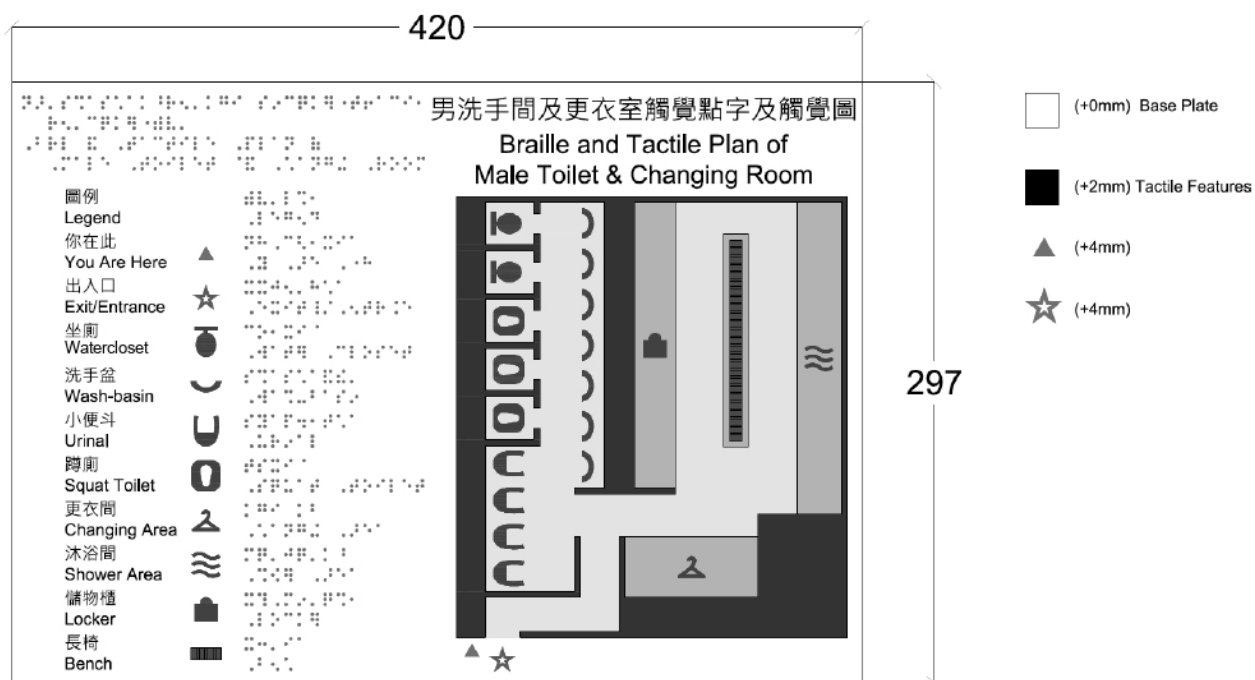
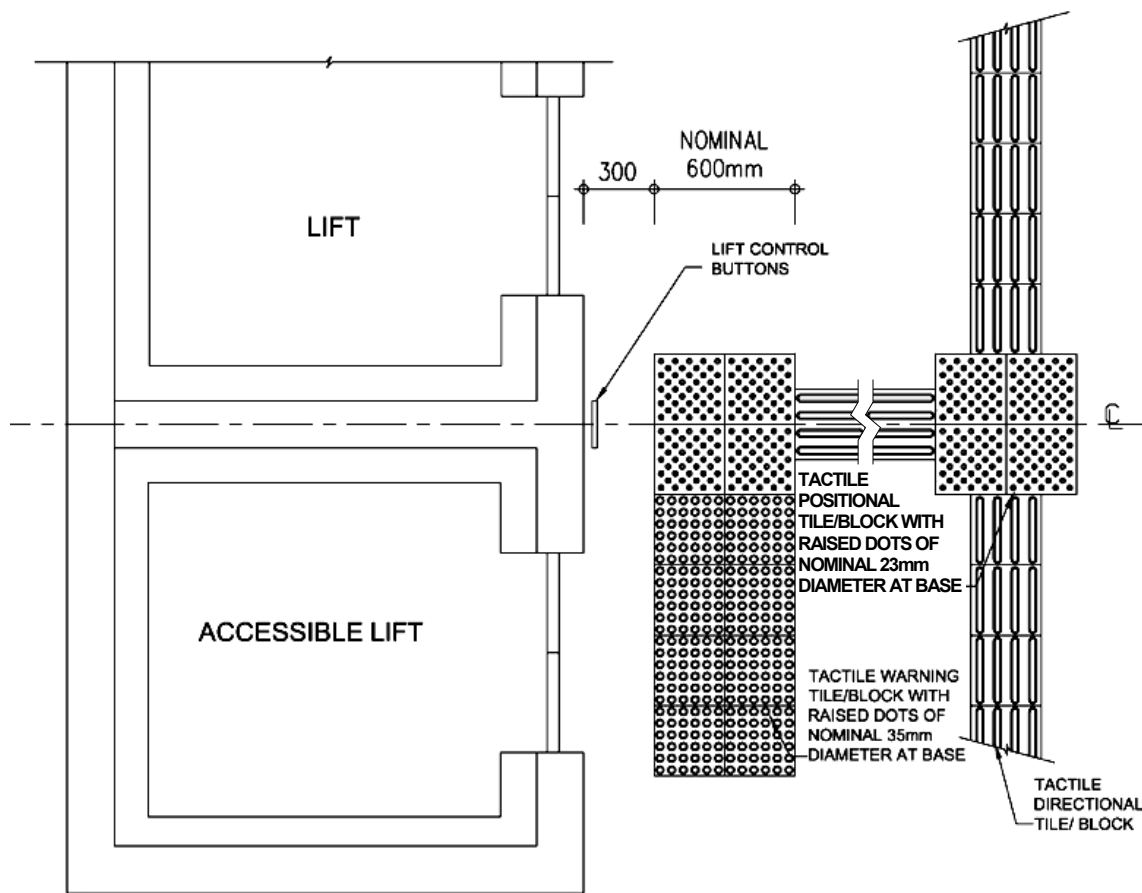


Figure 32A – Example of Braille and Tactile Plan of Toilet and Changing Room

Division 14 -- Special Obligatory Design Requirements to Assist Persons with Visual/Hearing Impairment to Various Uses of Buildings in Table 2

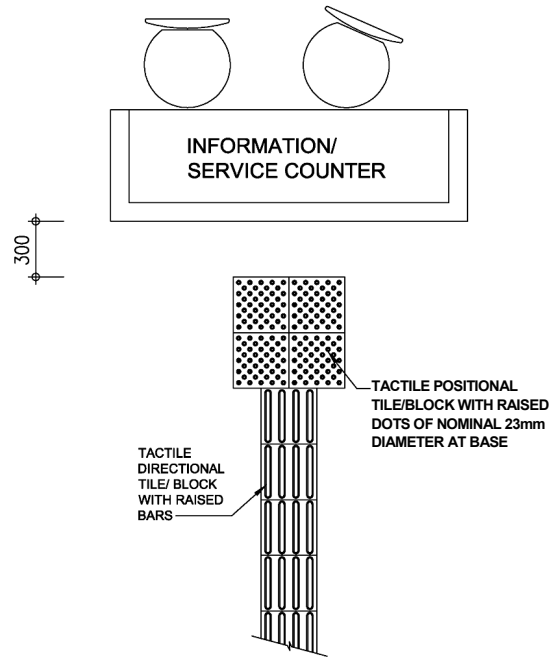
69. Special Design Requirements to assist persons with visual or hearing impairment

- (1) This paragraph applies to any part of a building used for the purposes as specified in Table 2 in Chapter 2.
- (2) If a floor plan for the use of the public is provided, Braille and tactile floor plan showing the main entrance, public toilet and major common facilities shall be provided in a place in that building which is conspicuous to persons with visual impairment.
- (3) Tactile guide path shall be installed from a point of access at the lot boundary to the main entrance of the building and from the main entrance to lift zone, the nearest accessible toilet, public information/service counter, Braille and tactile floor plan and staircase as illustrated in Figures 33, 34 and 35 respectively.
- (4) If visual display board (such as LED) is provided, it shall be able to display the essence of the information broadcasted by the public address system in the building. Examples include display boards to inform travellers of the arrival and destination of the MTR trains.



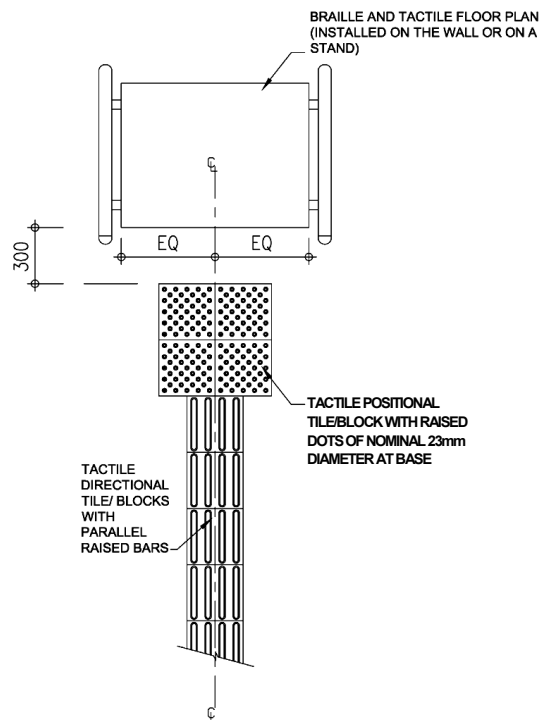
*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 33 – Tactile Guide Path to Lift Zone



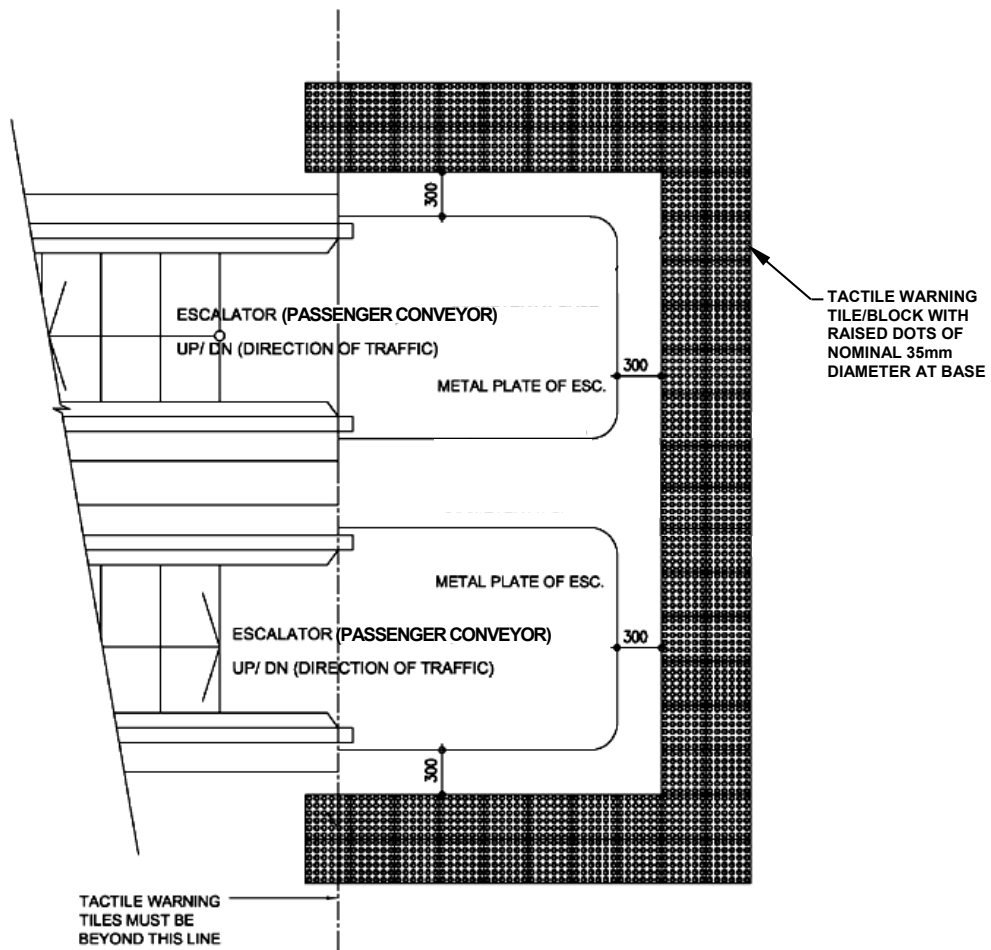
*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 34 – Tactile Guide Path to Information/Service Counter



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 35 – Tactile Guide Path to Tactile/Braille Directory Map/Floor Plan



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 36 – Tactile Warning Strip to Escalator or Passenger Conveyor

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Signs should be clear and easy to read and understand in order to assist persons with intellectual, cognitive and sensory disabilities.
- (b) International symbols are to be used for purpose of standardization and apprehension by all persons with a disability residing in Hong Kong or visiting from overseas. Examples of standard public information symbols are shown in Figure 37.
- (c) Prominent signs with high color and luminous contrasts as well as special shapes are recommended to be used for the elderly.
- (d) Safety for persons with visual impairment should be considered. Information such as distance to the destination, name of building etc. should be conveyed to the persons with visual impairment. The suggested provisions are voice message, Braille and signs with high luminous contrast.
- (e) To account for persons with visual impairment, larger fonts, more prominent and well-defined shapes of signs are recommended.
- (f) For categories of buildings as required in Table 2 in Chapter 2, tactile guide paths should be provided for persons with visual impairment from the main entrance to lift zone, public information/service counter, Braille and tactile floor plan, and staircase/escalator provided with audible signals. Braille and tactile floor plan showing the locations of major common facilities should be provided in a location in that building which is conspicuous to persons with visual impairment.
- (fa) For any part of a building used for the purposes as office, hotel, guesthouse, hostel or bank, a tactile guide path should be installed from the main entrance of the building to lift zone, the nearest accessible toilet, public information/service counter, Braille and tactile floor plan, and staircase.
- (g) Braille Characters in both English and Chinese should be provided on signs as far as possible if space could accommodate them.





	Facilities for blind or partially sighted people
	World Federation of the Deaf sign to indicate facilities for deaf people
	Equipment to enhance microphone sound for people whose hearing aid is fitted with a "T" switch
	Equipment to enhance microphone sound through an infrared receiver

Figure 37 — Examples of Public Information Symbols

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Location

- (a) Sign should be erected to indicate clearly the locations of accessible routes through the building.

Luminous Contrast

- (b) Luminous contrast of not less than 70% should be provided to differentiate the international symbol of accessibility from the background, either light-on-dark or dark-on-light. The commonly employed colours are white for the wheelchair figure and blue for the background.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Lettering and Colour

- (c) Lettering should be plain and legible, e.g. Helvetica (medium) using lower case letters except for initial capitals.
- (d) Corners of sign should be rounded.
- (e) Chinese characters should be legible e.g. "Haak Tai" style.
- (f) Sign should be in raised characters.
- (g) The system of sign used should be clear and consistent.

Braille and Tactile Sign/Audible Sign

- (h) Braille and tactile building name and address (i.e., street name with number) or a device which when activated will provide the same information in audible form should be provided on both sides of the building entrance at a height of between 900 mm and 1500 mm above the finished floor level.
- (i) If public address system is provided to convey information to the public in a building, then a means of conveying the same or equivalent information to persons with hearing impairment should also be provided.
- (j) If a floor plan for the use of the public is provided, Braille and tactile floor plan with audible device indicating the main entrance, public toilet and major common facilities should be provided in a place in that building which is conspicuous to persons with visual impairment.
- (ja) The Braille and tactile sign for public toilet required under paragraph 68(1) and (2) in Division 13 should be installed on the wall adjacent to the open side of the toilet door or toilet entrance if toilet door is not provided.

Visual Sign

- (k) Visual display board (such as LED) should be provided in public waiting areas other than those required in Table 2 in Chapter 2 and where there is an announcer installed to regularly convey information to the people inside. The visual display board should be able to display the essence of the information so announced.

Division 15 --- PUBLIC INFORMATION OR SERVICE COUNTERS

Information/service counters refer to provisions for assistance in a building where the public or a section of the public is likely to approach to seek services and/or information.

MANDATORY SECTION

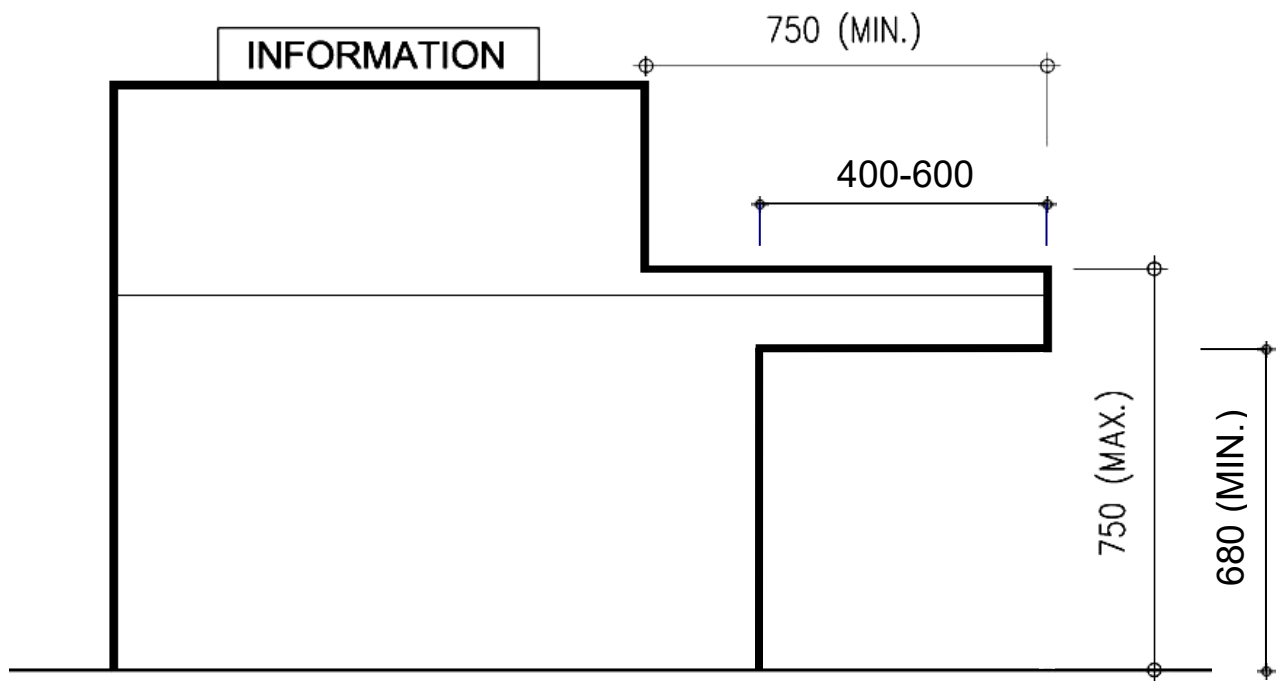
Obligatory Design Requirements

70. Provision of Public Information or Service Counters

- (1) Public information/service counters shall be provided to various categories of buildings as specified in Table 2 in Chapter 2.
- (2)(a) There shall be at least one public information/service counter built with a portion not higher than 750 mm above the finished floor level and not less than 750 mm wide to assist wheelchair users (see Figures 38 and 39).
- (b) There shall be at least one public information/service counter provided with an assistive listening system where the background is noisy or counters are provided with screen.

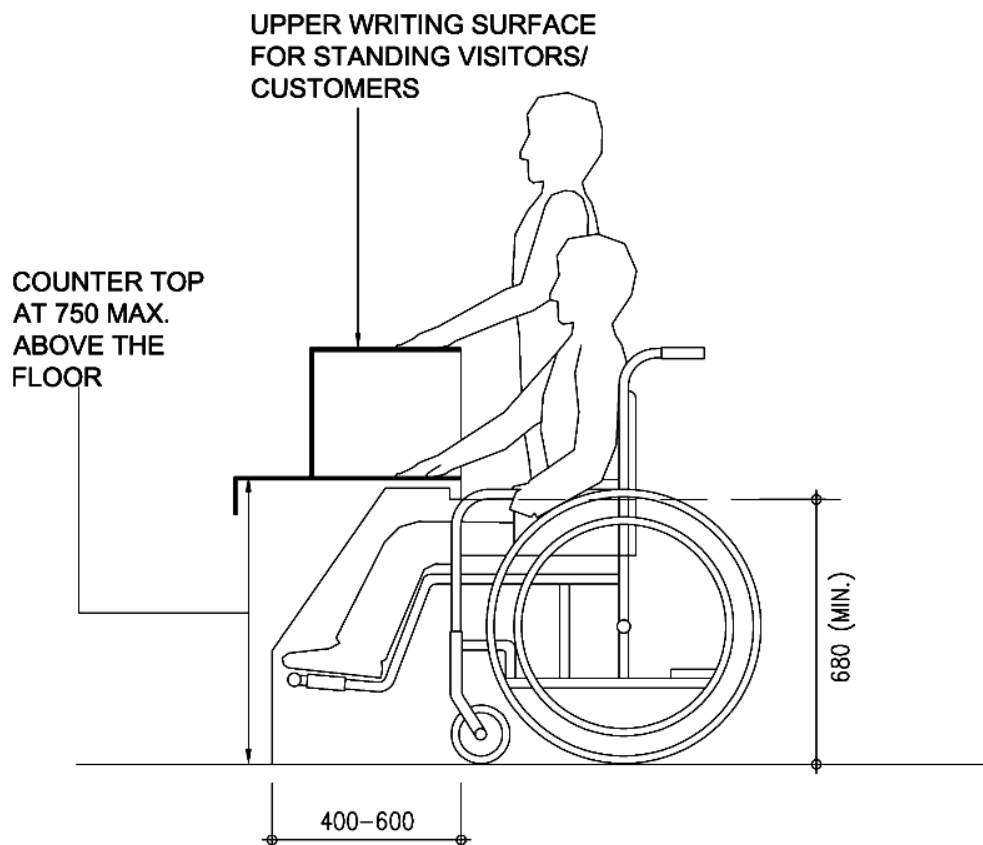
71. Design of Counter

- (1) Where public information/service counters are provided, they shall be accessible and easily identifiable from a building entrance by all persons with or without a disability.
- (2) Leg space of a depth between 400 mm and 600 mm and a height of not less than 680 mm above finished floor level shall be provided.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 38 - Front View of Information/Service Counter for Wheelchair Users



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 39 – Key Heights of Counters and Reception Desks

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) The approach to the counter should be direct, clear and unobstructed.
- (b) Signs associated with counters should be located and visible to wheelchair users.
- (c) Counters should be located away from the entrance if disturbance of noise from external is anticipated.
- (d) Provision of permanent or temporary control barriers for queuing should allow space for manoeuvring of wheelchairs.
- (e) For the convenience of the people using sticks, a recess should be provided to the information/service counter for them to place the assistive tools.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Leg space of a depth between 480 mm and 600 mm should be provided for public information or service counters.

Division 16 --- ILLUMINATION

This Division sets out the requirements for lighting provisions.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Sufficient level of illumination shall be provided in order to help people to apprehend the physical environment of the space they have entered or to move around safely.

Obligatory Design Requirements

72. General Illumination Level

The following designated areas of a building, where reasonably expected to be used by the public or occupants of the building during the period of normal use or occupation or when required, shall have minimum illumination level measured at the finished floor level along the centre line of the passageway as follows:

Ground floor entrance lobby and lift	120 lux
Lift lobby of upper floors, corridors, accessible paths and staircases	85 lux

73. Illumination Level for Signs

Signs provided under Division 13 shall have illumination level on the sign surface of not less than 120 lux.

74. Means of Provision of Illumination

The illumination may be provided through automatic or manual switching devices.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Artificial lighting should be designed to give uniform illumination and good colour rendering of all surfaces, without creating glare, or pools of bright light and strong shadows.
- (b) Where appropriate, lighting should be so designed to illuminate the face of a person speaking in order to make communication easier.

A. Design Considerations (Cont'd)

- (c) To enhance the illumination level of the lift lobby of upper floors, corridors, accessible paths and staircases, additional lighting to be provided may be activated by sensors. The following factors should be considered in setting the duration of such sensors:
 - (i) length of the corridors and paths; and
 - (ii) walking speed of the persons with visual impairment, other forms of physical infirmities, etc.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Common Areas

- (a) Common areas, including toilets, of a building should have an illumination level of not less than 120 lux measured at the finished floor level.
- (aa) Lift lobby of upper floors, corridors, accessible paths and staircases should have an illumination level of not less than 120 lux measured at the finished floor level. Such enhanced illumination may be provided by additional lighting activated by sensors.

Lighting for Steps

- (b) Lighting with lower illumination level should be provided at the entrances and exits to provide a contrast between the treads and the risers.

Illumination Level

- (c) Uniformity of illumination level should be maintained throughout the designated areas and toilets.
- (d) Higher illumination level at the entrance doors to flats and the exit doors should be provided.

Division 17 --- EMERGENCY CALL BELLS IN ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

This Division sets out the requirements for provision of emergency call bell in accessible toilets.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

75. Emergency Call Bells in Accessible Toilets

The push button of the emergency call bell shall be appropriately located and conveniently accessible to all users. The emergency call bell when activated shall emit audible or visible alarm signal which shall be readily noticeable for summoning assistance for the person in the accessible toilet. The alarm shall be installed outside the toilet or a buzzer shall be fitted in the caretaker's office (see Figure 24).

Obligatory Design Requirements

76. Push Button for Emergency Call Bell

An emergency call bell shall be equipped with a weatherproof push button for activating the alarm. The push button shall be installed below the vertical grab rail inside the W.C. cubicle adjacent to the water closet at a height between 600 mm and 650 mm above the finished floor level. A notice "Emergency Call" in both English, Chinese and Braille shall be fitted next to the emergency push button.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) A push button should be easily operated and be provided in any individual accessible toilet compartment or a water closet cubicle designed for the persons with a disability to summon assistance at seated position or on the floor when the person has fallen accidentally. The call button, sometimes equipped with a pull cord of a length between 700 mm and 750 mm should be suitably positioned and reachable not more than 300 mm from floor level.
- (aa) An additional push button should be installed below the push button provided under paragraph 76 and should be located not more than 200 mm above the finished floor level (see Figure 24).
- (b) In addition to a position outside the compartment or cubicle, the emergency alarm should be connected to a caretaker's office or public information/service counter provided under paragraph 70 in Division 15.

- (c) Emergency call bells should be equipped with a back-up power supply.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) The emergency call bell when activated should emit audible and visible alarm signal which should be readily noticeable for summoning assistance.
- (b) Visible and audible signal should be emitted inside the accessible toilet when the emergency call bell is activated.

Division 18 --- ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM

An assistive listening system is a system which enables sound signals to be transmitted to persons with hearing impairment without interference from background noise or excessive reverberation

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

In order to obtain the full benefit of attending public performances or taking part in discussions, a person with hearing impairment needs to receive a signal that is amplified in both volume and signal to noise ratio.

Obligatory Design Requirements

77. Assistive Listening System

An assistive listening system (such as an induction loop system or an infrared system) shall be provided in:

- (a) at least one of the public information/service counters, if any, for various categories of buildings as specified in Table 2 in Chapter 2; and
- (b) the hall and auditorium, if any, of such a building.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) An assistive listening system amplifies audible communication, and can be used by persons with hearing aids. It does not interfere with the listening of people with normal hearing.
- (b) The three assistive listening systems commonly used to provide this enhanced level of sound are induction loop, infrared and radio frequency systems. A decision on which system to use will depend on a number of factors, such as the size and use of the space, external interferences and building materials used.
- (c) Special-purpose receivers are required by infrared and radio frequency systems while hearing aids equipped with a T-switch are capable of receiving the signal from an induction loop system. Designers should seek expert advice concerning the most appropriate system for their purposes.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Coverage

The assistive listening system must be available to cover not less than 70% of the floor area of the room or space served by the system. If a system requiring the use of receivers or the like is adopted, a minimum of 2 receivers should be provided. The number of receivers provided must be not less than 1 for every 50 persons (or part thereof).

Division 19 --- LIFTS

Lift provides means of vertical transportation to any user of the building to move from one floor to another.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Where a lift is provided, appropriate provision shall be made for all people to travel vertically within the buildings conveniently and independently to other storeys and to make use of all relevant facilities.

Obligatory Design Requirements

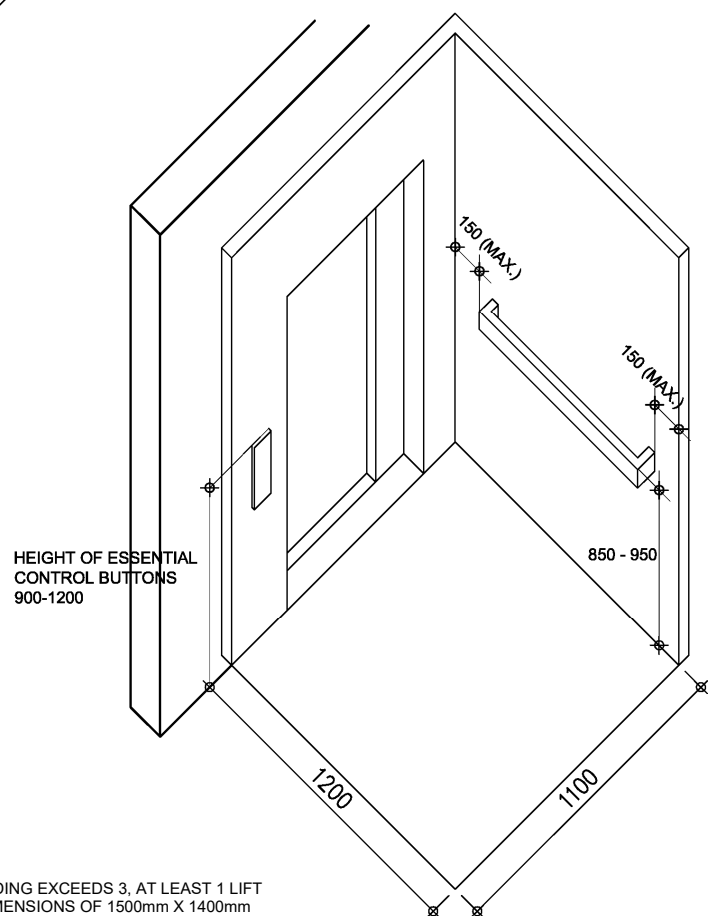
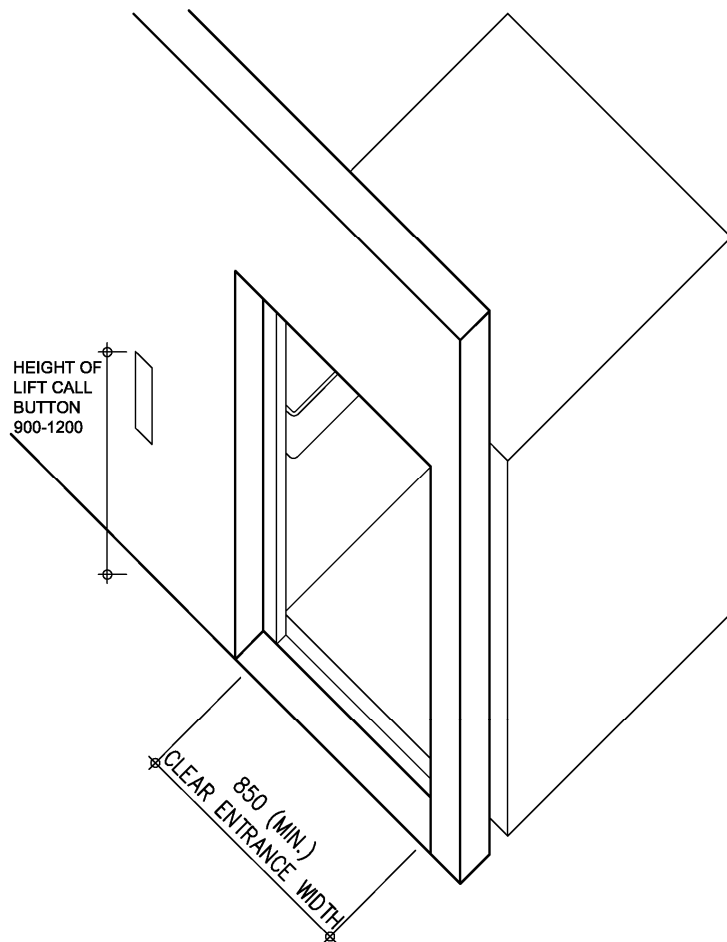
78. Special Requirements for Accessible Lifts

- (1) Every floor of a building shall be accessible by at least one passenger lift which shall fully comply with all the obligatory design requirements as stipulated in this section and have direct access to main lift lobby.

All other passenger lifts in the building must comply with paragraphs 79 & 80.

A lift shall have minimum internal car dimensions of 1200 mm x 1100 mm wide, with a minimum clear entrance width of 850 mm, and shall have handrails extending to within 150 mm of the corners at the rear and sides of the car. The top of the gripping surface of the handrails shall be at a height of 850 mm to 950 mm, with a space of 30 mm to 50 mm between the handrails and wall (see Figure 40).

- (2) Where there are more than three lifts in a building, access shall be provided to every floor by at least one lift having minimum internal car dimensions of 1500 mm x 1400 mm (either wide or deep) with a minimum clear entrance width of 850 mm.



NOTE: WHERE THE NUMBER OF LIFTS IN A BUILDING EXCEEDS 3, AT LEAST 1 LIFT SHALL HAVE MINIMUM INTERNAL CAR DIMENSIONS OF 1500mm X 1400mm

*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 40 – Accessible Lift

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

79. Lift Doors

- (1) Lift car doors and landing doors shall be of the horizontally sliding type, power-operated and automatically controlled.
- (2) An audible signal shall be provided to signify the closing of the doors to alert persons.
- (3) A detection device shall be provided to re-open the lift doors in the event of hitting any obstacle.
- (4) The detection device shall be positioned at a height of between 500 mm and 600 mm above the floor of the lift car.

80. Lift Control Buttons

- (1) Essential lift control buttons including floor numbering buttons, emergency alarm push button and door opening push button in the lift car shall not be less than 900 mm and not more than 1200 mm above the floor of the car.
- (2) Lift call buttons at the lift halls shall not be less than 900 mm and not more than 1200 mm above the floor of the finished floor level of the lift hall.
- (3) Provision of secondary control panel for over-spilled floor numbering buttons is always acceptable.
- (4) All lift control buttons shall have a minimum dimension of 20 mm (see Figure 41).
- (5) Braille and tactile markings shall be placed either on or to the left of the control buttons.
- (6) Such Braille and tactile markings shall be in Arabic numerals and/or symbols. Tactile markings shall have a minimum dimension of 15 mm high and be raised 1 mm minimum.
- (7) The tactile marking of the push buttons for the main entrance floor shall be identified with a symbol in a star shape (see Figure 41).
- (8) The emergency alarm push button shall be in a tactile bell shape (see Figure 41).

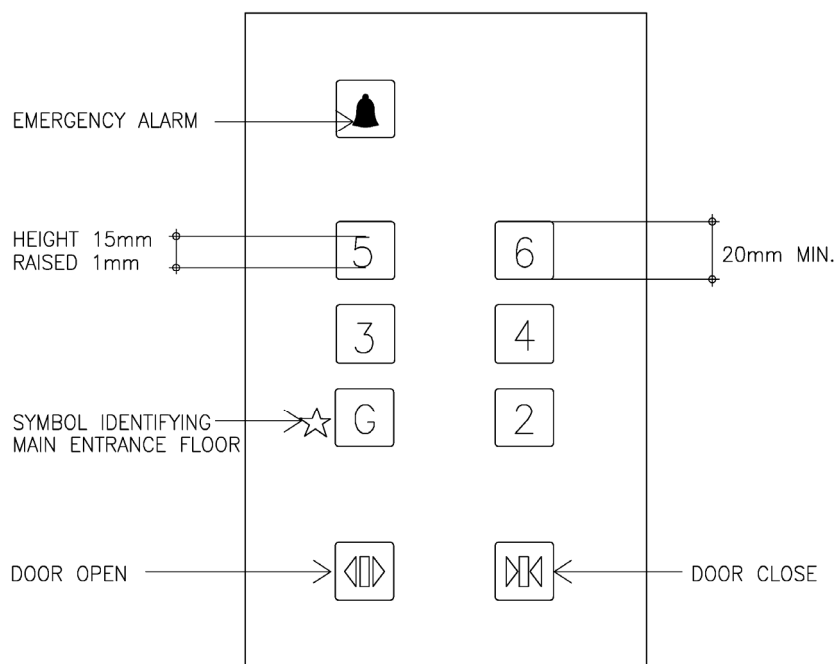
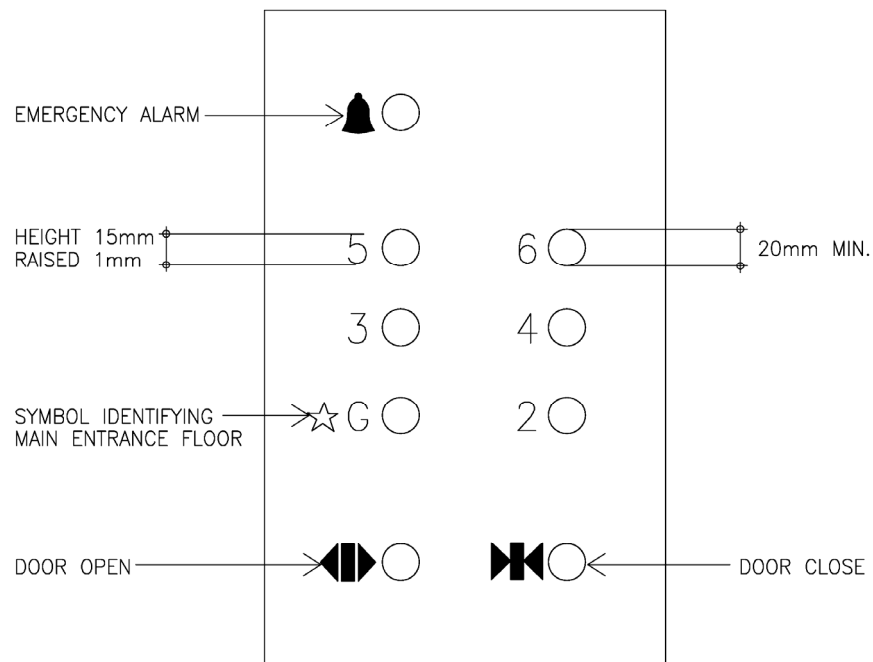


Figure 41 – Tactile Graphic for Lift Control Buttons

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Emergency Call Button in Lifts

- (i) An emergency alarm push button together with a buzzer, an indication light for acknowledgement and an intercom shall be provided in each lift car and be connected to the building management office or the caretaker's office. The building management office or the caretaker's office shall be equipped with a buzzer, indication light(s) (one for each lift) and an intercom connected to the lift car(s).
- (ii) The indication light for acknowledgement shall be in the form of a blinking light adjacent to the intercom speaker and a notice "When light blinks, it indicates your emergency call has already been received. Please be patient and wait for the rescue." in English and Chinese shall be provided next to the blinking light. This system shall be powered by an emergency electricity supply system in the event of power failure.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Lifts can help to provide access to storeys above or below the main entrance level. If designed appropriately, lifts are the most convenient form of vertical access for persons with a disability. However, given the space constraints in some buildings, it may not always be possible to install the type and size of passenger lift that would be suitable for use by all, and other options may need to be considered to provide for users with ambulant impairments.
- (b) Lift controls should be installed at the position which is within reach of all users including wheelchair users.
- (ba) Keypad control device should be avoided as far as practicable.
- (c) A wheelchair user needs sufficient space and time to enter and leave a passenger lift, particularly when sharing it with other people. Lift sizes should therefore be chosen to suit the anticipated frequency of use of the building and the needs of persons with a disability.
- (d) Lift door systems should be designed to allow adequate time for passage of persons with a disability and the elderly.

Design Considerations (Cont'd)

- (e) The use of visually and acoustically reflective wall surfaces can cause discomfort for persons with visual and hearing impairment.
- (f) For lifts of the size that does not allow a wheelchair user to turn around within the lift car, mirror should be installed with the bottom edge to be set at 900 mm above the floor level in the lift car to facilitate a wheelchair user in reversing and to see which level the lift has reached.
- (g) Where planning allows, lift cars may be provided with opposing doors to allow a wheelchair user to leave without having to reverse.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Lift Control Buttons

- (a) The graphics for tactile markings for open-door and close-door push buttons, emergency alarm button, and main entrance level are shown in Figure 41 for reference.
- (b) Call button panels should be provided at both sides of door openings.
- (ba) In addition to the essential lift control buttons required under paragraph 80(1), another set of essential lift control buttons should be installed on one of the side walls of lift car, preferably in the middle and on the right side from the entering direction. For two lift door openings design, the additional set of essential lift control buttons should be on any side wall.
- (bb) Lift control buttons in lift cars should have a minimum luminous contrasts of 50% with the background surfaces.

Keypad design

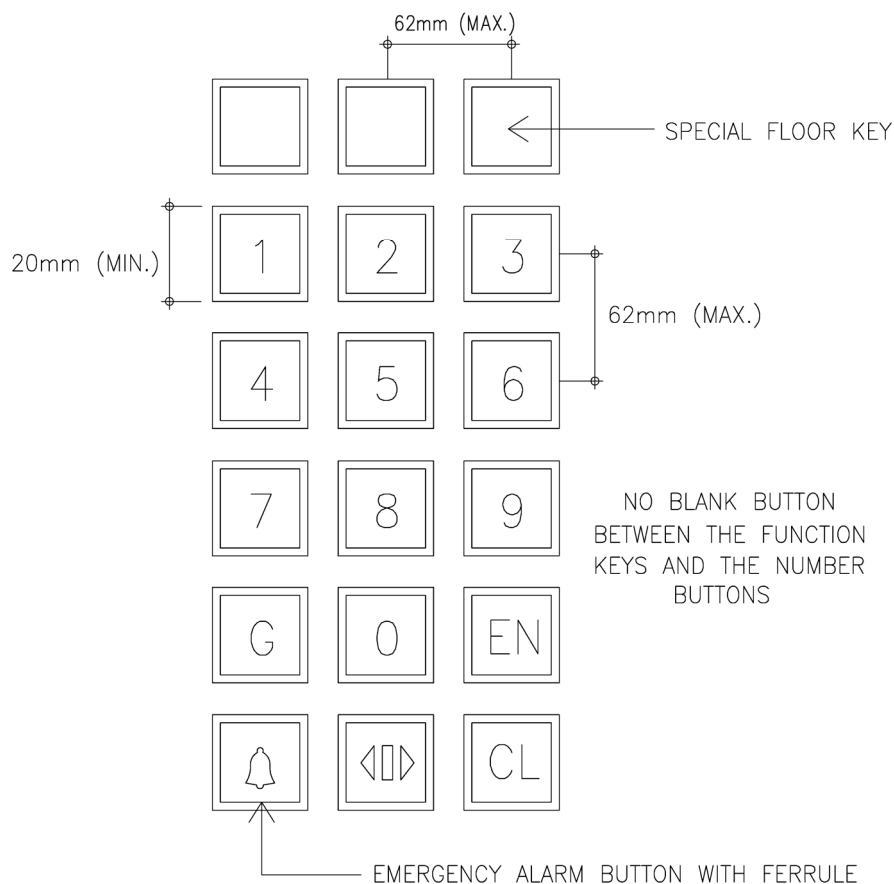
- (c) In cases where difficulties are encountered to fully comply with the obligatory requirements of installation of lift control buttons in high-rise buildings, keypad control device in conjunction with a conventional lift control panels in lifts for persons with a disability should be provided. Proposed standardized positions of buttons for keypad control device are shown in Figure 42 for reference.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Keypad design (Cont'd)

The keypad should:

- (i) have control buttons of minimum dimension of 20 mm;
- (ii) have Braille and tactile markings following the standard as stipulated in paragraphs 80(6) and 80(8);
- (iii) be installed between 900 mm and 1200 mm from finished floor level of the lift car;
- (iv) have adequate luminous contrast between the tactile markings on the buttons and the background;
- (v) have voice announcement and visual indication of the floors registered; and
- (vi) have instruction for the keypad control panel in the form of Braille or voice announcement beside the panel.



NOTE: BRAILLE AND TACTILE MARKINGS AND CHINESE CHARACTERS ARE NOT SHOWN

Figure 42 – Proposed Standardised Position of Buttons for Keypad Control Device

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Illumination Level

- (d) The level of illumination at the car controls, platform, car threshold, landing sill and lift landing shall be 150 lux minimum.

Wheelchair Turning Space

- (e) An unobstructed wheelchair turning space of 1500 mm x 1500 mm should be provided in front of accessible lift car door.

Lift Doors

- (f) The minimum time for lift doors to remain fully open at a landing should be 3 seconds.
- (g) An additional detection device positioned at a height of 200 mm above the floor of the lift car should be provided.

Depth of Accessible Lift Car

- (h) The clear depth of an accessible lift car should be not less than 1500 mm.

Mirror in Accessible Lift Car

- (i) A non-breakable mirror or mirror-like surface should be provided inside an accessible lift car to allow visual feedback for wheelchair users when reversing backwards into the lift lobby. Such provision should have a clear width not less than 850 mm and its bottom and top edges should be not more than 300 mm and not less than 1800 mm above the floor of the lift car respectively.

INDICATION AND NOTIFICATION FOR LIFTS COMPLYING WITH DIVISION 19

The requirements for indication and notification to be provided in respect of accessible lifts are set out in paragraphs 81 to 83.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

Indication and notification shall be provided to give audible and visual information to enable all persons with a disability to call and use the lift facilities conveniently and independently.

Obligatory Design Requirements

81. Indication and Notification for Accessible Lifts

An illuminated visual indicator and an audible signal shall be provided at the lift entrance to indicate the arrival of the lift car and its direction of travel. The audible signal shall sound once for UP direction and twice for DOWN direction, and shall be activated before the arrival of the lift. The audible signal can be broadcasted from a device in the lift car as an alternative provided it can be heard from the lift lobby.

Tactile and Braille floor designations shall be provided on the jambs on both sides of each lift entrance, by means of Arabic numerals, minimum 60 mm high, raised 1 mm, and at 1200 mm above the finished floor level.

82. Indication in Accessible Lift Cars

- (1) Illuminated visual indicators shall be provided to indicate the direction of travel and the position of the car.
- (2) Characters on the position indicator shall have a minimum height of 50 mm.
- (3) An audio indication of the stopping floor shall be provided in English, Cantonese and Putonghua.

83. Identification of Accessible Lifts in Lift Lobbies

- (1) If a building contains some lifts that do not comply with Division 19, then each of those lifts that do comply shall be identified at each landing served, by not less than one international symbol for accessibility.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

- (2) If all the lifts in a building comply with Division 19 (including a building with only one lift), then at least one international symbol for accessibility shall be provided at each lift lobby on the entrance levels of the building.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Signs indicating the location of an accessible lift should be clearly visible from the main entrance of the building. Additionally, a sign identifying the floor reached should be provided on each landing in a location that can be easily seen from the lift and is designed in luminous contrasts with its surroundings.
- (b) The audio indication of the stopping floor should be clear and without background noise.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Tactile Warning

- (a) Tactile warning tiles should be placed in front of the lift door of the accessible lift complying with Division 19 at each landing for ease of identification by persons with visual impairment.

Control

- (b) A separate call button for the accessible lift complying with Division 19 should be installed on each floor to ensure that the accessible lift will stop at the called floor. Priority of attendance to call for the accessible lift should be given to this button.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Destination Control System

- (ba) As an alternative to providing lift control buttons inside the lift car as stipulated in paragraph 80(1), the adoption of a Destination Control System (DCS) should comply with the following:
- (i) The keypad control of the DCS to be installed in a conspicuous place in the lift hall should have the built-in design for the use of persons with a disability.
 - (ii) The keypad should be of standard telephone keypad type with raised dot for easy orientation at number 5 key. An appropriate Braille notice "lift button for the visually impaired" should be provided.
 - (iii) The keypad should have an "international wheelchair" button to activate the system specially designed for the persons with a disability and a push button with a symbol in a "star" shape for identifying the main entrance floor for the use of visually impaired users.
 - (iv) Tactile Arabic numerals with suitable design (e.g. 15 mm high) and normally engraved by 1 mm instead of Braille should be provided on the keypad.
 - (v) The user should be able to know that the DCS has been operated. The call registration should be confirmed by a visible and audible signal. The audible signal should be given on every individual call registration even if the call is already registered. Also, a speech output system (in Cantonese, Putonghua and English) of the keypad for verification of the designated floor should be provided.
 - (vi) All essential buttons including emergency alarm push button, intercom controls, and the door opening push button should be provided inside the lift car.
 - (vii) The keypad at the lift hall and all the essential buttons in the lift car should be located between 900 mm and 1200 mm above the finished floor level of the lift hall or the floor of the lift car in compliance with paragraph 80(2) in Division 19.
 - (viii) The design of the keypad should comply with the international standards for the use of persons with a disability such as the European Standard EN 81-70:2018, Safety rules for the construction and installations of lifts - Particular applications for passenger and goods passenger lifts - Part 70: Accessibility to lifts for persons including persons with disability. Adequate signal and indication for use should be provided including an illuminated visual indicator and an audible signal.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Destination Control System (Cont'd)

- (ix) Braille and tactile plate indicating the user's instruction should be mounted on the wall adjacent to the keypad reachable by the visually impaired users. The instruction should be in both English and Chinese.
- (x) When the "wheelchair" button is pushed, the gong sound and voice announcement (in Cantonese, Putonghua and English) will be activated on the arrival of the accessible lift. To allow the persons with a disability to catch the lift, time allowed for keeping the lift door open and the response time for the keypad should be suitably extended.
- (xi) Tactile guide path should be provided to guide the visually impaired users to the keypad in the lift hall and then to the designated accessible lift.

Indication in Lift Cars

- (c) The visual indicators and audio indication required under paragraph 82 should be provided in all other passenger lift cars.
- (d) The voice for audio indication in passenger lifts should be more than 10 dB and should not be more than 80 dB above ambient level, measured at the annunciator. The voice should have a frequency between 300 Hz and 3000 Hz.

Visual Communication System

- (e) A visual communication system such as the provision of monitor for video call in the lift car should be provided to all passenger lifts to assist persons with hearing impairment in lift car to communicate with the building management office or the caretaker's office in emergency situation.

Division 20 --- ESCALATORS AND PASSENGER CONVEYORS

Escalators and passenger conveyors provide means of vertical and horizontal transportation within a building respectively.

MANDATORY SECTION

Performance Objectives

84. Requirements for Escalators and Passenger Conveyors

Escalators or passenger conveyors are not considered part of a barrier-free route of travel. However, adequate warning or guarding shall be provided alongside and at each end of the escalators and passenger conveyors for the safety of persons with visual impairment.

Obligatory Design Requirements

85. Tactile Warning Strips

- (1) Tactile warning strips shall be provided at both bottom and top ends of an escalator. The provision of tactile warning strips is illustrated in Figure 36.
- (2) Tactile warning strips shall be provided at both ends of a passenger conveyor. The provision of tactile warning strips is illustrated in Figure 36.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Escalator can be a useful addition to stair and lift where significant height difference has to be negotiated, but it should be designed with slower speed for the safety use by persons with visual impairment and the elderly.
- (b) The angle of inclination of escalator should not exceed 30°.
- (c) Adequate distance for horizontal movement of steps is required at the top and bottom of escalator to ensure that passengers – especially those leaving the escalator – have adequate space and time to board and alight safely.

Design Considerations (Cont'd)

- (d) Step edge should be clearly defined with colour in sufficient luminous contrast with the background, e.g. yellow colour against dark grey steps.
- (e) Moving handrail should be in luminous contrast with the background.
- (f) Passenger conveyor may be used when there is substantial traveling distance between pedestrian entrance and vehicular access point, e.g. in an airport terminal. It is mechanically similar to escalator which may be level or inclined.
- (g) The same principles of luminous contrast as for escalator should apply to passenger conveyor.
- (h) There must always be an alternative pedestrian route provided.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Audio Indicator

- (a) For escalator and passenger conveyor, clear signal or indication for going up/down or moving forward should be provided on both ends, e.g. consistent clear sound or signals.

Alternative Access

- (b) Where there is an accessible lift that provides alternative access route for persons with a disability, it should be near to, and clearly shown by a sign posted at the entry to the escalator.

CHAPTER 5

BUILDING SERVICES DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

5.1 SWITCHES AND CONTROLS

This paragraph is applicable to operable part of controls such as electrical switches, wall socket outlets and controls of other electrical and mechanical equipment.

Switches, socket outlets and controls for lighting and other equipment shall be located so that they are easily reachable for all users.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Ease of operation, visibility, reachable height and free from obstruction are key factors that affect the use of building services by persons with a disability.
- (b) All outlets, switches and controls should be positioned consistently in relation to doorways and corners within a building and in a logical sequence of passage through the building.
- (c) Switches close to the floor or skirting are difficult to reach and dangerous because the users have to stoop or kneel to operate them. The higher the socket outlet, the easier it is to push in or pull out the plug. However, there may be exceptions to height requirements for some socket outlets, e.g. those set into the raised flooring in open plan offices.
- (d) Operation of controls intended to be used by persons with a disability should not require the use of both hands simultaneously.
- (e) To cater for persons with visual impairment, controls should be in colour and luminous contrast with the background, and with embossed information on them for tactile reading.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Positioning

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in Division 19 for lifts, the controls for the operation of building services or safety devices including electrical switches, light switches, thermostats, intercom switches and card reading machines which are intended to be accessible to wheelchair users should be located between 450 mm and 1200 mm above the finished floor level (see Figure 43).

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Positioning (Cont'd)

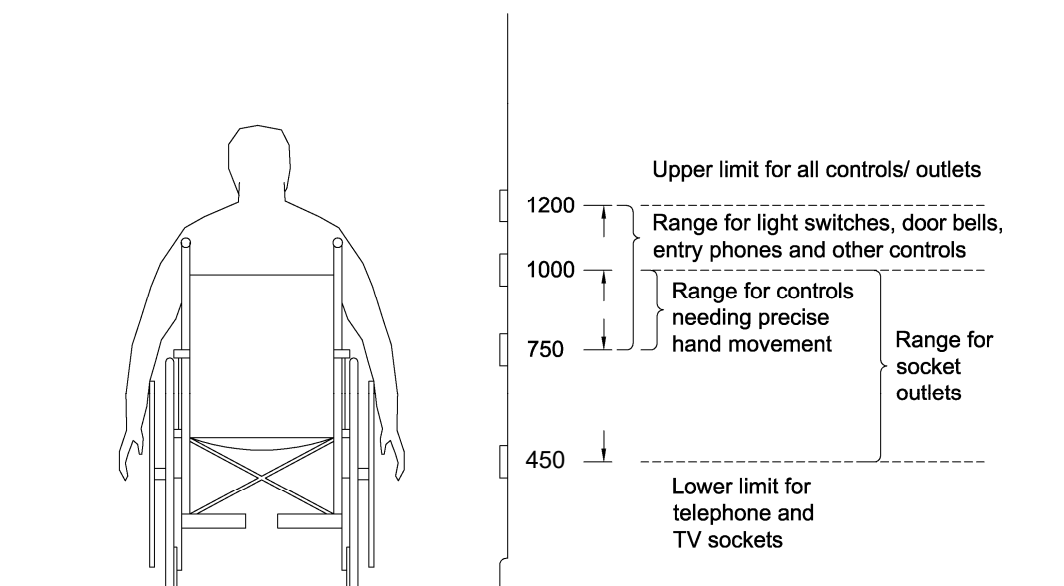
- (b) Electric sockets should be located not lower than 450 mm above the finished floor level.

Luminous Contrast

- (c) Light switches and socket outlets should have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with their background to indicate their locations.

Controls

- (d) Controls should:
 - (i) have a minimum luminous contrast of 30% with the background finishes;
 - (ii) not require tight grasping or twisting;
 - (iii) be visible from a seated position; and
 - (iv) not be of small button type.



*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 43 – Heights of Switches and Controls

5.2 FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

- 5.2.1** Persons with hearing impairment depend on visual cues to alert them of emergencies. Persons with hearing impairment may need a visible as well as audible alarm which is only sufficient to deliver warning to a normal person.

MANDATORY SECTION

5.2.2 Performance Objectives

Where fire alarm systems are provided in areas of a building required to be accessible, the alarm shall emit both audible and visible signals.

5.2.3 Obligatory Design Requirements

Visual Alarm

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b), visual alarm signal shall be provided to form part of the fire alarm system in the form of a flashing red light, labelled “Fire Alarm 火警” in both English and Chinese. It shall be indicated on separate plate affixed nearby or engraved on the light cover. The alarm shall be installed at a prominent location which shall be readily noticeable when activated in the categories of buildings as specified in Table 2 in Chapter 2.
- (b) The provision of visual alarm shall not apply to all exit staircases as required under the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings including the smoke lobbies adjoining the exit staircase, and the following areas:

Domestic use	- domestic units
Office	- areas accessible to staff only, e.g. offices, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.
Department store and shopping complex	- areas not accessible to customers, visitors, e.g. offices, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.
Hotel, guesthouse, hostel and bank	- areas not accessible to guests, customers, visitors, e.g. kitchens, plant rooms, staff toilets, offices, back of house facilities, etc.
Place for worship	- areas not accessible to worshippers, visitors, e.g. offices, staff toilets, etc.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Visual Alarm (Cont'd)

Cinema, theatre, concert hall, stadium, museum, theme park and purpose-built family amusement centre	- areas not accessible to the visitors, spectators, audience, e.g. projector rooms, offices, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.
School, college, university	- areas accessible to staff only, e.g. offices, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, staff quarters, etc.
Factory, workshop and place for industrial use	- areas accessible to staff only, e.g. offices, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.
Sports complex and public swimming pool complex	- areas not accessible to visitors, athletes, spectators, e.g. plant rooms, offices, store rooms, staff toilets, etc.
Restaurant and food court	- areas not accessible to customers, visitors, e.g. offices, kitchens, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.
Indoor market and supermarket	- areas not accessible to customers, visitors, e.g. offices, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.
Hospital, purpose-built clinic, residential home for the elderly and welfare centre	- areas not accessible to patients, inmates, visitors, e.g. kitchens, plant rooms, staff toilets, offices, laboratories, back of house facilities, staff quarters, etc.
Club House	- areas accessible to staff only, e.g. offices, kitchens, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.
Transport station, interchange, passenger terminal	- areas accessible to staff only, e.g. plant rooms, station offices, regulator's offices, staff toilets, etc.
Carpark	- areas not accessible to customers, visitors, e.g. shroff offices, store rooms, plant rooms, staff toilets, etc.

Obligatory Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Positioning of Call Points

- (c) The manual fire alarm call points or activation controls, e.g. breakglass units, in places which are intended to be accessible to wheelchair users, shall be positioned at prominent and accessible locations and installed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment and the Code of Practice for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment or Fire Services Department Circular Letter.

Audible Alarm

- (d) Audible alarm shall comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment and the Code of Practice for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment published by the Director of Fire Services.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

Audible and visual alarm may not be appropriate for use in hospitals and some specialized medical facilities, such as operating rooms, where it is not intended to alert or alarm patients who are incapable of independent evacuation. The sudden strobe flash might disrupt a surgical operation in progress which could be catastrophic. For such facilities, the requirements for visual and audible alarm may be modified to suit the norm of industry-accepted practices.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Except for areas designed for domestic use, areas listed in paragraph 5.2.3(b) should also be provided with visual alarm in situations where person with hearing impairment has to work alone.

5.3 PUBLIC TELEPHONES

This paragraph sets out the requirements for telephones intended to be used by the public.

Public telephones should be accessible by all users, including wheelchair users and persons with visual or hearing impairment.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Telephones should be fixed at an appropriate height which is within easy reach and easy to use, to enable all users, including persons with a disability to make full use of them.
- (b) Other helpful features which should be provided include support rails; adequate lighting; seats; big buttons; lamp signaling; amplifying handset; inductive coupler; speakerphone; and digit 5 indicator.
- (c) The provision of a text phone enables person with hearing impairment to make calls.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Keypad

- (a) The keypad of a public payphone, if provided with mechanical keypad, should have a digit 5 indicator (see Figure 44).

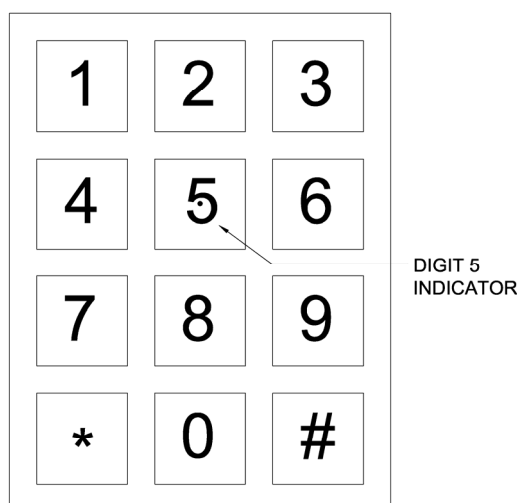


Figure 44 – Digit 5 Indicator

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Telephone for Persons with Ambulant Disabilities and Wheelchair Users

- (b) At least one in a group of two or more payphones should be designed for access by persons with a disability and in compliance with the following:
 - (i) the approach to the accessible payphone should be free of obstacles;
 - (ii) the accessible payphone should not be placed on a stepped base unless a ramp in compliance with Division 5 is provided;
 - (iii) the cord length of the accessible payphone should not be less than 750 mm;
 - (iv) to facilitate wheelchair users, all operable parts including the coin slot of the accessible payphone should not be positioned higher than 1200 mm above the finished floor level;
 - (v) if there is an enclosure for the accessible payphone, the enclosure should begin no more than 650 mm from the finished floor level to prevent it from being a hazard to persons with visual impairment;
 - (vi) there should be a clear floor space of at least 750 mm by 1200 mm in front of the accessible payphone to allow either a forward or parallel approach by a wheelchair user;
 - (vii) if a parallel approach is adopted, the enclosure sides, if there is an enclosure, should not extend more than 250 mm in front of the face of the accessible payphone;
 - (viii) If a forward approach is adopted, the enclosure, if any, should have a clear width of at least 800 mm to provide wheelchair access; shelves or other obstructions should not extend more than 400 mm from the face of the accessible payphone; and there should be a space of 750 mm wide by 650 mm high by 430 mm deep for the footplate of a wheelchair;
 - (ix) if the accessible payphone is provided in an enclosed booth, the door of the booth should open outwards and have a clear width of not less than 800 mm between the open door and the opposite jamb or the other leaf; and
 - (x) if the accessible payphones are provided in a booth without door, the entrance to the booth should not be less than 800 mm wide.
- (c) Grab rails should be installed on each side of the accessible payphone booth to enable those on crutches or with canes to maintain balance while using the accessible payphone. Otherwise, there should be a space of not less than 900 mm in width in the phone booth for persons with a disability to enter with their crutches and canes.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Telephone for Persons with Ambulant Disabilities and Wheelchair Users (Cont'd)

- (d) A fold-down seat should be provided in accessible booths for the convenience of persons with ambulant disabilities.

Telephone for Persons with Visual Impairment

- (e) At least one in a group of two or more payphones should be designed for access by persons with visual impairment. Such payphone should be provided with a mechanical keypad with the digit 5 indicator and a detection system that activates a recorded sound message, giving explanations on the operational procedures to the users, as the handset is picked up.
- (f) Phone cards for payphones should bear a “notch” on the left bottom to aid orientation for persons with visual impairment.

Telephone for Persons with Hearing Impairment

- (g) At least one in a group of two or more payphones should be provided with amplifying handset or receiver with inductive coupler. If a payphone is equipped with the latter, it should be identified by the international symbol of access for persons with hearing impairment (see Figure 30).

Telephone for Persons With Speech Impairment

- (h) At least one in a group of two or more payphones should be capable of handling written messages for access by persons with speech impairment.

5.4 REMOTE SIGNAGE SYSTEMS

A remote signage system carries and transmits a voice message to the users in the form of a talking sign. The system shall provide audible information to persons with visual impairment who are equipped with proper receivers.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) A remote signage system normally consists of short audio signals sent by invisible infrared light beams from permanently installed transmitters to a hand-held receiver that decodes the signal and delivers the voice message through its speaker or headset.
- (b) With the hand-held receiver, persons with visual impairment can scan the environment and locate his relative position. It can work effectively in both interior and exterior applications for landmark identification and way-finding.
- (c) The system promotes more confident and independent travel throughout all major common areas.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

A remote directional signage system which transmits a voice message by means of infrared or the like detectable by a proper receiver should be provided to facilitate access and movement of persons with visual impairment.

5.5 VERTICAL LIFTING PLATFORMS

A vertical lifting platform is a mechanical lift with a platform and walls which provides vertical circulation between two levels.

A vertical lifting platform shall be designed to facilitate persons with ambulant disabilities and wheelchair users for the vertical transportation from one level to another in a building.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) Installation of vertical lifting platform is necessary if no other means of vertical transportation is available when the presence of persons with a disability can be envisaged.
- (b) It provides an accessible route to a performing area.
- (c) It provides access to equipment control rooms and projection booths.
- (d) Clear instructions for use and emergency alarm should be provided inside the lifting platform.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) Where it is impractical to provide a passenger lift or a ramp, a self-operated vertical lifting platform should be considered as a reasonable alternative for vertical circulation for wheelchair users, the vertical lifting platform should have the following provisions:

Automatic Door

- (i) minimum clear entrance width of 900 mm;
- (ii) single door or 2-door design and the kinetic energy of the door should not exceed 10J;

Platform size

- (iii) minimum size of 1100 mm (wide) x 1500 mm (deep);

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Safety Barrier

- (iv) provision of safety barriers of not less than 1100 mm in height;
- (v) provision of a flip-up ramp if a door is not provided, to act as a safety barrier and serves as an access ramp for wheelchair users;

Control

- (vi) lifting platform buttons and emergency call button should comply with paragraphs 80(1) to 80(8) and 80(i) and 80(ii) in Division 19. For automatic swing doors, the control buttons at the landing side should meet the requirements in paragraph (ea)(xi) in Section B of Division 11. The hold-to-run button should be of a minimum dimension of 50 mm;
- (viA) the vertical lifting platform should be self-operable by users holding a common key;
- (viB) call button and CCTV should be provided at every landing to a vertical lifting platform. The call button should activate an intercom and video contact with a caretaker's office or public information/service counter provided under paragraph 70 in Division 15 for assistance;
- (vii) automatic homing device should be installed so that in the event of a power failure, the platform lift will descend to the entrance level;

Grab Bars

- (viii) grab bars complying with paragraphs 28(3) and (4) in Division 8 should be placed at a height of 900mm from the finished floor level and be fixed on both sides and at the rear of the platform (door(s) excepted). The vertical distance between the grab bar and the control buttons should not be less than 100 mm;

Maximum Travel and Loading

- (ix) the maximum travel should be 7000 mm;
- (x) the rated load of the lifting platform should not exceed 500 kg;

Sign

- (xi) a sign to indicate the rated load should be provided at a prominent position next to the lift control buttons inside the lift; and

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

Landing (repealed)

(xii) (repealed)

Undertaking from Owners

- (xiii) the owner should undertake quality management and maintenance to facilitate the reliable use of the lifting platform. The platform should be kept in service during the opening hours of the premises and routine servicing/repair should be arranged in closed times.

Figure 45 – (repealed)

5.6 DRINKING FOUNTAINS

This paragraph sets out the requirements for provision of drinking fountains. A drinking fountain is a primary means for providing the public with sanitary water.

BEST PRACTICE SECTION

A. Design Considerations

- (a) The design and provision of drinking fountains should take into account the envisaged use of persons with a disability.
- (b) The operable controls and direction of water flow should be designed and installed in a manner to facilitate the use by persons with a disability.
- (c) Facilities for wheelchair users call for extra consideration in relation to access and manoeuvring space.

B. Recommended Design Requirements

Provision

- (a) Where drinking fountains are provided, at least one of the drinking fountains on a given floor should have a design complying with this section.

Spout

- (b) The fountain spout should:
 - (i) have an opening located between 750 mm and 900 mm from the floor or ground surface;
 - (ii) be located near to the front of the unit;
 - (iii) direct the water flow in a trajectory that is parallel or nearly parallel to the front of the unit; and
 - (iv) provide a flow of water at least 100 mm high to allow for the insertion of a cup or glass.
- (c) Automatic controls or controls with handles of the lever type operable with a closed fist should be provided.

Recommended Design Requirements (Cont'd)

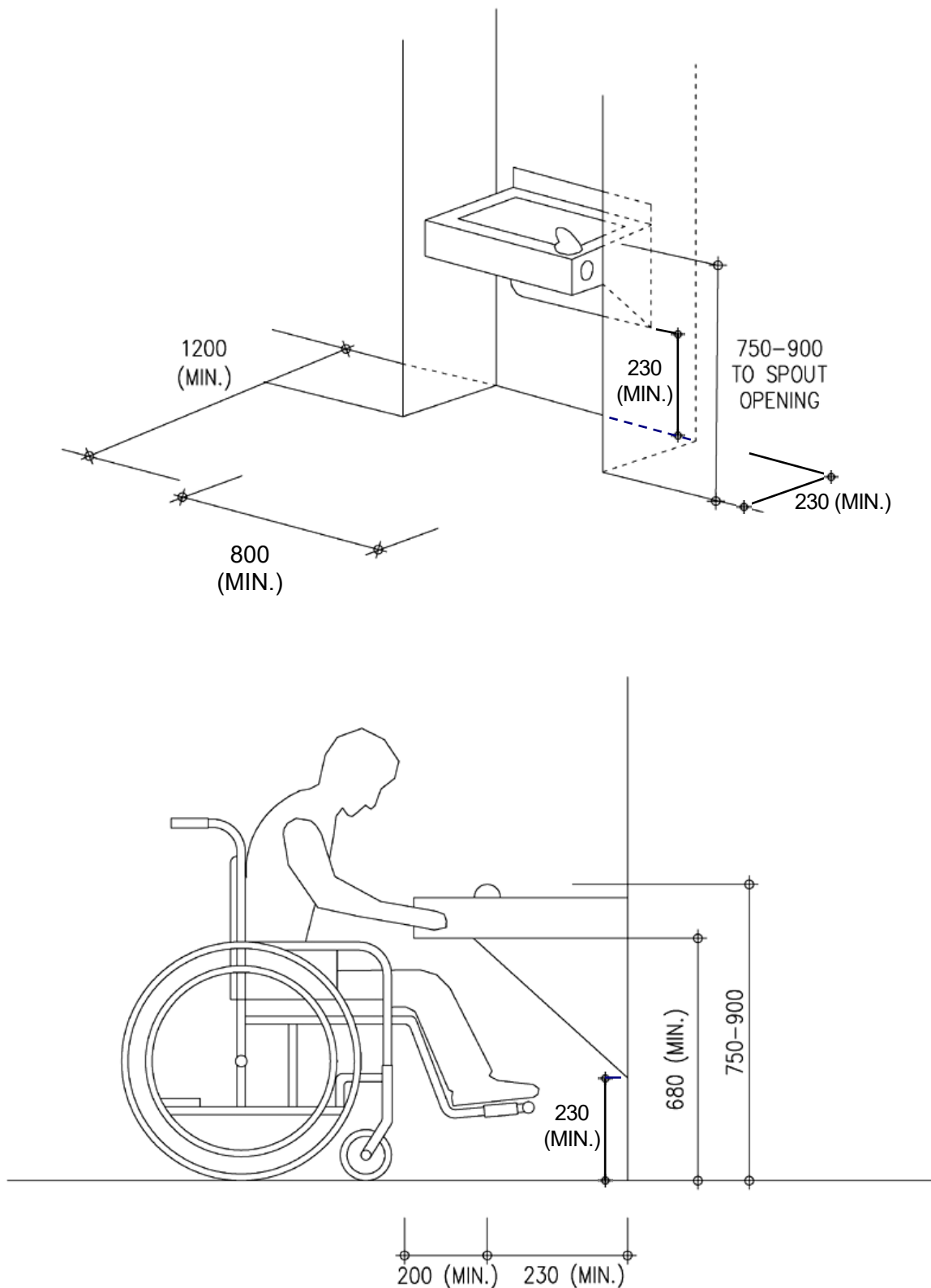
Control

- (d) Controls should:
 - (i) be at or near to the front of the fountain;
 - (ii) be operable with one hand;
 - (iii) require no tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist;
 - (iv) require a force of 22 N or less to activate; and
 - (v) be hand-operated control with minimum dimension of 50 mm.

Spatial Arrangement

- (e) The spatial arrangement should allow for the provision of:
 - (i) a clear floor space of at least 800 mm x 1200 mm;
 - (ii) a clear knee space of at least 800 mm wide, 200 mm deep and 680 mm high between the bottom of the apron and the floor or ground; and
 - (iii) a toe space not less than 800 mm wide, 230 mm deep and 230 mm high.
- (f) All wall-mounted drinking fountains should be placed in an alcove to eliminate the hazard of collision to persons with visual impairment.
- (g) A wall guard should be installed to protect a drinking fountain that extends into a corridor and has an open space underneath.

Dimensions relating to the design of drinking fountains are shown in Figure 46.



SPOUT HEIGHT AND KNEE CLEARANCE

*ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm

Figure 46 – Built-in Drinking Fountain

CHAPTER 6

ELDERLY-FRIENDLY DESIGN GUIDELINES

6.1 GENERAL

The guidelines set out in this Chapter aim to provide a safe and comfortable living environment for the elderly who may gradually experience declining abilities; promote active ageing by enabling the elderly to achieve autonomy and independence without the help of others; and promote the elderly's well-being, in particular social interaction among the elderly and between the elderly and other age groups.

Building owners and designers are encouraged to adopt these guidelines in the building design as far as practicable.

6.2 DESIGN GUIDELINES

The design guidelines set out as recommended design requirements are grouped into four categories, namely Mobility and Accessibility (section 6.2.1), Design Adaptability (section 6.2.2), Well-being (section 6.2.3), and Gerontechnology (section 6.2.4).

6.2.1 Mobility and Accessibility

The functional capacity (such as muscular strength, balancing, vision and hearing) of a person often declines gradually as ageing progresses, which may increase the risk of accidents and injuries. One crucial factor for ageing in place is to ensure safe mobility and accessibility of the built environment, both inside and beyond the residential units.

Improving mobility and accessibility can significantly enhance the safety, health and well-being, as well as the convenience of the elderly, promoting their independence and reducing the risk of falls and other health complications.

In addition, ensuring smooth circulation between various major destinations will facilitate the convenient and efficient movement of building occupants, especially for the elderly.

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Residential Units		
Bathrooms	A1. Bathrooms	<p>(a) Adequate clear space of not less than 1200 mm diameter should be allowed for turning of wheelchair and transfer of users.</p> <p>(b) Grab bars should be provided.</p>
	A2. Doors	<p>(a) Doorways of not less than 850 mm should be provided to allow a wheelchair to pass through.</p> <p>(b) Sliding doors should be provided for easy and convenient use. Where sliding doors could not be provided, doors that take up less space, such as folding or double swing doors, should be provided.</p>
	A3. Bathtubs / Showers	<p>(a) Bathtub should have either built-in seat at the head end of bathtub or attachable portable seat that fastens securely to the tub when needed.</p> <p>(b) Showers should be of size not less than 1500 mm x 900 mm with a folding seat to allow transfer of users.</p> <p>(c) Grab bars should be provided.</p>
	A4. Floor Surfaces	<p>(a) Floor surfaces should comply with the Best Practice Section under Division 4. Slip-resistant floor finishes should be used. Shiny and reflective floors such as marble, glazed tiles and the like should be avoided.</p>

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Others	A5. Fittings and Furniture	<p>(a) Double-switching systems should be considered.</p> <p>Switches and controls should be provided at reachable level.</p> <p>For bedrooms, switches and controls should be provided near bedside to avoid crossing the room in the dark.</p> <p>(b) Lever-type controls and handles should be used. Knob handles, push operated and self-closing type faucet controls should be avoided. Examples of elderly-friendly door handles and faucets are provided in Figure 47.</p> <p>(c) Cupboards should not be installed at high levels. Overhead cabinets should be avoided. Pull-down shelves should be provided for cupboards at high level or overhead cabinets.</p> <p>(d) Drying racks and laundry poles projecting from the external walls of the building should be avoided.</p> <p>Flip hooks should be provided at main entrance for hanging items.</p>

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Common Areas and Facilities		
Accessible Routes	A6. Corridors / Paths and Lobbies / Lift Lobbies, Steps / Staircases, etc.	<p>(a) Accessible routes should be without steps, thresholds, small ramps or kerbs, wherever possible. Where changes in level are unavoidable, handrails or grab bars should be provided. The floor and wall surface along the level of difference should be in luminous contrast.</p> <p>(b) Handrails should be provided along common corridors.</p> <p>(c) Steps and staircases should be designed with wider treads and lower risers.</p>
	A7. Handrails	<p>(a) Handrails to corridors, steps and staircases should be lowered to a height between 810 mm and 900 mm from the finished floor level to the top of the handrails.</p> <p>Handrails should be of materials such as timber or with plastic coated surfaces for easier grip.</p>
	A8. Doors	<p>(a) Automatic doors should be provided as far as practicable.</p> <p>(b) If door closing devices are installed, they should be designed to allow external and internal doors to be opened with horizontal forces of not more than 28N and 18N respectively.</p>

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
		(c) Lever-type handles should be used. Knob handles should be avoided. Examples of elderly-friendly door handles are provided in Figure 47.
	A9. Floor Surfaces	<p>(a) Floor surfaces should comply with the Best Practice Section under Division 4. Slip-resistant floor finishes should be used. Shiny and reflective floors such as marble, glazed tiles and the like should be avoided.</p> <p>Open jointed pavers or aeration paver blocks with uneven or very rough surface should be avoided at external open spaces.</p>
Lifts, Escalators and Passenger Conveyors	A10. Larger Lift Cars	(a) Larger lift cars with clear depth of not less than 1.5 m should be provided.
	A11. Seating within Lift Cars	(a) Resting facilities such as folding seats or lean on railings should be provided within the lift cars except fireman's lifts.
	A12. Lift Control Panels or Buttons	<p>(a) Control panels or buttons at the lift lobbies should be located at 1050 mm above the finished floor level. They should be easy to operate and have a minimum luminous contrast of 30%.</p> <p>(b) Lift control buttons in the lift cars should be back-lit.</p> <p>(c) Audio indication helping the elderly to locate themselves should be provided in the lift cars.</p>

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
	A13. Escalators and Passenger Conveyors	(a) Escalators and passenger conveyors should be designed with slower speed.
Toilets and WC Cubicles	A14. Toilets and WC Cubicles	<p>(a) Doors of toilets and WC cubicles should open outward or both ways. Locks and latches should be of larger sizes and be able to open from outside with a coin.</p> <p>(b) Lever-type controls and handles should be used. Knob handles, push operated and self-closing type faucet controls should be avoided. Examples of elderly-friendly door handles and faucets are provided in Figure 47.</p> <p>(c) Emergency alarm system should be provided. Emergency call bell should comply with Division 17. Should pull-cord be installed, they must be extended to floor-level.</p>
Car Parks	A15. Vehicular Entrances	(a) Audio / visual warning signal should be provided at vehicular entrances of car parks.
Others	A16. Signs and Decorations	<p>(a) Signages</p> <p>Bright primary colours should be used as contrast or highlight for easier differentiation ¹. Monotone colour should be avoided.</p>

¹ In general, elderly may become less sensitive to colours having shorter wavelengths (blues, greens and violets) as their lenses thicken and yellow with age. Warm colours with longer wavelengths (reds, oranges and yellows) are easier for them to differentiate.

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
		<p>Colour combination of signs such as yellow figure on black background or white figure on blue background is recommended.</p> <p>In addition to colour contrasts, clear signs with bigger font size should be provided for elderly-friendly facilities and floor numbering.</p> <p>(b) Wayfinding</p> <p>Different colours for different building blocks, floor levels, zonings or areas of different functional purposes are recommended to aid wayfinding.</p> <p>Different floor surfaces or colours should be considered for tactile / visual cues for navigation.</p> <p>Noticeable features, artworks, landmarks such as sculptures, planters, or fountains should be provided at different entrances, zonings and facilities for easy identification.</p>
	A17. Lighting Arrangement	<p>(a) All common areas of a building should have an illumination level of not less than 120 lux measured at the finished floor level, and uniformity of illumination level should be maintained for any space.</p>

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
		<p>(b) Where additional lighting activated by sensors is provided to enhance the illumination level of the lift lobby of upper floors, corridors, accessible paths and staircases, the length of the corridors and paths and the walking speed of the elderly should be considered in setting the duration of such sensors.</p> <p>Alternative or stand-by light sources should be provided to illuminate any spaces in case of power failure.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to ensure gradual transition of lighting levels from one place to another.</p> <p>The use of natural lighting or ambient artificial white light should be encouraged.</p> <p>The use of wall-mounted light or peripheral lighting from floor lamps are superior to a central ceiling source as the formation of shadows can be avoided.</p> <p>Bare light bulbs producing glare which would cause pain to the aging eyes should be avoided.</p> <p>All interior spaces should be lit at a consistent and even level, from floor to ceiling and from wall to wall. High contrast between shadow and light creating confusion and disorienting patterns should be avoided.</p>

6.2.2 Design Adaptability

A person's living needs and preferences may change throughout his/her lifespan. Allowing the flexibility in modifying a residential unit without the need for structural alteration is a crucial aspect to facilitate ageing in place. Providing design adaptability in a home environment can accommodate evolving needs and preferences over time while obviating the need for relocation at old age. This enables the elderly to stay in the same and familiar environment and neighbourhood as they age, thus maintaining their family and community connections.

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Residential Units		
Individual Flats	B1. Convertibility without Structural Alteration	<p>(a) To suit the needs of the elderly at different ages, the residential units should be convertible without the need for making structural alterations so as to accommodate the following elderly-friendly designs:</p> <p><u>To reduce possible safety risks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Raised deck or similar to overcome level difference between indoor living area and the balcony; ii. Handrail / grab bars in toilet / shower area; iii. Shower seat; and iv. Low threshold and curbless walk-in shower. <p><u>To cater for the elderly on wheelchair</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. Lower door viewer for main entrance (see Figure 48); vi. Wider corridor within units with a clear width of not less than 950 mm; vii. Large and / or two-way switches and controls at reachable level;

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Residential Units		
		<p>viii. Maneuvering area of not less than 1200 mm diameter in main entrance, kitchen, toilet and bedroom;</p> <p>ix. Wider internal door with a clear width of not less than 850 mm; and</p> <p>x. Knee space under kitchen sink and wash basin.</p> <p><u>To improve convenience</u></p> <p>xi. Counter-top in kitchen with a depth of not more than 600 mm; and</p> <p>xii. Adequate drainage provisions to enable adaptive design.</p> <p>See Sample Layout of Elderly-friendly Adaptive Design in Figure 49.</p>

6.2.3 Well-being

Design features relating to well-being aim to promote a sense of contentment, encourage social participation and enhance intergenerational interaction and harmony. They reflect the important role that the built environment plays as they cater to the physical, mental and emotional needs of the elderly. Convenient and easy access to recreational facilities with equipment/ facilities that are designed for the elderly and a greater connection with nature can significantly improve the health and quality of life of the elderly, promote physical activity, social engagement, and sense of well-being.

These amenities may also serve “multi-generation” users which will in turn promote intergenerational harmony.

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Residential Units		
Habitable Space	C1. Windows	(a) Larger windows with lower window cills should be provided to increase the amount of natural light and allow views of the outside for the elderly when seated or on wheelchair (see Figure 50). This can have positive impact on moods and reduce feelings of depression and anxiety. Nevertheless, requirements of protective barrier should be complied with. Other concerns such as privacy and fear of height should also be considered. Sliding windows should be adopted to enhance daily use by the elderly.
Common Areas and Facilities		
Corridors / Paths and Lobbies / Lift Lobbies	C2. Lighting and Ventilation	(a) Large windows at the end of long and dark corridors that may cause glare should be avoided.

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
		<p>Cross ventilation should be optimised in common areas such as corridors and lift lobbies.</p>
	C3. Resting Facilities	<p>(a) Resting places with resting facilities, such as seats (including fold-down seats) or lean on railings, should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) provided on stair landings; (ii) provided in corridors more than 50 m in length; or (iii) provided in typical lift lobbies. <p>(b) Long corridors and passageways within transport stations, interchanges and passenger terminals, and public passages within a building connecting with transport stations, interchanges and passenger terminals should be provided with resting places with resting facilities. The resting facilities should be provided in recessed areas at maximum intervals of 50 m.</p> <p>Resting facilities for items (a) and (b) above should not reduce the statutory requirements on the clear width of access and manouvering space, and should not cause obstruction to access, circulation and exit routes.</p>

Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Toilets and WC Cubicles	C4. Elderly-friendly Toilets	<p>(a) Elderly-friendly toilets should be provided and located in an easily accessible common area or within a toilet with multiple cubicles.</p> <p>See Sample of Elderly-friendly Toilet in Figure 51.</p>
	C5. Elderly-friendly Changing Station / Facilities in Accessible Toilets	<p>(a) Elderly-friendly changing station / facilities with an adult sized, height adjustable changing bench, either wall mounted or free standing in accessible toilets should be provided.</p>
External Recreation Spaces	C6. Elderly-friendly Resting Facilities	<p>(a) Resting places with resting facilities, such as seats (including fold-down seats), lean-on railing, fixed chairs, tables and benches, steps, planter edges for sitting preferably with shelters or at covered areas should be provided at outdoor open space.</p>
	C7 Elderly-friendly Fitness Equipment	<p>(a) Elderly-friendly fitness equipment such as twister and stepper, pull-down equipment, stepping platforms, chest press equipment, tai-chi wheels and areas with safety flooring system should be provided.</p>
	C8. Elderly-friendly Planters for Community Farming	<p>(a) Knee spaces should be provided under the planters for community farming which can help to improve focus, memory and cognitive function (see Figure 52).</p>

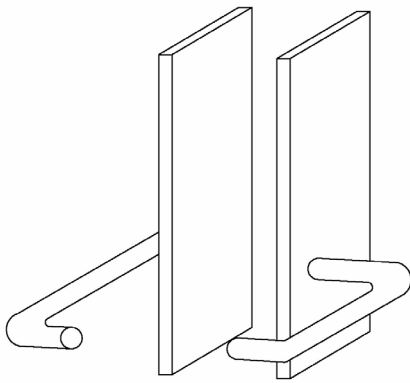
Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Others	C9. Choice of Material	<p>(a) Sound-absorbing materials should be used for floors and walls to avoid echoes.</p> <p>Non-glare or low gloss finishes on floors, matt paint or textured wallpaper on walls should be considered to help reduce glare. Glass or reflective material should be avoided.</p>

6.2.4 Gerontechnology

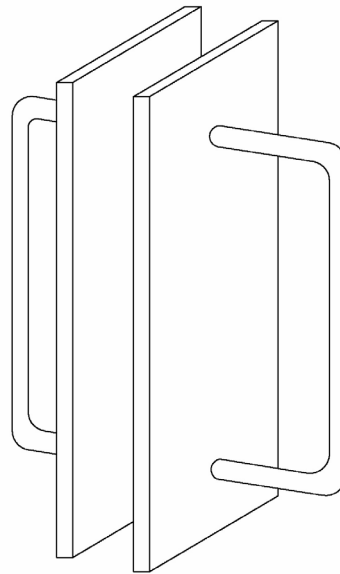
There are new technologies that can enhance safety and convenience, facilitate ageing in place, and foster confidence and independence of the elderly. Effective use of technology is not only a solution to elderly care but also an enabler for the elderly to lead a more independent life.

Gerontechnology helps the elderly with declining capacities to support themselves. Hardware and software applications to assist the elderly and/or their carers are under rapid development, and the elderly are becoming more technologically literate. By integrating assistive technologies into daily life, the elderly can overcome certain physical limitations, maintain cognitive function, and access vital services more easily. Some intelligent devices may also help detect accident of an unattended elderly. The adoption of gerontechnology requires a robust and accessible infrastructure that supports both technological and social integration. This includes high-speed and stable internet access in residential units and common areas of the buildings.

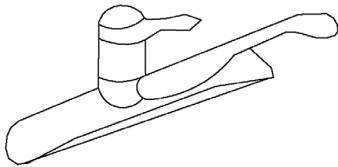
Location	Features	Recommended Design Requirements
Residential Units and Common Areas	D1. Network	(a) Enabling works for high-speed and stable internet provision (e.g. 5G) / Global Positioning System / Radio Frequency Identification Technology to support the use of gerontechnology and Internet of Things (e.g. smart card system for main entrance; water flow sensor; call caring services; motion sensor; window opener; artificial intelligence and robotic support; remote gas heater control; and door sensor) should be provided in residential units and common areas of the buildings.



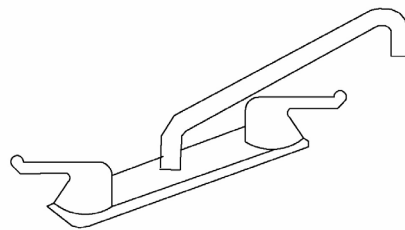
LEVER HANDLES



PUSH/PULL PLATE DOOR
PULL



LONG LEVER HANDLE
(RECOMMENDED)



SINGLE LEVER HANDLE
(RECOMMENDED)

Figure 47 – Examples of Elderly-friendly Door Handles and Faucets

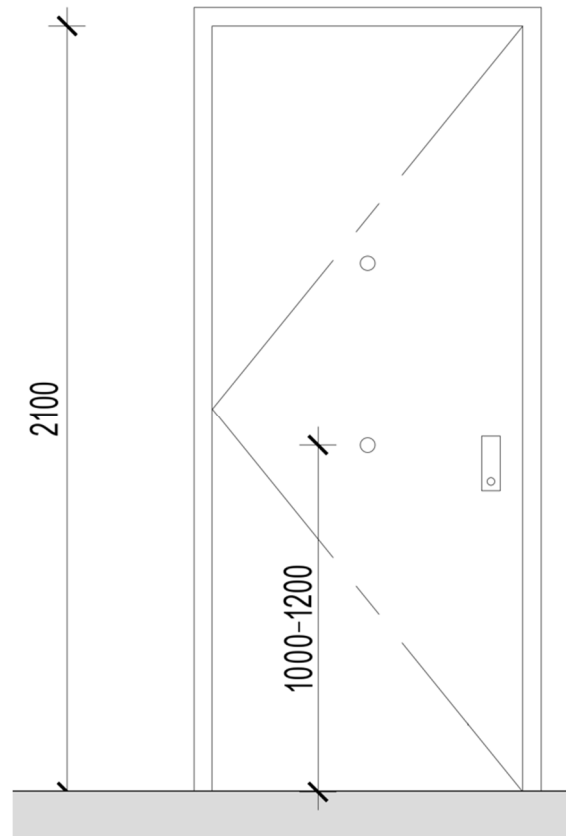
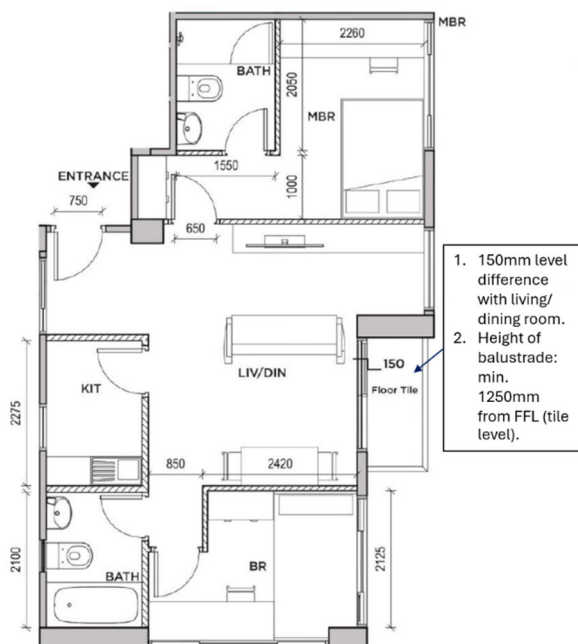


Figure 48 – Sample of Lower Eye Viewer

Before Conversion



After Conversion

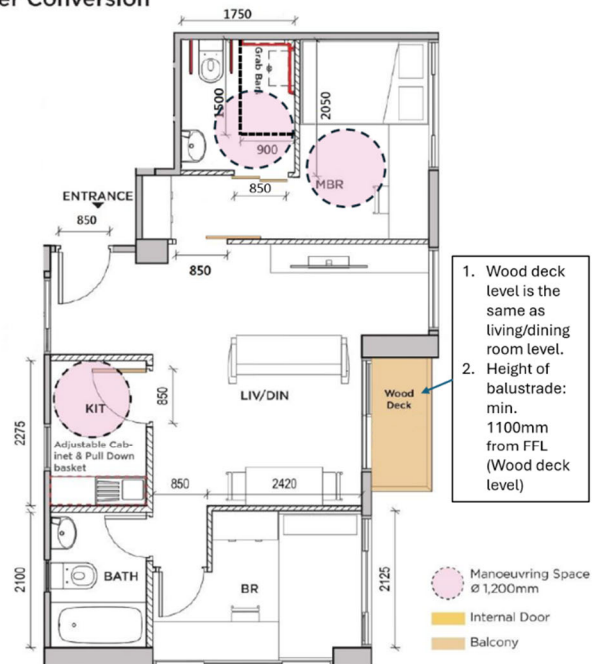


Figure 49 – Sample Layout of Elderly-friendly Adaptive Design

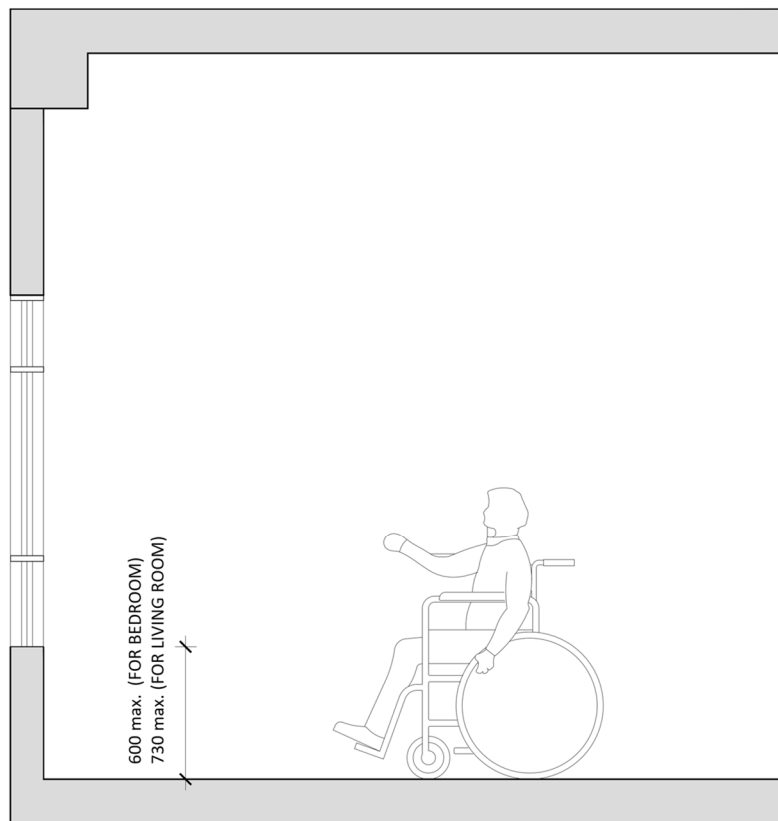
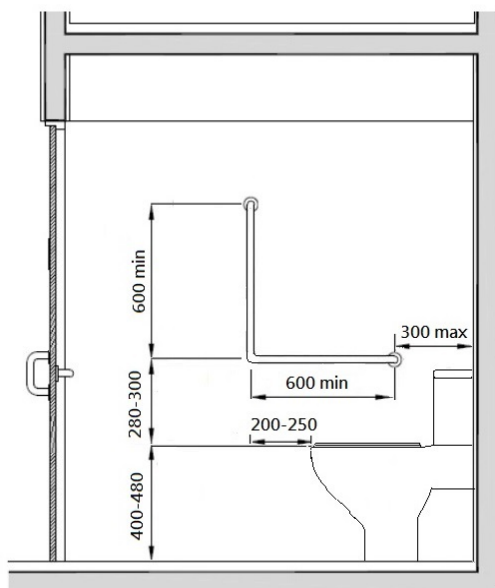
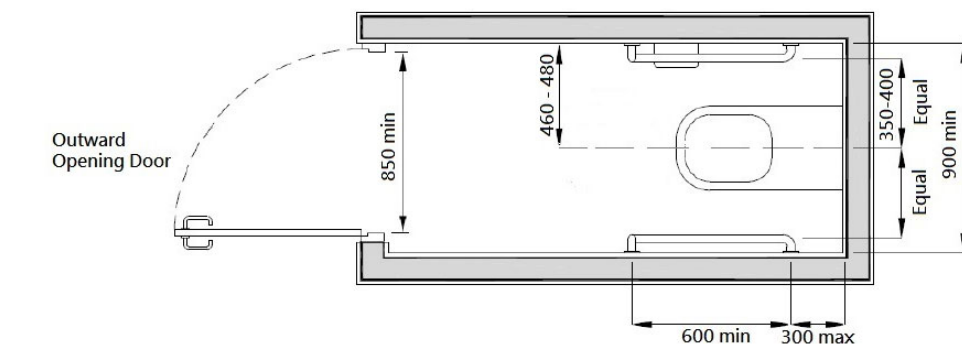


Figure 50 – Example of Lower Window Level



Recommended Design Requirements

- (a) Open outward / folding door;
- (b) Grab bars on both sides of the cubicle, one side with L-shape grab bars;
- (c) Emergency call buttons complying with Division 17 in the cubicle;
- (d) Hands-free sensor type toilet flush;
- (e) Holding device for walking sticks and bags;
- (f) Minimum internal width 900 mm and door width 850 mm;
- (g) Adequate manoeuvring space of 350 mm diameter between the cubicle door and the water closet; and
- (h) A sign installed outside showing the cubicle is equipped with elderly friendly facilities.



Sample of Signage for Elderly-friendly Toilet

(Note: Clear text, such as "Elderly-friendly Toilet" should be shown on the signage)

Figure 51 – Sample of Elderly-friendly Toilet

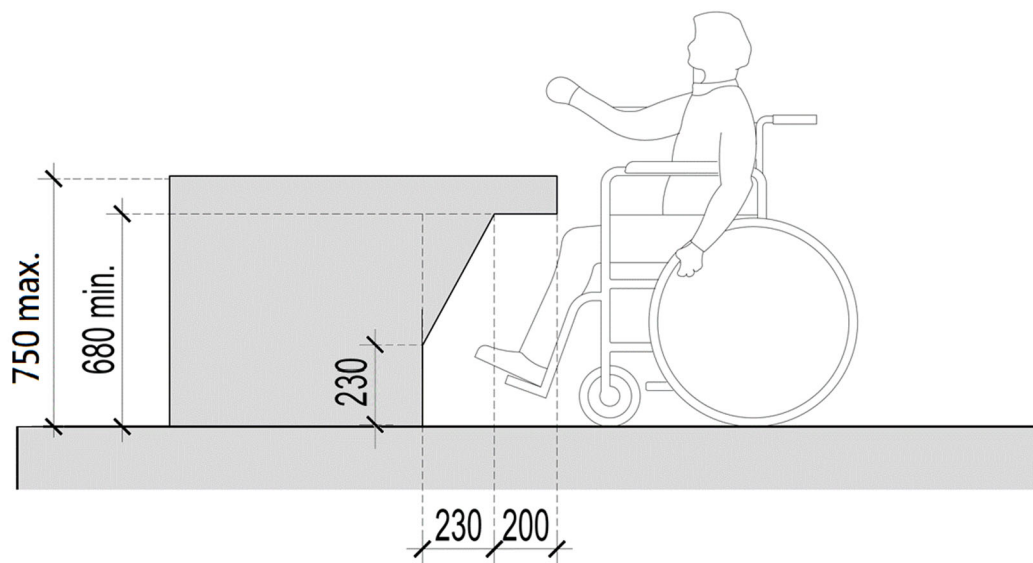


Figure 52 – Knee Space under Planter for Community Farming

Appendix A

Anthropometrics

APPENDIX A

ANTHROPOMETRICS

(All dimensions are in mm)

A.1 Objective:

This Appendix contains dimensional data which can be used for guidance when designing facilities and equipment for use by persons with a disability.

A.2 Considerations:

The dimensions of the individual human being vary with time and from one person to another. In addition, the average dimensions vary from one country to another.

When carrying out detailed design, consideration should be given to size variation between males and females as well as between different ages.

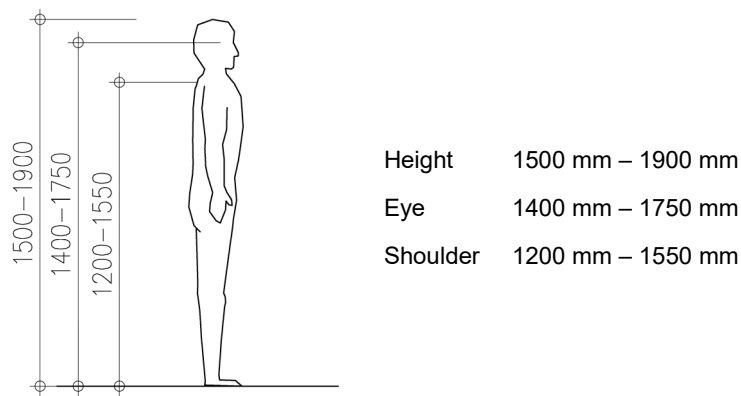


Figure A1 - Dimensional Data of an Average Person

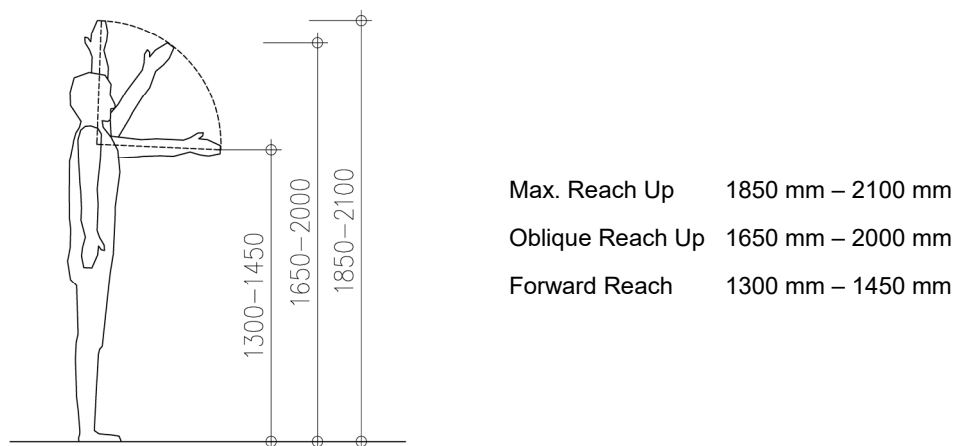


Figure A2 - Reaching Zones of an Average Person

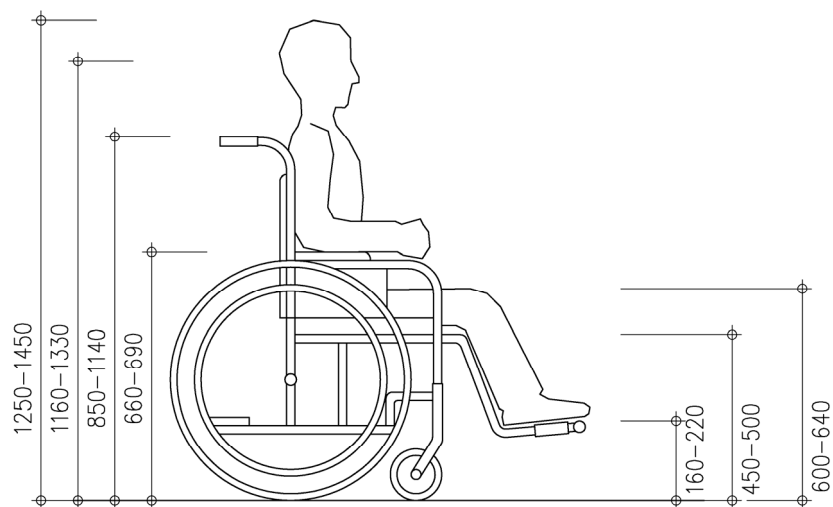


Figure A3 - Dimensional Data of a Wheelchair User

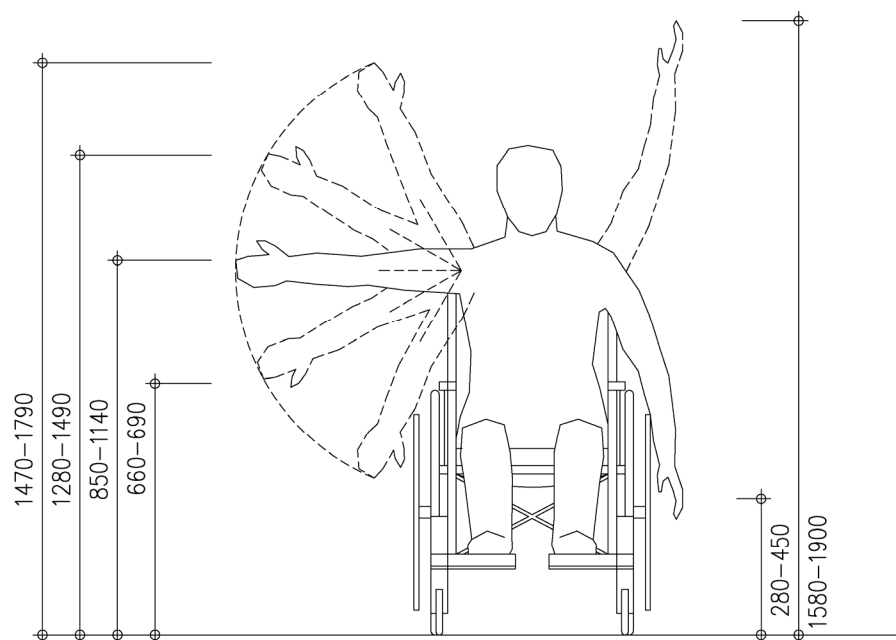


Figure A4 - Vertical Reaching Zones of a Wheelchair User

A.3 Forward reach of a wheelchair user

The maximum forward reach, without obstruction, is 1200 mm from the floor and the minimum forward reach is 400 mm from the floor as shown in Figures A5 and A7.

The maximum forward reach over an obstruction 500 mm deep is 1100 mm from the floor as shown in Figure A6.

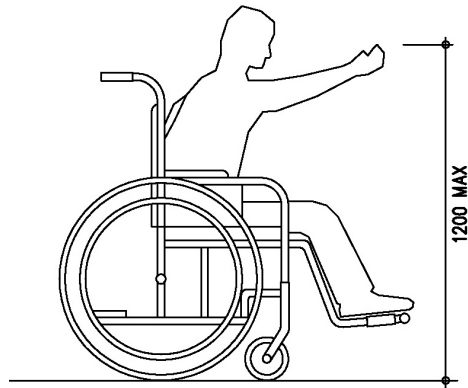


Figure A5 - Forward Reach

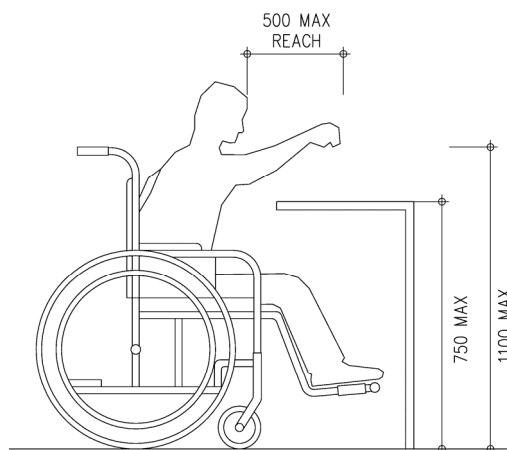


Figure A6 - Forward Reach Over Obstruction

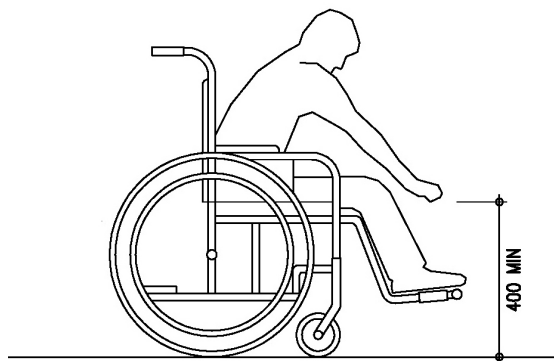


Figure A7 - Forward Reach Without Obstruction

A.4 Side reach

The maximum side reach, without obstruction, is 1300 mm from the floor and the minimum side reach is 250 mm from the floor as shown in Figures A8 and A9.

The maximum side reach over an obstruction 860 mm high by 500 mm deep is 1200 mm from the floor as shown in Figure A10.

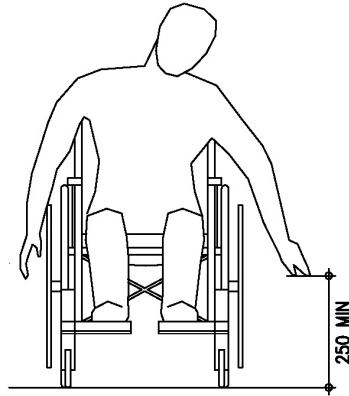


Figure A8 - Side Reach Without Obstruction

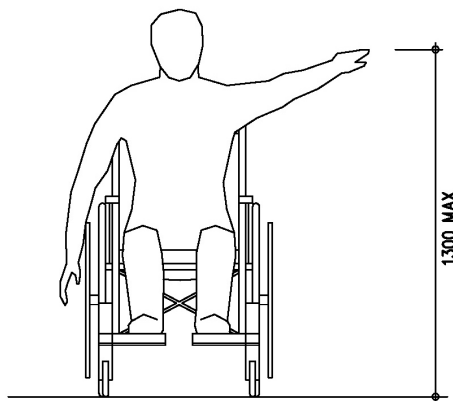


Figure A9 – Maximum Side Reach

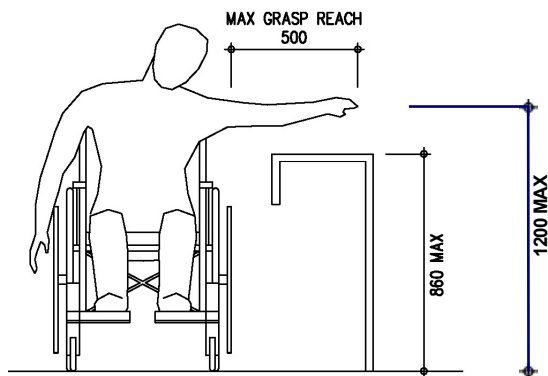
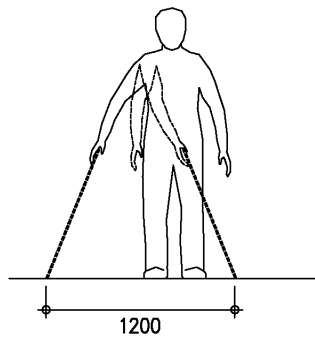
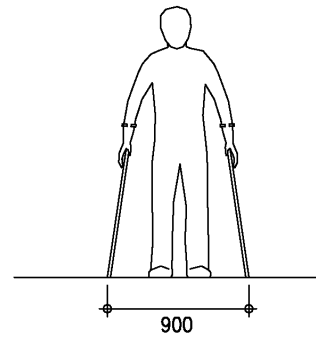


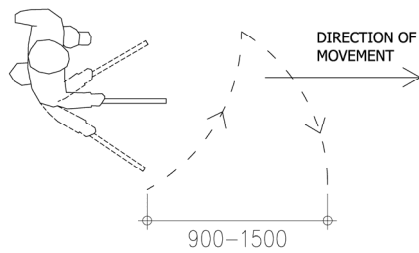
Figure A10 – Maximum Side Reach over an Obstruction



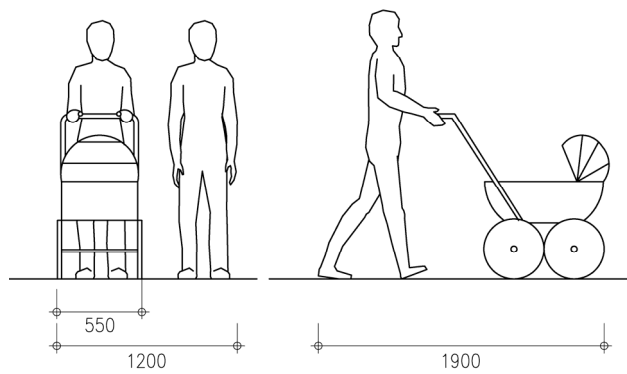
Persons with visual impairment using a long white cane



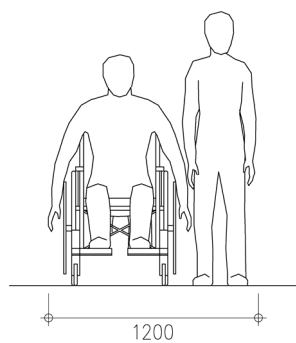
Persons using crutches



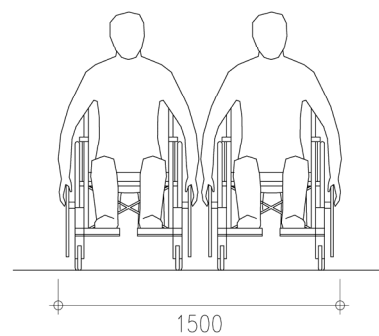
Detectable path dimension



Person with baby carriage



Path width for a person together with a wheelchair user



Path width for two wheelchair users

Figure A11 – Dimensions Required for General Pathway

Appendix B

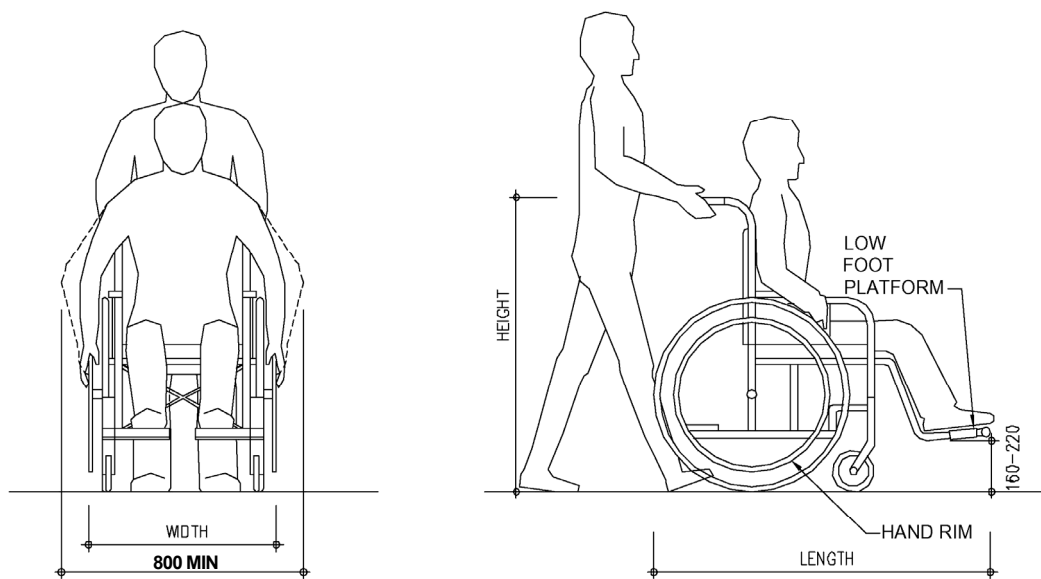
Guidelines for Wheelchair Transfer and Movement

APPENDIX B

GUIDELINES FOR WHEELCHAIR TRANSFER AND MOVEMENT

B.1 Dimensions Of Wheelchairs

The dimensions of wheelchairs commonly used by persons with a disability in Hong Kong are provided at Figure B1.



Type of Wheelchair	Width	Length	Height	Weight
Manual Wheelchair	510-725 mm	665-1100 mm	850-1140 mm	10-27 kg
Electric Wheelchair	520-700 mm	1060-1200 mm	1010-1400 mm	36-100 kg

Figure B1 - Dimensions of Wheelchair

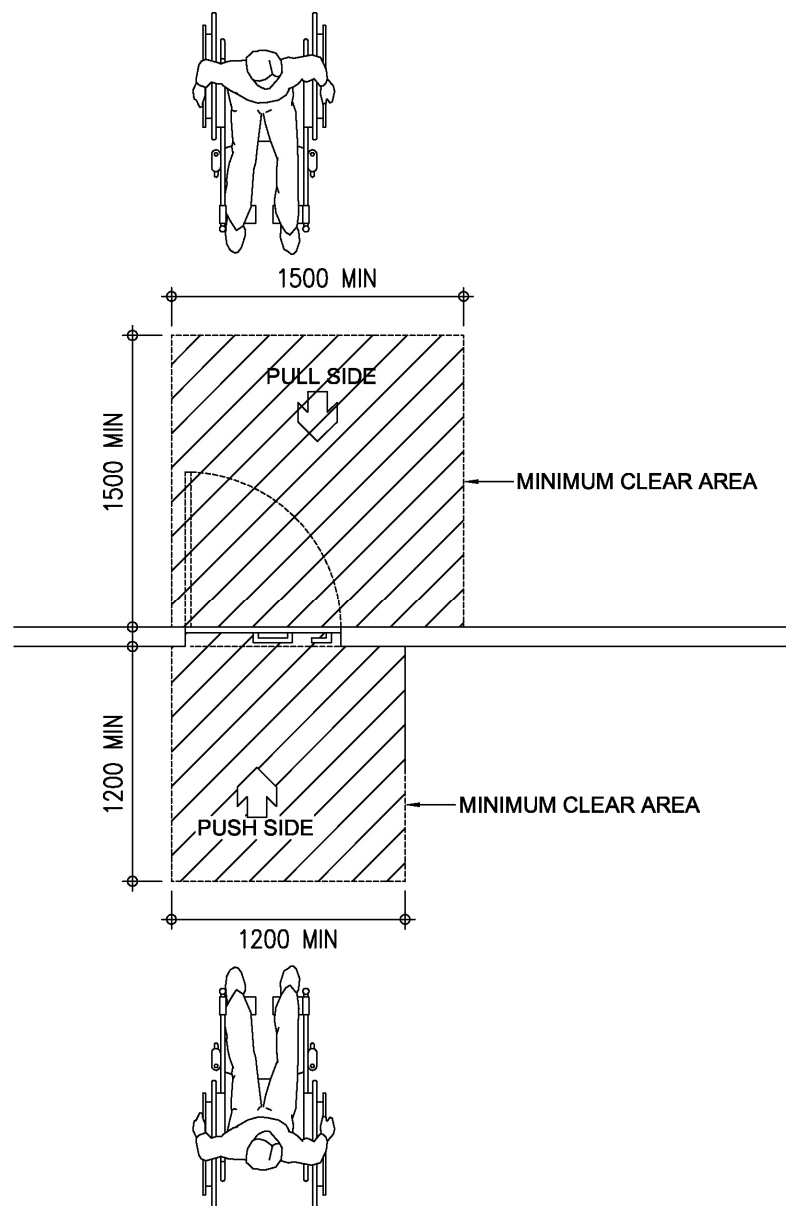
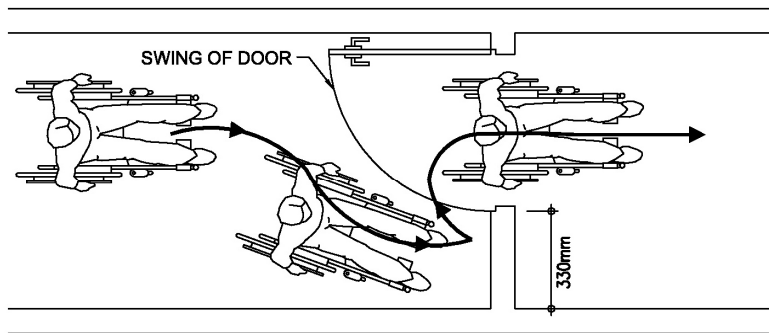


Figure B2 – Manoeuvring Spaces for Doorway

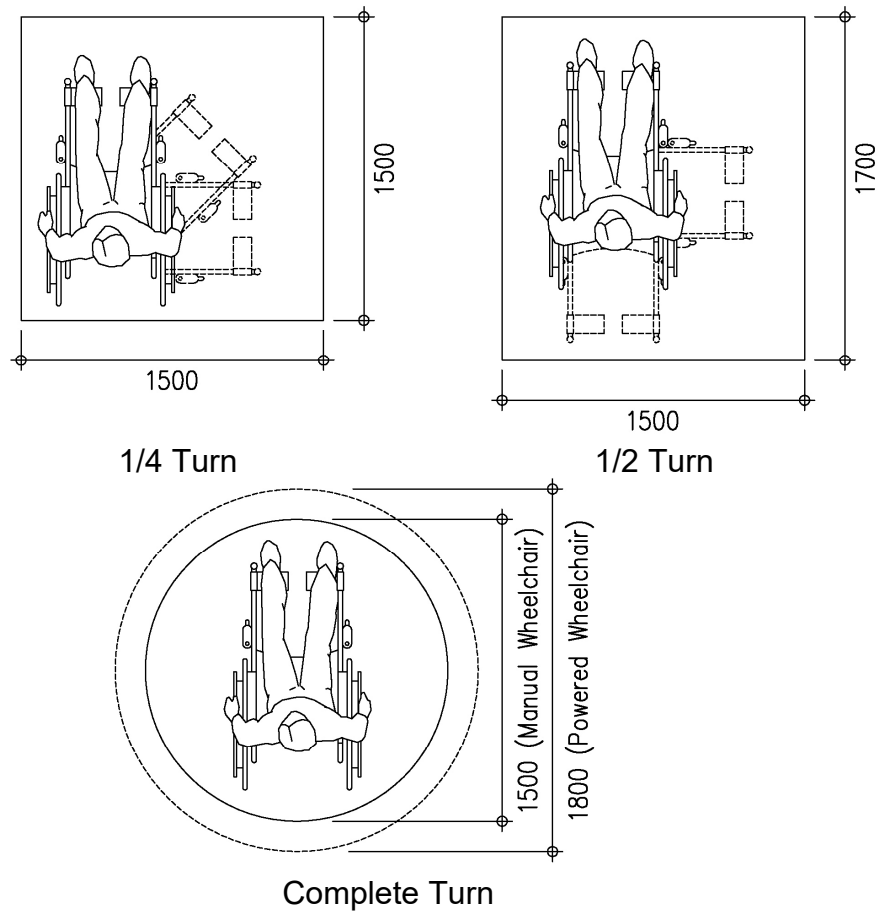


Figure B3 – Wheelchair Manoeuvring Space

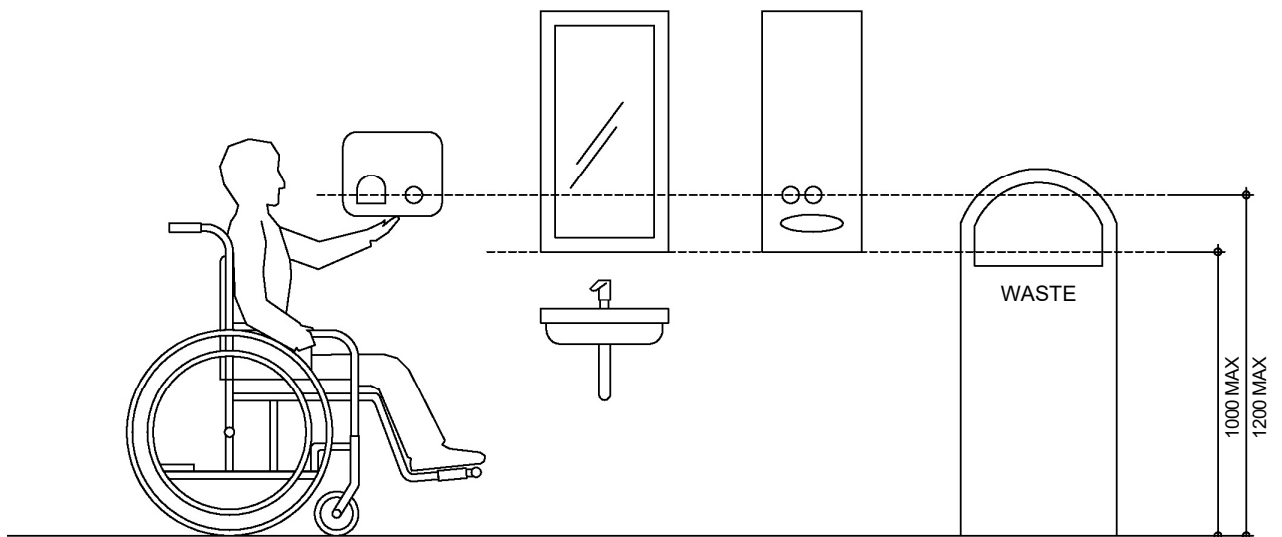
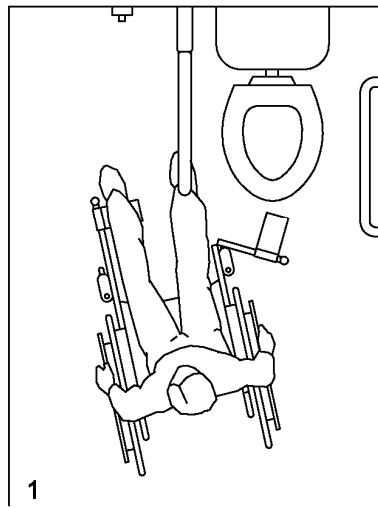
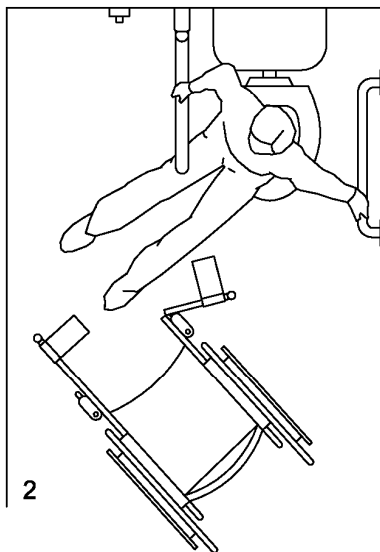


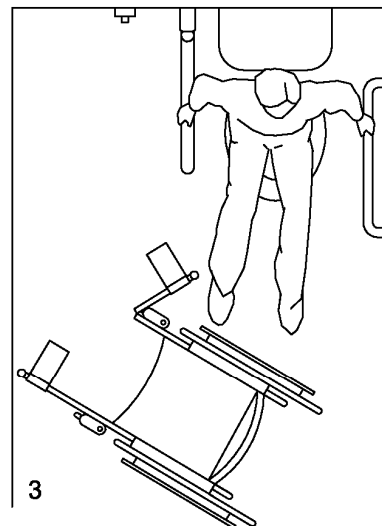
Figure B4 – Design Heights for Various Features



TAKES TRANSFER POSITION,
SWINGS FOOTREST OUT OF THE WAY,
SETS BRAKES

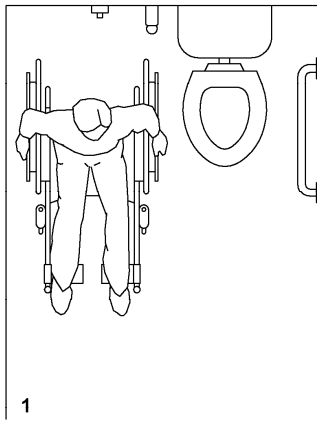


MOVES WHEELCHAIR OUT OF THE WAY,
CHANGES POSITION (SOME PEOPLE FOLD
CHAIR OR PILOT IT 90° TO THE TOILET)

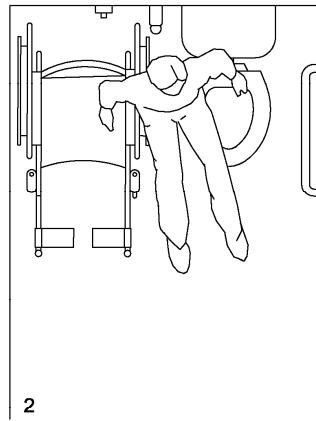


POSITION ON TOILET,
RELEASES BRAKES

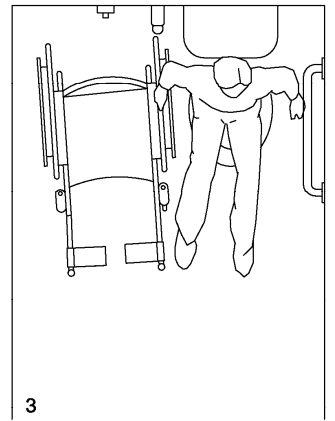
**Figure B5 – Diagonal Approach for Transferring from a wheelchair
to a W.C. (Diagonal Approach)**



TAKES TRANSFER POSITION,
REMOVES ARMREST,
SETS BRAKES

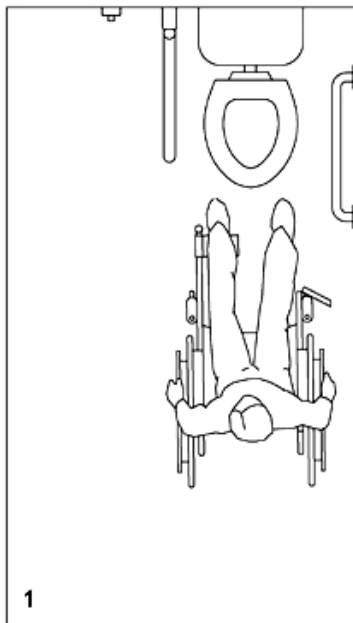


TRANSFERS

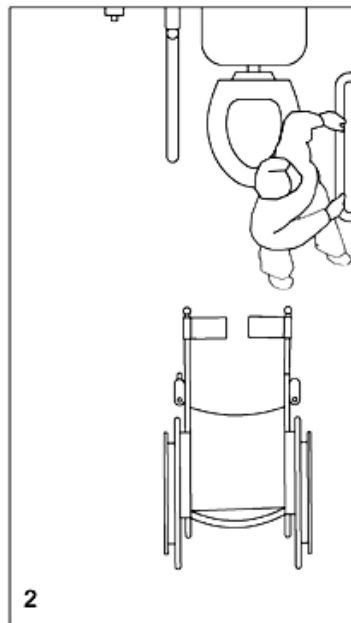


POSITION ON TOILET

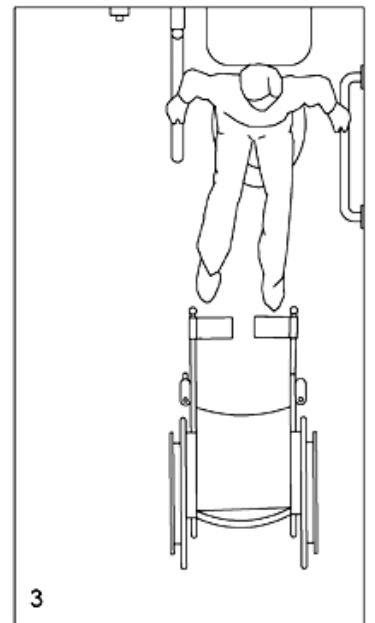
**Figure B6 – Side Approach for Transferring from a
Wheelchair to a W.C.**



TAKES TRANSFER POSITION,
REMOVES ARMREST,
SETS BRAKES



TRANSFERS



POSITION ON TOILET

**Figure B7 – Frontal Approach for Transferring from a
Wheelchair to a W.C.**

Appendix C

Slip Resistance of Flooring Materials

APPENDIX C

SLIP RESISTANCE OF FLOORING MATERIALS

This appendix aims to provide design references of slip resistance for flooring materials and floor finishes.

Materials and finishes are graded under dry and wet conditions. The gradings given herein are for reference only, actual value of “static coefficient of friction” shall be subject to the manufacturer’s recommended characteristics.

Excessive slip resistance can also be hazardous since it may create unexpected grip on the surface.

Gradings based on “static coefficient of friction” measured in “dry” condition are classified by:

- “Very Good” - Material surface suitable for use in areas where special design care is required, with an approximate “static coefficient of friction” value of 0.8 or above.
- “Good” - Material surface satisfactory for normal use with an approximate “static coefficient of friction” value below 0.8 but at or above 0.5.
- “Fair” - Material surface with moderate potential for slip, with an approximate “static coefficient of friction” value below 0.5 but at or above 0.2.
- “Poor” - Unsafe material surface with high potential for slip, with an approximate “static coefficient of friction” value below 0.2.

Commentary

“Slip resistance” is based on the frictional force required to keep a shoe heel or crutch tip from slipping on a walking surface. While the “dynamic coefficient of friction” during walking varies in a complex and non-uniform way, the “static coefficient of friction”, which can be measured in several ways, provides a close approximation of the slip resistance of a surface. However, it is generally recognized that the “static coefficient of friction” varies considerably due to the presence of contaminants, water, floor finishes, and other factors not under the control of the designer or builder and not subject to design and construction guidelines and that compliance of which would be difficult to measure on the building site. For details of method of measuring “slip resistance”, readers are suggested to make reference to some available overseas standards such as AS/NZS 4586-2004, AS/NZS 4663-2004, ASTM 1679, ASTM 1677, BS 7976-2, BS 8204 etc.

Appendix D

Luminous Contrast

APPENDIX D

LUMINOUS CONTRAST

Types of contrast

Contrast refers to perceptible differences between different regions of an image or scene. There are two fundamental types of contrast:

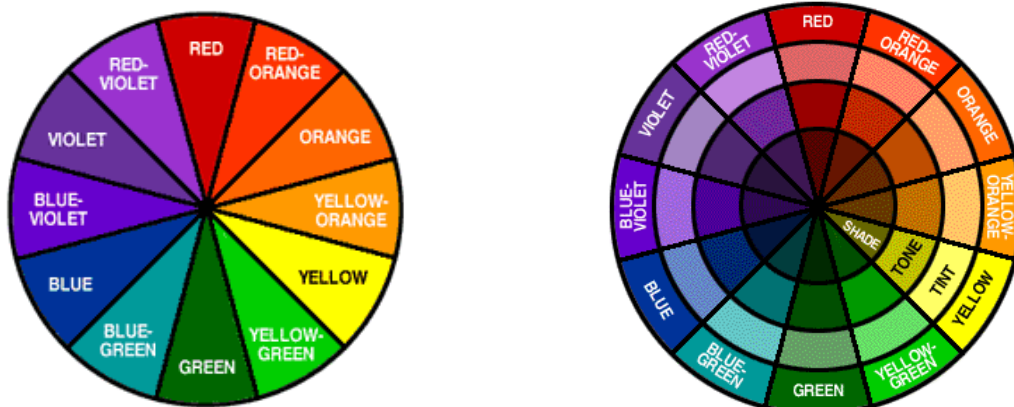
- (a) Colour contrast, and
- (b) Luminous or brightness contrast.

Colour contrast

Colour contrast is the difference between colours positioned on a colour wheel. For example violet is the contrast to yellow, red is contrasted to green. Colours can contrast on the basis of their lightness, saturation or hue.

- (a) lightness measures the relative amount of light reflected from a colour;
- (b) saturation relates to its intensity; and
- (c) hue refers to elementary colour names, that is red, green, blue etc.

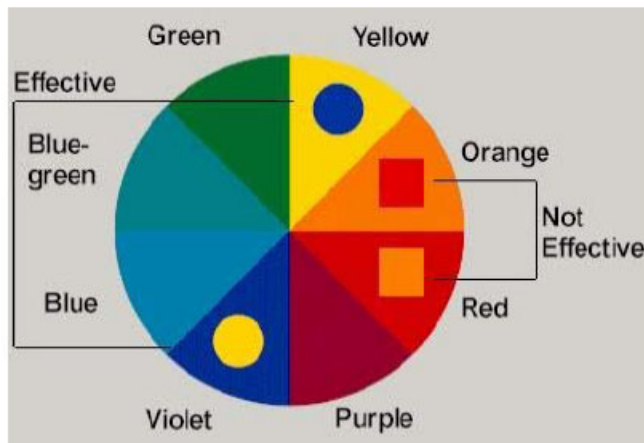
The perception of colour, however, can change with the type of light. Some people with visual impairment are unable to see colours as ageing and sight loss diminish their sensitivity of colour perception. Therefore colour contrast on its own may not be sufficient to provide a visual contrast.



Tint: color + white, resulting in a lighter value

Tone: color + grey, resulting in a darker value

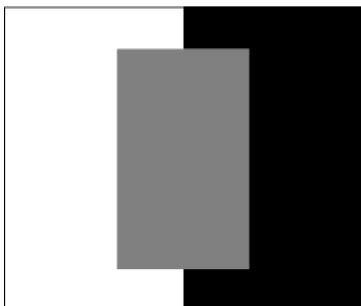
Shade: color + black, delivering the darkest versions of color



Luminous contrast

Luminous contrast is the amount of light reflected from one surface or component, compared to the amount of light reflected from the background or base surfaces. Luminous contrast is preferred to colour contrast because it offers light/dark differences that can be picked up more easily by people with visual impairment.

Two quite differently coloured surfaces may have a similar luminous. For example, cherry red on black has a high colour contrast but low luminous contrast and is not as visible as pale pink or yellow on black to people with visual impairment.



A 30% difference in luminous is generally the minimum discernible by a person with partial sight. Black and white have a 100% luminous contrast. Grey and black or grey and white have a 50% luminous contrast.

Measurement of Luminous Contrast

The light reflectance value of a subject can be measured by means of a luminance meter with a 1 degree measurement field. Measurement will be taken from a viewing height of 1600 mm + 100 mm and with an angle between 40 and 50 degrees to the vertical in direction of approach.

“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.

Lighting

Contrast will only be of assistance to people with visual impairment if there is an appropriate quantity and quality of illumination with which to view the contrasting elements. At low light levels, the perception of contrast diminishes. Lighting levels should generally be relatively uniform and about 25% higher for people with low vision. Strong directional lighting casts shadows that can mask contrasting surfaces. Significant fluctuations in illumination level can reduce visibility due to the slower adaptive response of the eye in someone with low vision.

Effective uses of luminous contrast include:

- Contrasting tactile warning strips to indicate the start and finish of a ramp;
- Contrasting doorframes, doors, skirting boards and architraves to assist with locating doors;
- Contrasting paving at doorways to assist with locating the entry; and
- Contrasting edges of steps, a roadway or poles in play areas to highlight potential hazards.

