

Part D -

Means of Access

This Part contains six Sections:

- **Section 1 – General**
- **Section 2 – Provision of Access Staircase, Fireman’s Lifts and Firefighting and Rescue Stairway**
- **Section 3 – Access Staircase**
- **Section 4 – Fireman’s Lift**
- **Section 5 – Firefighting and Rescue Stairway**
- **Section 6 – Provision of Emergency Vehicular Access**

Section 1 – General

Subsection D1 – Use of this Part

Clause D1.1

This Part provides the Deemed-to-Comply provisions on means of access and EVA and is to be read in conjunction with all other Parts of this Code.

Clause D1.2

Authorized persons, fire safety consultants and any person responsible for the design of buildings may find this Part useful in ascertaining the requirements under the Buildings Ordinance for the provisions of access to buildings for the purposes of firefighting and rescue.

Clause D1.3

This Part provides guidance on how the Performance Requirements on the means of access may be complied with.

Commentary

Fire safety in a building is determined by a number of factors, one of which is the means of access to it to enable fire services personnel to effect rescue and fight fire. Requirements for means of access to buildings are laid down in the Building (Planning) Regulations 41A, 41B, 41C and 41D.

The Building (Planning) Regulations 41A, 41B and 41C deal with the means of access to the building. They require that every building shall be provided with an adequate number of access staircases, fireman's lifts and/or firefighting and rescue stairways having regard to the intended use of the building, its height and size. These staircases, lifts or stairways shall be so designed and constructed or installed as to allow firemen safe and unobstructed access to various floors of the building in the event of a fire. Sections 2 to 5 provide guidance on compliance with these requirements.

The Building (Planning) Regulation 41D deals with the means of access for emergency vehicles to a building. It requires every building to be provided with an EVA which is so designed and constructed as to allow safe and unobstructed access of a vehicle of the Fire Services Department to the building and to provide for the safe operation of such a vehicle, in the event of a fire or other emergency. The Building (Planning) Regulation 41D(2) provides that the design and construction of an EVA shall be in accordance with such requirements as may be specified by the Building Authority from time to time having regard to the intended use of the building. Section 6 specifies such requirements.

Subsection D2 – Performance Requirements for Means of Access

Clause D2.1

Performance Requirements relevant to means of access including EVA are stipulated in Subsection A10 of Part A.