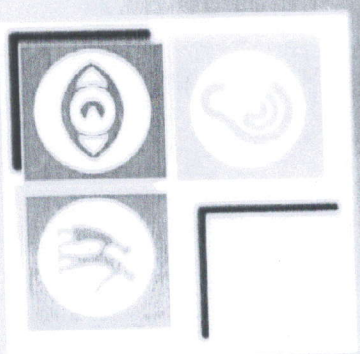




Design Considerations on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities



தமிழ்நாடு அரசு
சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

**Design Considerations on Accessibility for Persons
with Disabilities**

2015



சென்னை மாநில அரசு
சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

Directorate for Youth, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities

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Message from Deputy Director General, Public Health Services II

I am very much pleased to issue a message for the booklet on "design considerations on accessibility for persons with disabilities". Improving accessibility for the people with disabilities has been identified as a highly prioritized timely need. Though regulations are available on accessibility for disabled persons in the country implementation has become a problem due to lack of awareness among service providers for disabled persons.

Directorate of Youth, Elderly and Disabled persons, Ministry of Health is entrusted with work involved to improve health and wellbeing of disabled persons. In order to achieve this target, it is necessary to provide standards on accessibility that can be used in Sri Lankan context according to the available regulations on accessibility for Disabled Persons.

I highly appreciate the work done by Directorate of Youth, Elderly and Disabled persons with the support of the expert group in this field for developing this booklet and I wish all success.

Dr R.R.M.L.R.Siyambalagoda
Deputy Director General, Public Health Services II
Ministry of Health

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Overview

Disability is a widespread problem. Almost everyone is temporarily or permanently impaired at some point in life and those who survive to old age will experience increasing difficulties in functioning. Disability is a complex, dynamic, multidimensional issue and approach to measuring disability vary across countries can influence the results ⁽¹⁾

'International year of Disabled Persons' was declared in 1981 by the U.N. followed by "Decade of Disabled Persons" in 1983 – 1992. International Labour Organization introduced C 159, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled persons) Convention, in 1983.

UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, states, 'Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others'.

For many people with disabilities assistance and support are pre requisites for participating in social activities. The lack of necessary support services can make people with disabilities overly dependent on family members and can prevent both the person with disability and the family member from becoming economically active and socially included.

Throughout the world, people with disabilities have significant unmet need for support and there are gaps in services everywhere.

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulates the importance of interventions to improve access to different domains of the environment including buildings and roads, transportation, information and communication. These domains are interconnected – people with disabilities will not be able to benefit fully from improvements in one domain if the others remain inaccessible. An accessible environment while particularly relevant for people with disabilities has benefits for a broader range of people.

Accessibility in common language is the ability to reach, understand or approach something or someone.^{*(1)}

The Dictionary of Disability Terminology defines Access as "Suitability of a building or other structure for use by people who have disabilities. In a broader sense, access also includes making forms and information accessible to people with visual or cognitive disabilities; making alarms and signals to people who have hearing impairment and making services such as education and transport accessible to people who have disabilities."^{*(2)}

Improving access to buildings and roads transportation and information and communication can create an enabling environment which benefits not only disable people but many other population groups as well. Negative attitudes are a key environmental factor which needs to be addressed across all domains.

To succeed accessibility initiatives there is a need to take into account affordability, availability of technology knowledge, cultural differences and the level of development. Solutions that work in technologically sophisticated environments may be ineffective in low-resource settings. The best strategy for achieving accessibility is usually incremental improvement – initial efforts should focus on removing basic environment barriers. Once the concept of accessibility has become ingrained as more resources become available, it becomes easier to raise standards and attain a higher level of universal design.

Accessibility standards should meet the needs of all people with disabilities.

To monitor and evaluate the implementation of accessibility standards, an impartial monitoring body, preferably outside government and with a significant membership of disable people is needed.

Awareness raising is needed to challenge ignorance and prejudice surrounding disability. Personal working in public and private services should be trained to treat disabled customers and clients on an equal basis and with respect.

Professional bodies and educational institutions can introduce accessibility as a component in training curricula in architecture, constructions, design, informatics, marketing and other relevant areas. International organizations can play an important role. Industry can make important contributions by promoting accessibility and universal design in the early stages and development of products, programmes and services.

Persons with disabilities and their organizations should be involved in accessibility efforts.

Universal design, is a process that increase usability, safety, health and social participation through and operation of environments, products and systems in response to the disability of people and abilities.

Usability though not the only goal of universal design and adaptation and specialized designs are a part of providing customization and choice which may be essential for addressing diversity. Other overlapping terms for the same general concept are "design for all and inclusive."^{*(3)}

Health institutions are the places where sick, elderly and people with disabilities often visit. Therefore health institutions should have disability friendly environment. Accessible design standards for all health institutions are essential and government regulations have already set up to meet the accessibility design standards, especially in new buildings.

Of the problems related to accessibility in health institutions limited access to main entrance, poor signs and sign boards, limited access to upper floors of the health institutions, poor disable friendly toilets specially in hospitals wards, poor lighting, limited access to dispensaries and laboratories, lack of accessibility facilities, car parks and corridors have become very common. When a disable person is moving from one building to another there needs to be proper pathways. Identification of poor accessibility features and putting it right early will help to make the environment disable friendly in an effective way.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

✦ SPACE ALLOWANCES

(1) Adequate space shall be allocated for persons using mobility devices such as wheel chairs, crutches and walkers, as well as those walking with the assistance of other persons (Figure 1, 2 and 3)

(Attention shall be given to dimensions of wheel chairs, used locally)

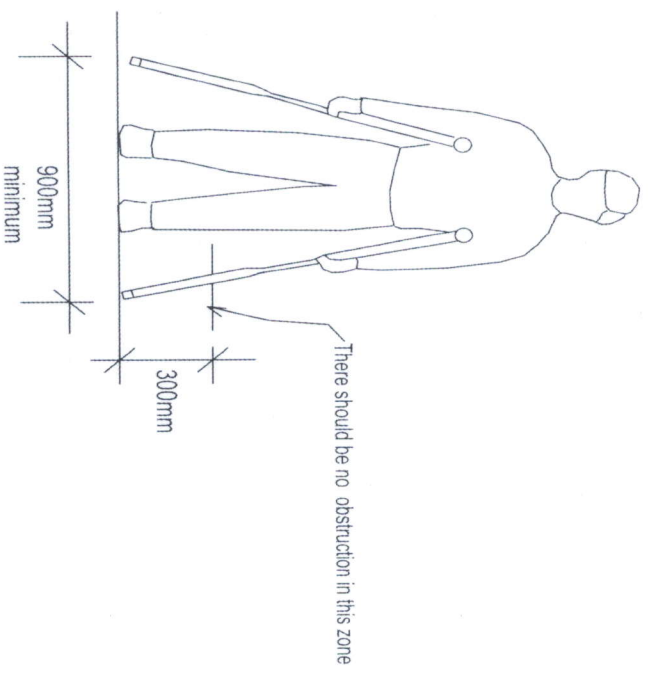


Figure 1: Space allowance for ambulant disabled persons

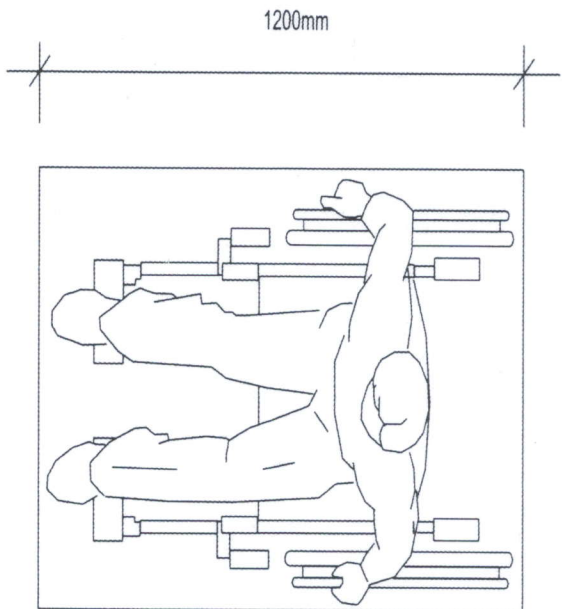


Figure 2: Space allowance for a wheel chair

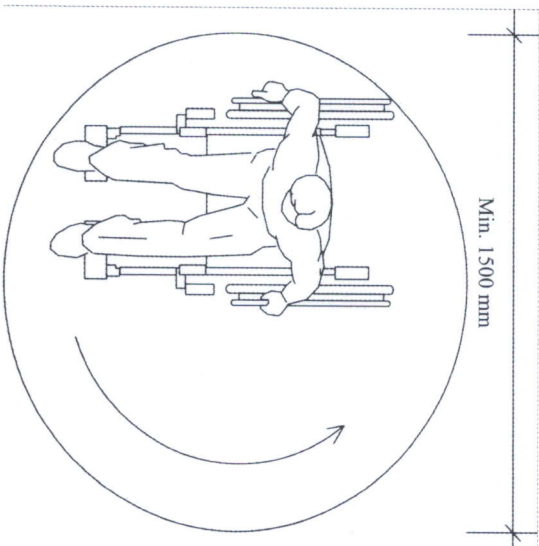


Figure 3: Space allowance for a wheel chair

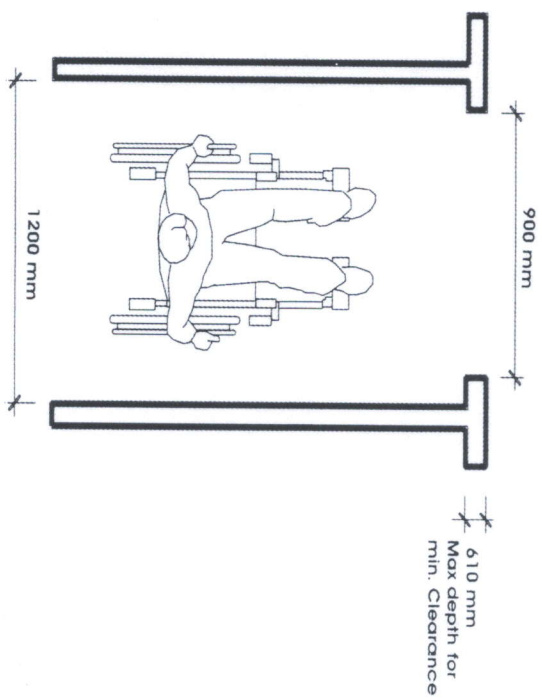


Figure 4: Minimum clear width for chair to turn around single wheel chair

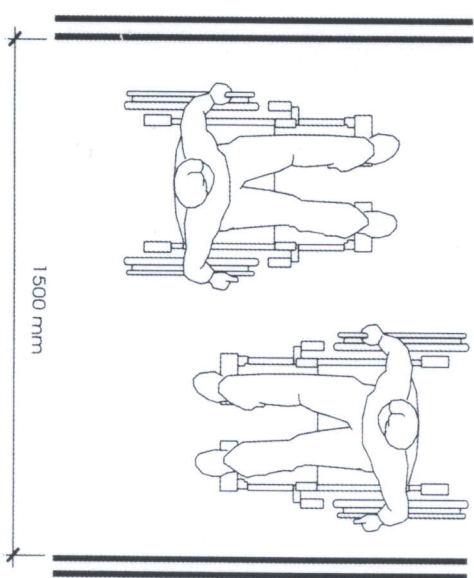


Figure 5: Minimum clear width for two wheel chairs

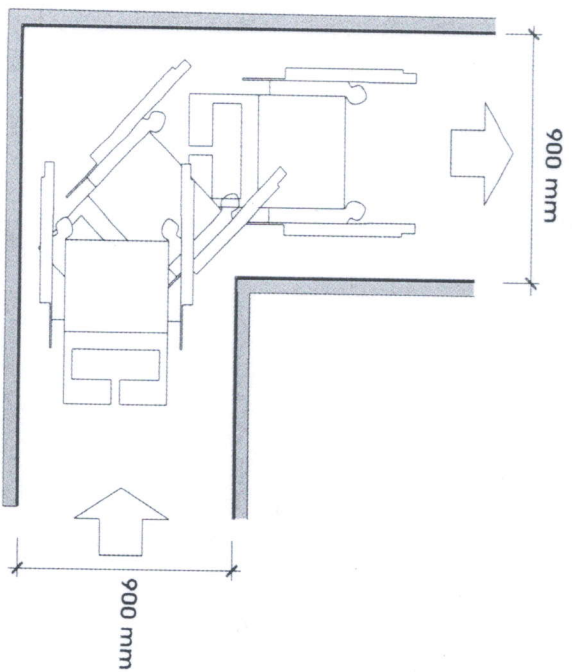


Figure 6: Minimum allowance for 90 degree turn for a wheelchair

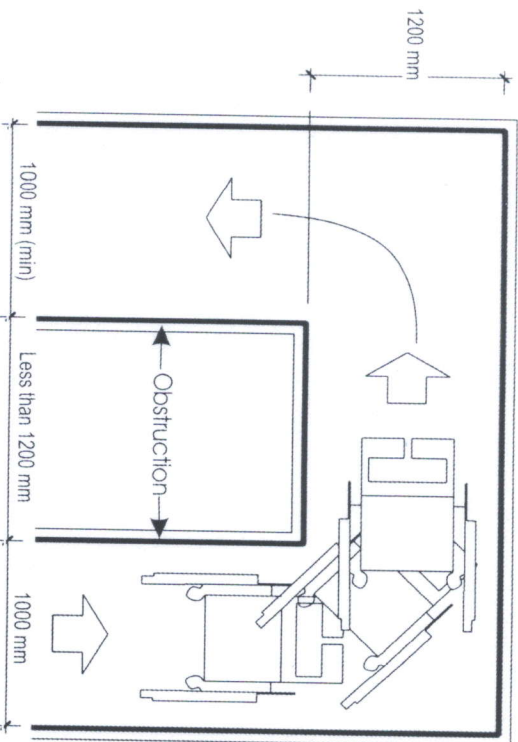


Figure 7: Space allowance in auditoriums and theatres

REACH DISTANCE

- (2) The range of reach (forward and side, with or without obstruction) of a person in a wheel chair shall be taken into consideration (Figures 8,9,10 and 11)

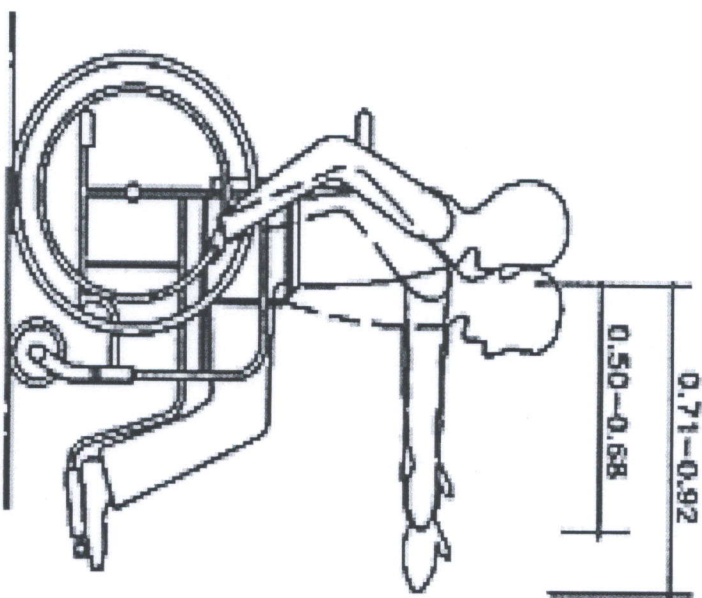


Figure 8: Forward reach without obstruction

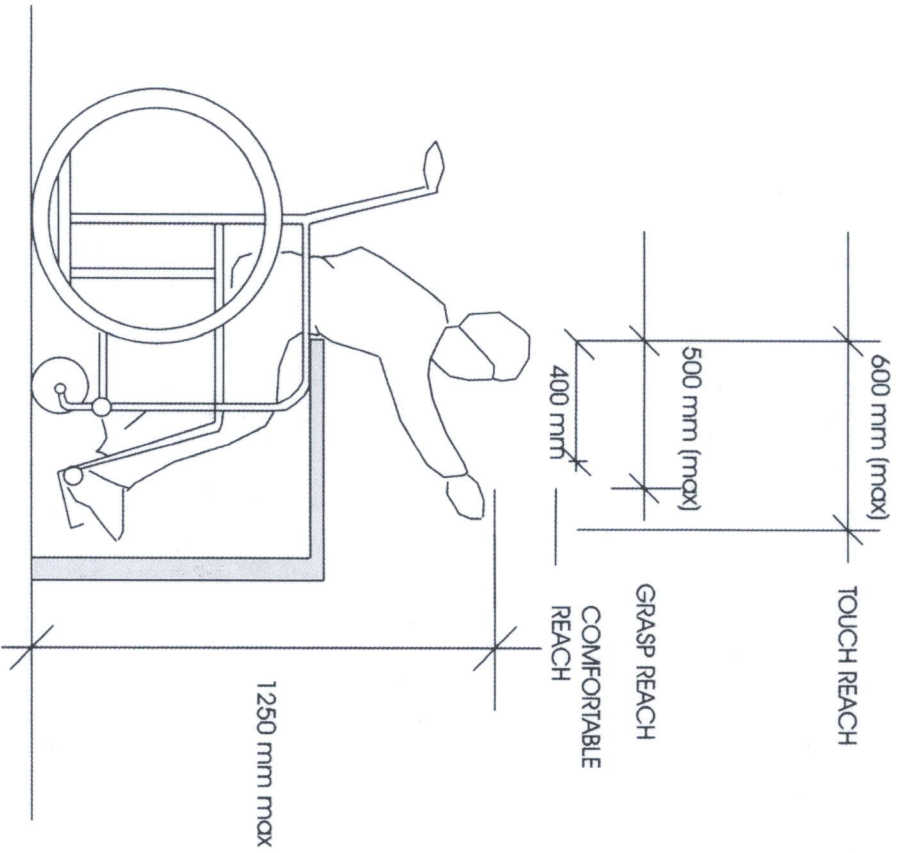


Figure 9: Forward reach over obstruction

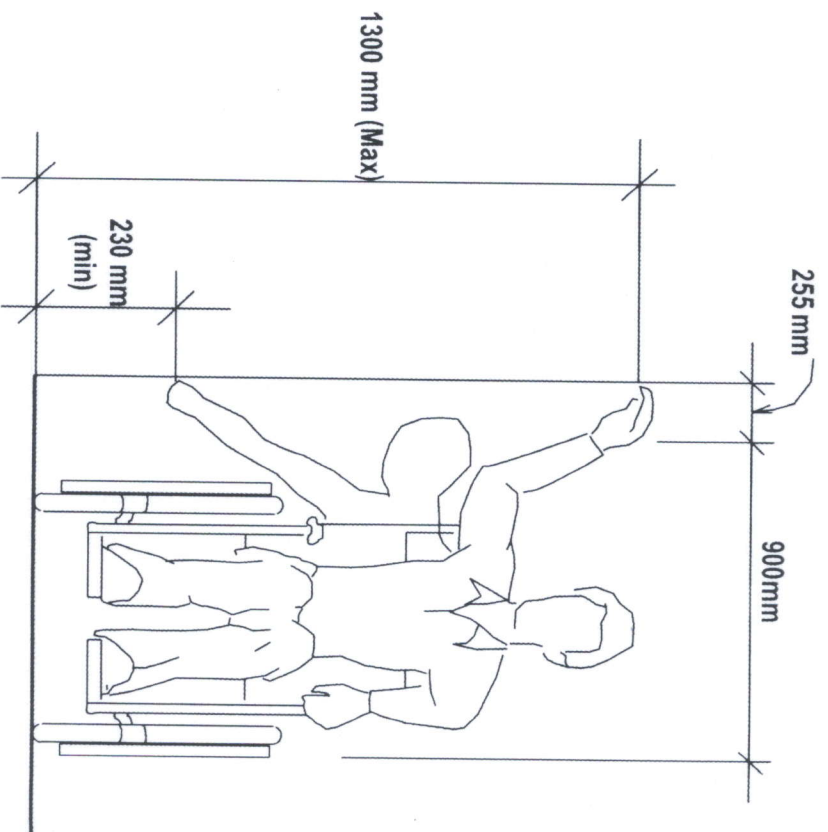
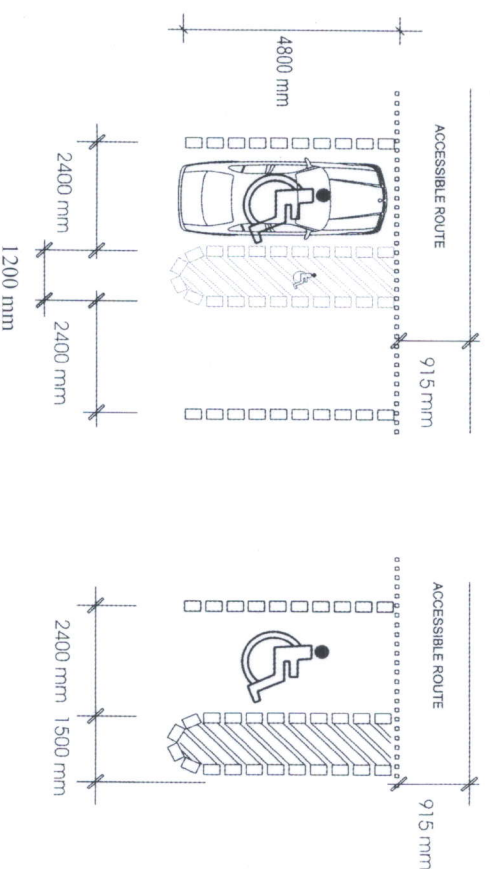


Figure 10: Side reach without obstruction

PARKING SPACE

- Accessible parking spaces should be located on the shortest accessible route into a building or facility; and should be roofed wherever possible.
- Single parking space shall be a minimum of 2400mm wide. Two parking spaces may share a common parking aisle (Fig. 10 zebra zone)
- Parking areas should have enough clear space around them so that disabled persons can get into and out of a car (Fig. 10 zebra zone).
- Reserved parking spaces for vehicles carrying persons with disabilities should be indicated by the universally accepted symbol.
- Disabled sign shall be marked on the parking bay to the size of 1200mmx1200mm as per (Fig 10)
- Vertical sign board shall be located near the reserved parking bay. (Fig 10A)



DOUBLE PARK

SINGLE PARK

Figure 12: Parking

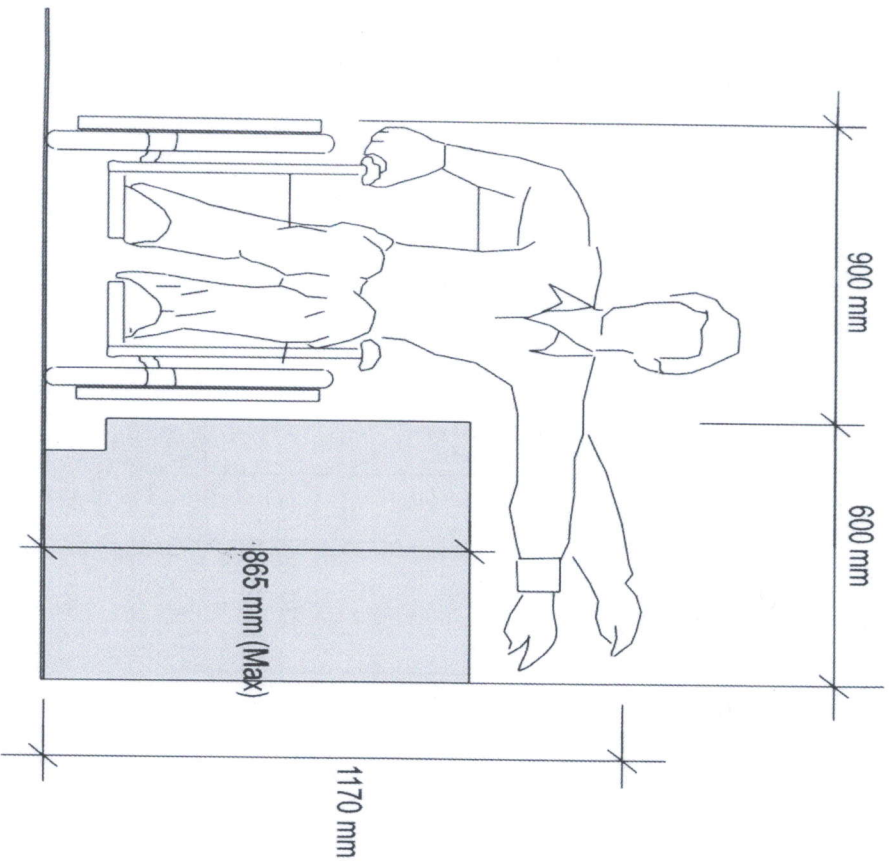


Figure 11: Side reach over obstruction

Every Parking area shall have designated parking spaces for disabled drivers & passengers and such spaces shall be located as close as possible to main entrances and exits and exits of buildings. The minimum number of accessible spaces to be provided shall be as follows.

Total no. of parking spaces in open car parks or car park building	Required minimum no. of accessible space
01-25	1
26-50	2
51-75	3
76-100	4
101-150	5
151-200	6
201-300	7
301-400	8
401-500	9
Over 500	2% of the total

Table 1

RAMPS

- (a) 900mm or wider
- (b) Gentle gradient; preferably 1:20, but no steeper than 1:12
- (c) Landing every 10m
- (d) Double hand rails on both sides at 700mm to 900mm
- (e) Raised curbs on open edges (75mm)
- (f) Ramps and landing surfaces comply with floor surfaces

Turning platform

Switchback

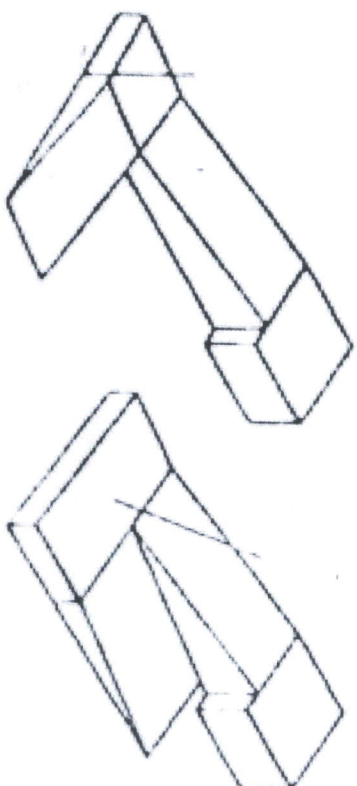
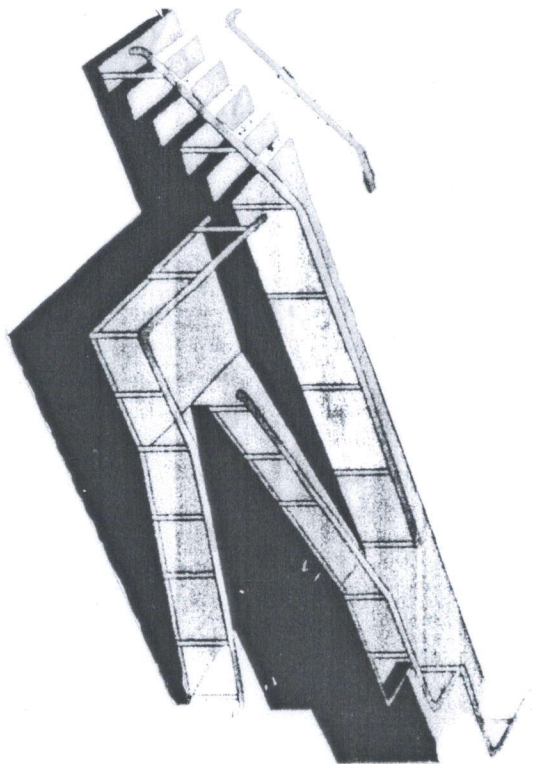


Figure 13: Ramp details



Slope	Rise (mm)	Running length
indoor gradient 1:12 - 1:16	760	9 Meters
outdoor gradient 1:16 - 1:20	760	12 Meters
Maximum rise 760mm		
Width 1200 mm (min)		

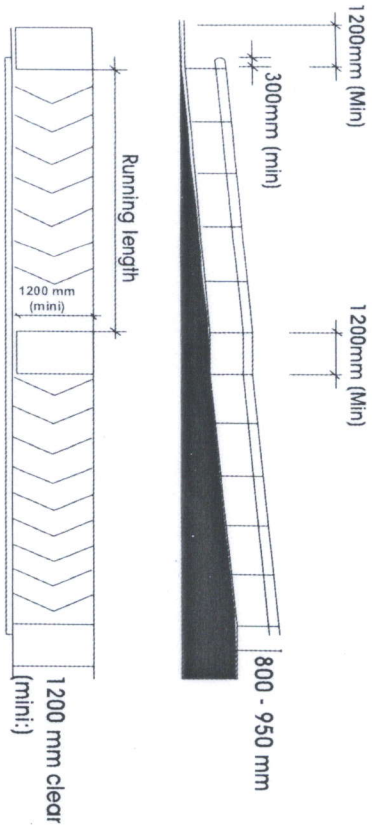


Figure 14: Ramp details

DOORWAYS

- (a) Width 900mm (adequate for wheel chair)
- (b) Space to manoeuvre in front of doorways, including room to manipulate door handles as well as to move past them
- (c) Lever handles and pushes type mechanisms
- (d) Color contrast between doorways and surrounding wall.
- (e) Glass doors have motif in visible/ bright color at eye level

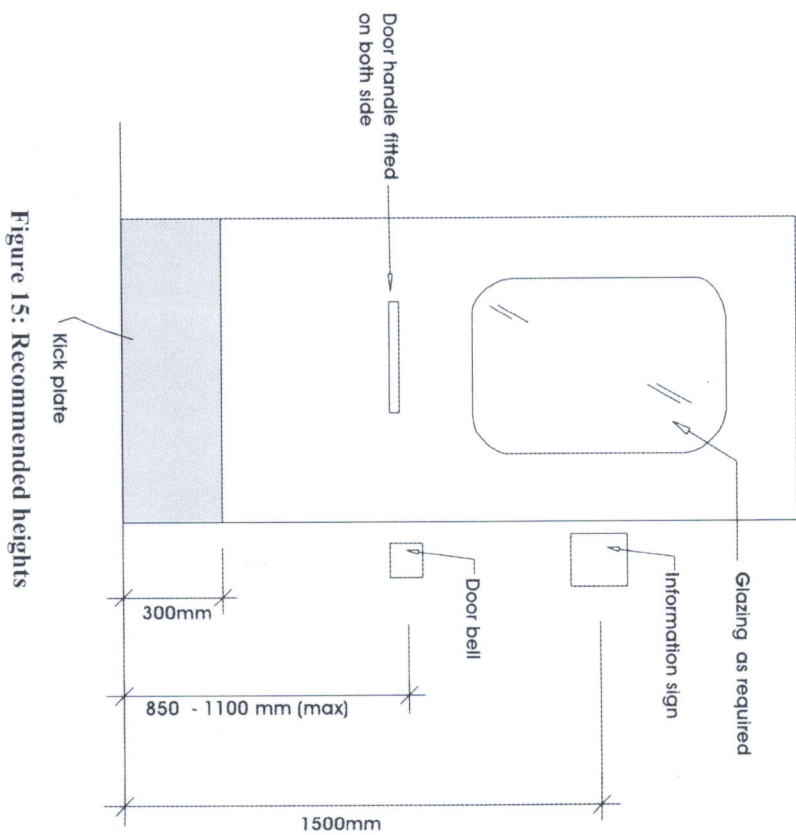


Figure 15: Recommended heights

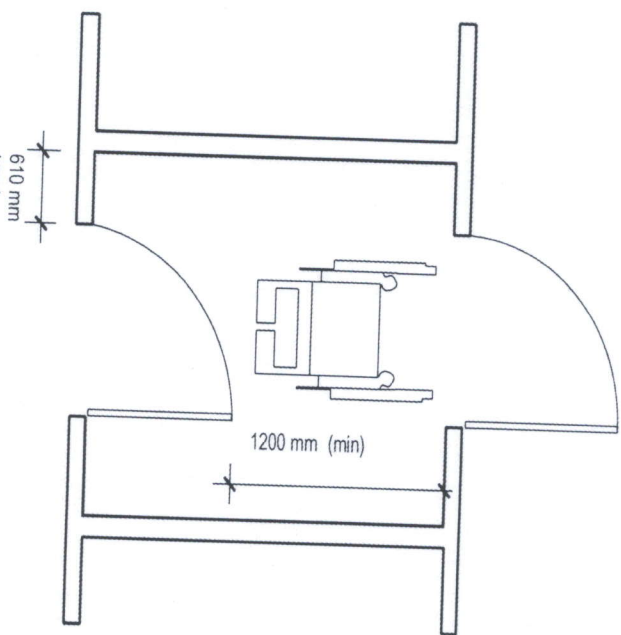


Figure 16: Internal lobbies with two hinged doors in series

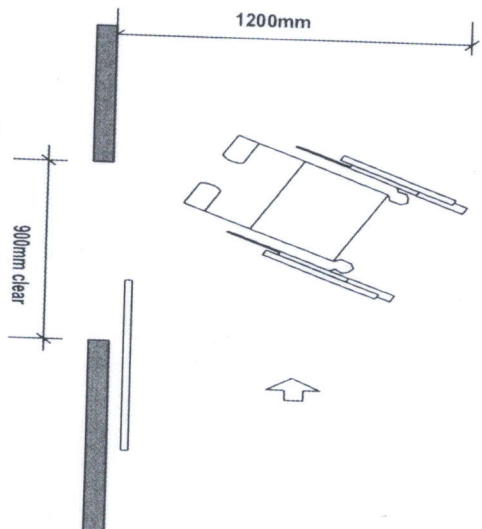


Figure 17: Sliding Door

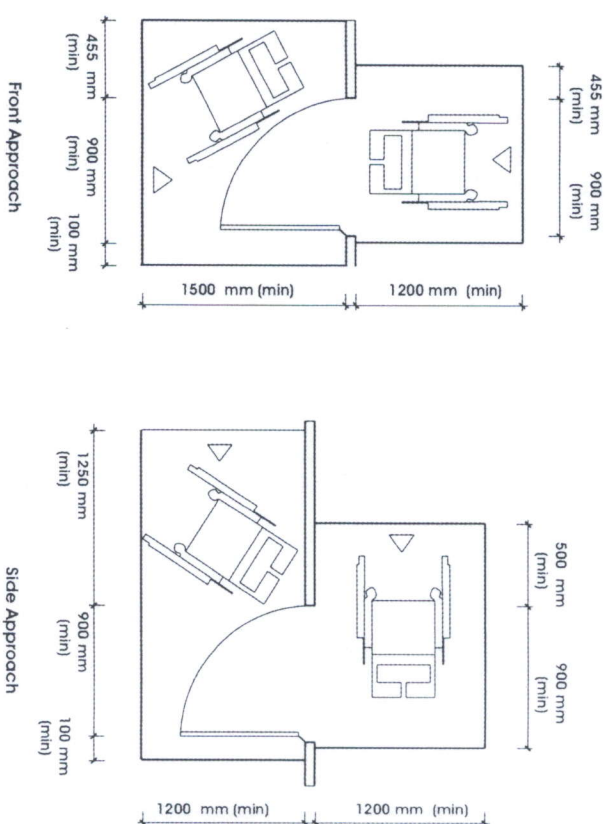


Figure 18

STEPS AND STAIRS

- Uniform risers and goings
- No open rises
- Nosing project as little as possible
- Hand rails on both sides
- Handrails extend adequately beyond the top and bottom of stairs
- Treads comply with floor surfaces
- Stair edges in visible colours
- Adequately illuminated

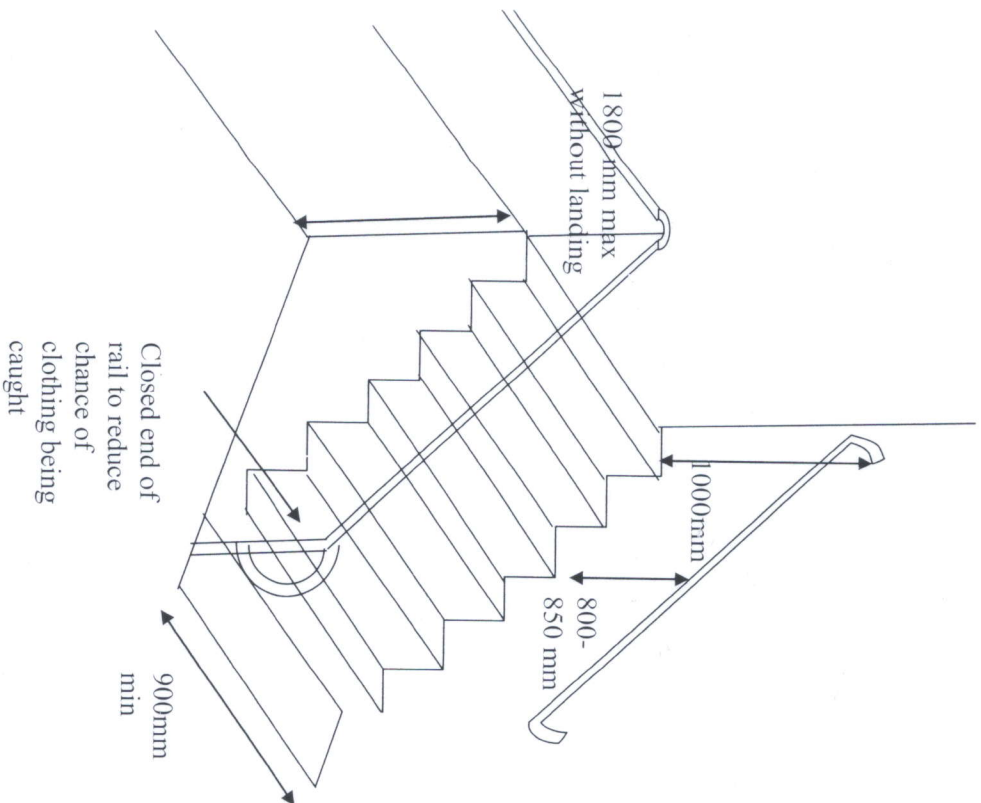


Figure 19: Stair way details

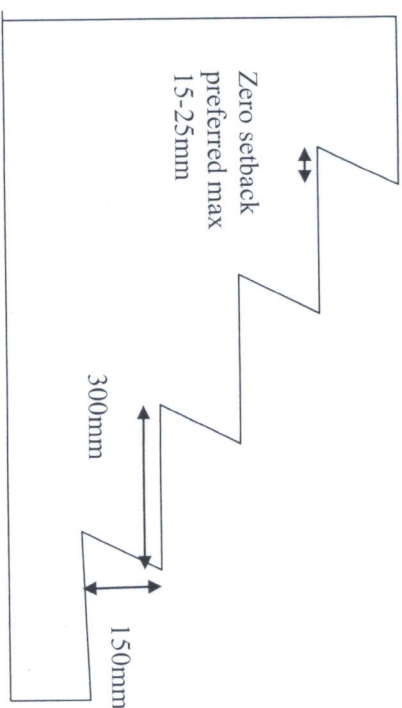


Figure 20: Stair way details

HANDRAIL AND GRAB BARS

- (a) A handrail or grab bar should be of a sufficient/adequate diameter or width and strength, securely fixed, so that it may easily be grabbed and used as a support (Fig. 19). Recommended size is 30mm to 45mm in diameter.
- (b) If handrails or grab bars are mounted adjacent to a wall, clearance space between the walls and the grab bar should be provided. Recommended clearance space is 38mm to 50mm.
- (c) If handrails or grab bars are mounted in recess, the maximum depth and minimum height of the recess must be considered (Fig. 19) recommended maximum depth is 75mm. Recommended height is 45mm above the top of the handrail or grab bar.

- (d) A small plate in Braille shall be provided at the beginning and at the end of each handrail or grab bar to indicate its position to persons with visual impairments.
- (e) Handrails or grab bars shall be in a colour that contrasts sharply with the surrounding area.
- (f) Handrails shall be continued for the full length of ramps, steps and landings and shall be extended as per fig 20.
- (g) Handrails and grab bars shall not rotate within their fittings.
- (h) Height of handrail shall be 800mm to 950mm from floor level.
- (i) The lower handrail shall be mounted between 700mm to 750mm from floor level (Fig 19 & 21)

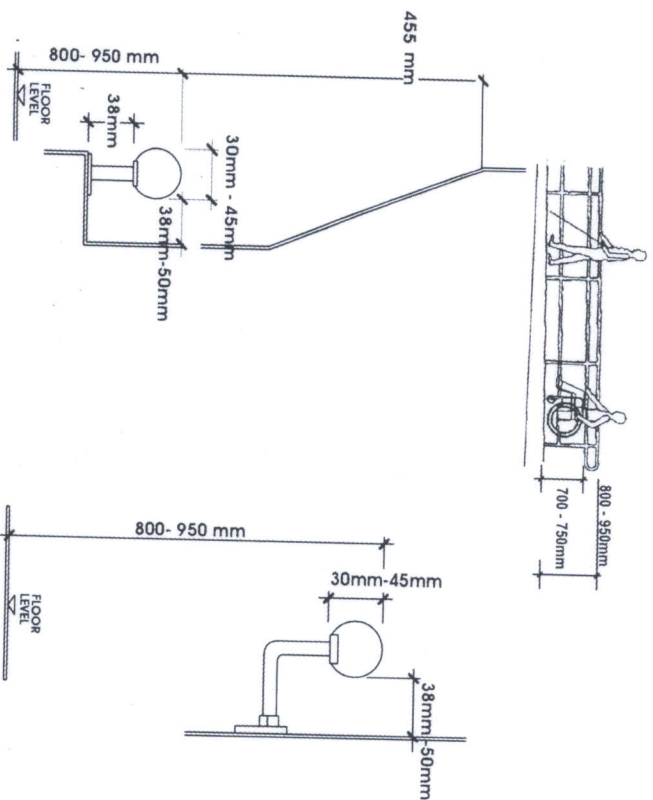


Figure 21: Hand rails and grab bars

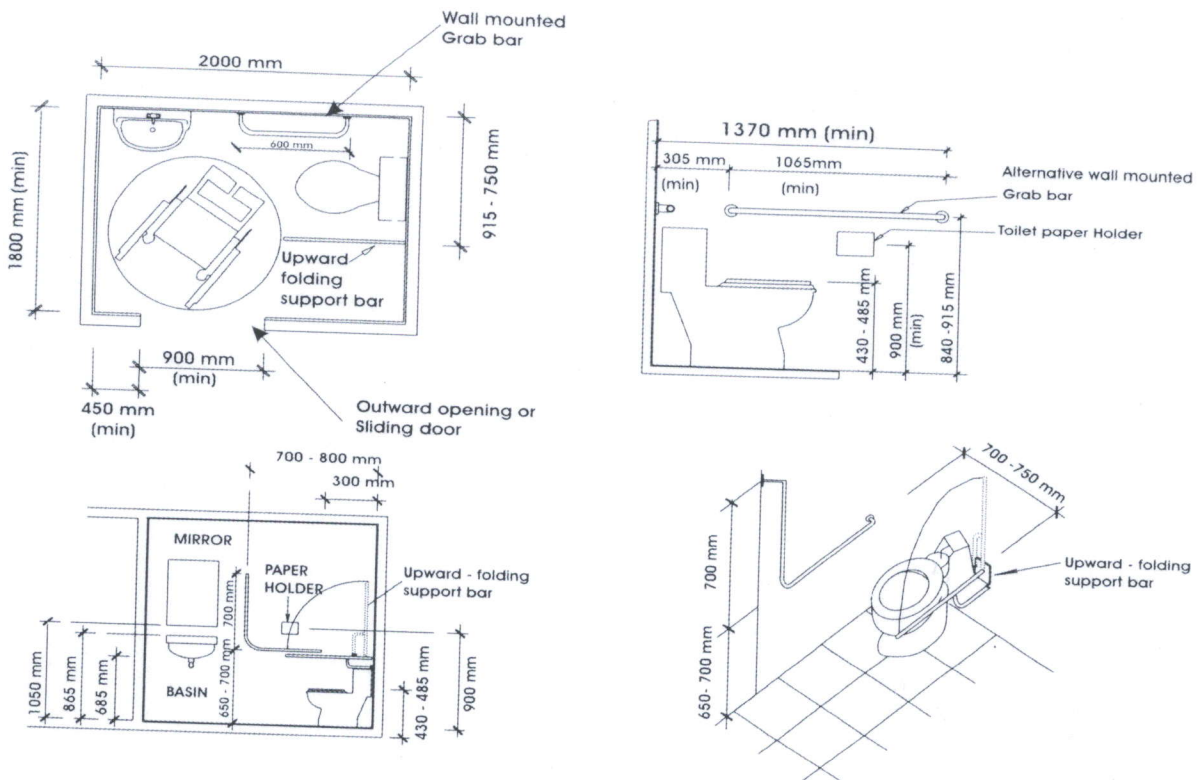
CORRIDORS

- (a) Clear pathways for walking and for use of wheelchairs, walking sticks and white canes
- (b) Width to be at least 900mm clear space for single wheelchair
- (c) If corridor is less than 1500mm wide, turning spaces provided at reasonable intervals

TOILETS

- (a) Universal Accessibility symbol displayed outside
- (b) Adequate floor space for users of wheel chairs, walking aids and white canes to enter, manoeuvre, use utilities, reach controls and exit (2000mm x 1800mm minimum)
- (c) The toilet bowl shall be of a type and in such a position as to permit easy approach by wheelchair users.
- (d) The seat of the toilet bowl shall be at the correct height for wheelchair users. (E.g. 450mm to 460mm)
- (e) Support rails (preferably up-folding) at suitable height
- (f) Toilet paper dispenser at suitable height (900mm)
- (g) Soap, hand dryer, towel rails and other utilities within reach
- (h) Lever type taps
- (i) Floor finishes of non-slip material
- (j) Door sliding or outward-opening.
- (k) Lock to be opened from outside in case of emergency

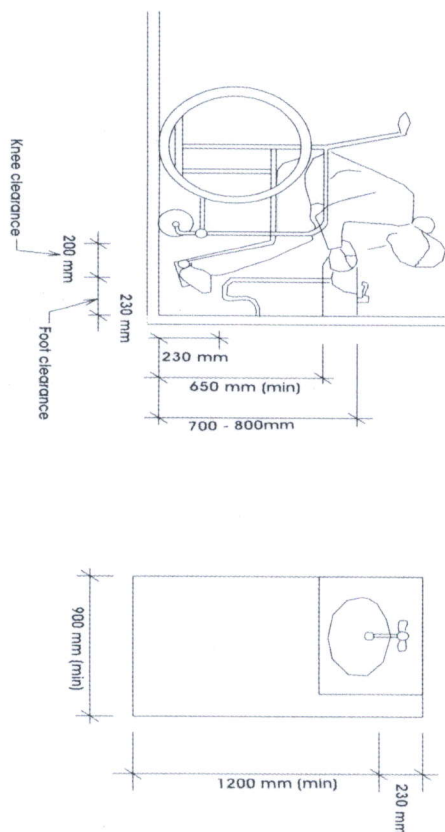
Figure 22: Toilet details



WASH BASINS

- (a) Installed at a suitable height
- (b) Adequate knee clearance and foot clearance for wheelchair users
- (c) Adequate space in front of basin for wheelchairs, walking aids and white canes
- (d) Mirror at a suitable height to be used also by wheelchair users and little people

Figure 23: Wash basins



FLOOR SURFACES

- (a) Stable, firm and slip resistant
- (b) 6-13mm level change leveled off with a slope of not more than 1:2
- (c) Grating spaces not more than 13mm (wheelchair wheel)
- (d) carpets/flooring firmly attached to floor
- (e) Rugs non slip
- (f) Long thick rugs not used

GUIDING BLOCKS

- (a) Dot type blocks used to warn of a corner, screen off obstacles and discourage movement in an incorrect direction

- (b) Line type blocks indicate correct direction to follow.

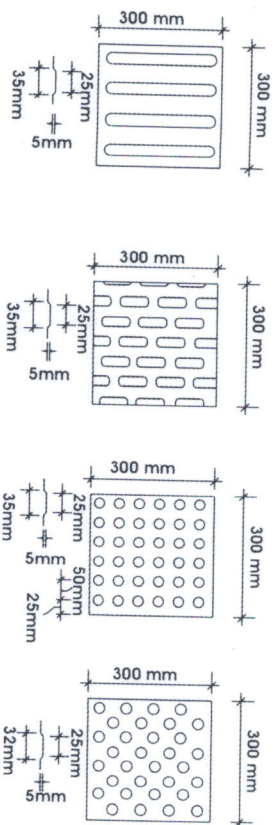


Figure 24: Guiding Block Details

LIFTS

- (a) Floor space sufficient for users of wheelchairs, walking aids and white canes to manoeuvre, reach controls and exit
- (b) Lift doors of sufficient width so that Door opening shall not be less than 900mm clear.
- (c) Adequate access and manoeuvring space in front of lifts for persons who use a wheelchair
- (d) Photo-electronic sensor controls the door closing times or lift door closing mechanism adjustable to give adequate entry time for people who move slowly.
- (e) All control buttons shall have Braille, raised numbers and symbols to indicate "Open" and "Close".
- (f) A visual lift position indicator shall be provided above the control panel or over the door.
- (g) A voice indicator may be installed to announce floor levels, opening and closing.
- (h) A mirror to be provided on the rear wall to enable the wheel chair user to exit unaided.
- (i) Measures for evacuation in case of fire e.g. fire protected lifts for evacuation of people using wheelchairs

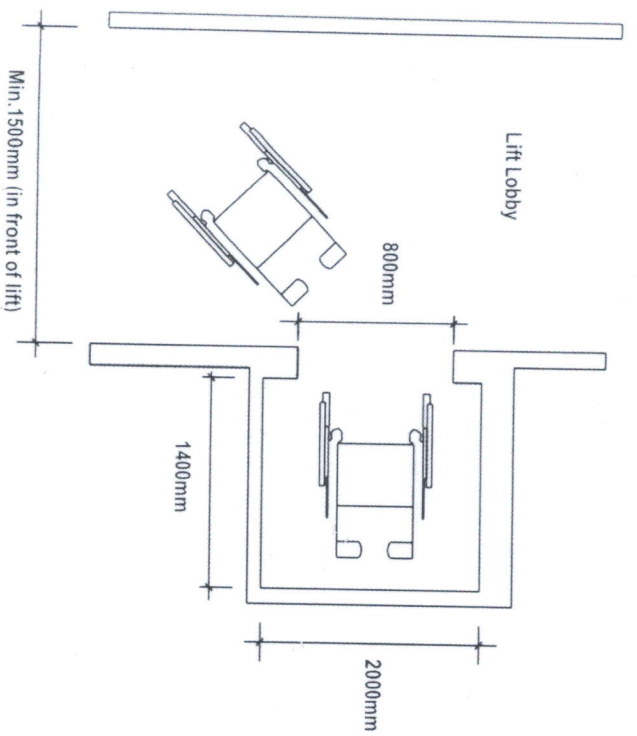


Figure 25: Space allowance in lift car and lift lobby

Note: Lift car space shown above is sufficient for a wheel chair user and several other passengers.

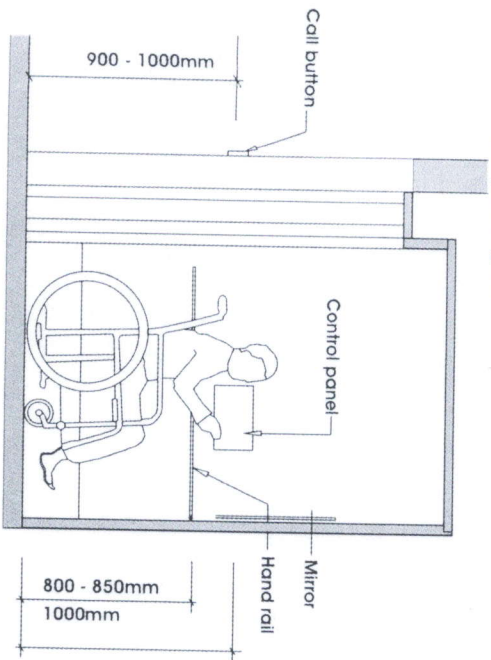


Figure 26: Height of control panel and hand rail in lifts

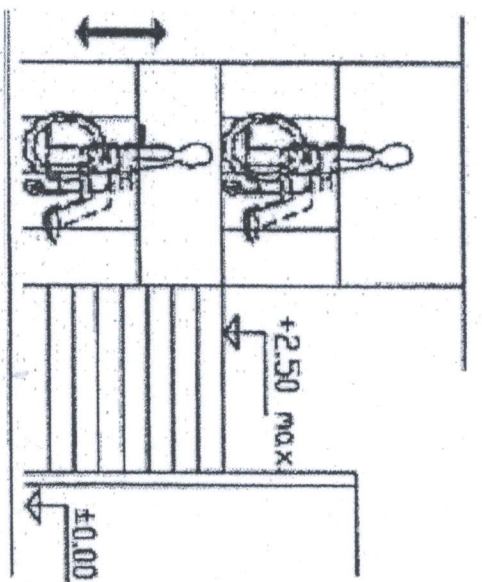


Figure 26a: For maximum level changes of 2.50m, vertical movement platform lifts may be installed adjacent to the stairs

COUNTERS

- (a) At least one lowered service counter for wheelchair users and little people

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

- (a) Use of symbols where appropriate to minimize use of written descriptions
- (b) Clear system of signs used throughout building, placed at same height and being of same style
- (c) Contrasting colors be used to increase visibility
- (d) Preferably raised or embossed for tactile reading
- (e) Universally recognized colors used where applicable e.g. Red for danger or stop, green for safety or go, Yellow or amber for caution or risk

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
EXTRAORDINARY

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No. L467/15 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2006

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (D) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

L.D.B.996

PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, No. 28 OF 1996

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Social Services and Social Welfare under Section 25 read with Section 23 of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 28 of 1996.

A. P. JAYATHI PRASADARATHNA,
Acting Minister of Social Services and
Social Welfare.

Colombo,
20th September, 2006.

Regulations

1. These regulations may be cited as the Disabled Persons (Accessibility) Regulations, No. 1 of 2006.

2. (1) The provisions of these regulations shall be applicable to all public buildings, public places and to places where common services are available, to which buildings, places and services persons with disabilities have access.

Provided that all existing public buildings, public places and places where common services are available, shall within a period of three years from the coming into operation of these regulations, be made accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with the provisions of these regulations.

(2) These regulations shall not apply to temporary buildings or sheds of contractors which are a part of any public buildings, public place or places, where common services are available.

3. (1) No person shall construct any public building or structure in any public place or re-construct or renovate any public building or structure in any public place unless any plan which relates to such building or structure conforms

(a) to the performance specifications as set out in Part I of Schedule I to these regulations ; and

(b) to the designs as set out in Part II of Schedule I to these regulations.

(2) No certificate of conformity shall be issued by any "relevant authority" in respect of any building, construction, reconstruction or renovation of a public building, unless the relevant authority is satisfied that the plan referred to in subsection (1) conforms.

(a) to the performance specifications as set out in Part I of Schedule I to these regulations ; and

(b) to the designs as set out in Part II of Schedule I to these regulations.

4. (1) Adequate space as specified in Part IIA of the schedule I to these regulations shall be allocated for persons using mobility devices such as wheel chairs, crutches and walkers, in any public building, public place or place where common services are available.

(2) A minimum of five per centum (5%) of the houses in all housing schemes having a minimum of twenty (20) units shall be constructed in accordance with the designs relating to the different parts as specified in part IIB of Schedule I to these regulations.

5. In order to provide persons using mobility devices such as wheel chairs, crutches and walkers and for the persons moving with the assistance of another person with easy access to any public building, public place or place where common services are available, the following part of any public building, public place or place where common services are available, shall be designed in accordance with the design requirements specified in part IIB of schedule I to these regulations.

1. Parking areas ;
2. Pathways and corridors ;
3. Ground and floor surfaces ;
4. Pavements, public roads and pedestrian crossings (kerb ramps) ;
5. Hand rails and grab bars ;
6. Steps and stairs ;
7. Ramps ;
8. Lifts and elevators ;
9. Doorways and entrances to any public buildings ;
10. Toilets
11. Parks, zoos and other places of recreation ;
12. Bus stops ;
13. Railways stations ;
14. Windows, bed rooms, basins, kitchens, storage space, tables, switches and outlets, lighting and communication system.

6. Where the accessibility of a person with any disability is to be temporarily disrupted due to any repairs, additions, alterations, improvements or renovation as the case may be, being carried out in any public building, public place and place where common services are available, alternative accessibility arrangement shall be provided until such renovations are over.

7. The State shall provide a minimum ten per centum (10%) of public transportation accessible to people who have disabilities in accordance with the specifications as set out in part I of Schedule II and with the design requirements as set out in Part II of Schedule II.

8. (1) Audible traffic signals and other audible information systems shall be provided for the benefit of the persons with impaired vision and the safety measures set out in Schedule III to these regulations shall also be provided.

(2) Automatic visual indicator systems shall be provided for the benefit of the persons with impaired hearing. Assistive listening devices shall be provided in Assembly areas, conference and meeting rooms for persons with impaired hearing as set out in Part IIB of the Schedule I.

9. The Access to common places and services by persons with disabilities Regulations No. 1 of 2005 published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 14197 of November 14, 2005 is hereby rescinded.

10. In These regulations, unless the context otherwise requires.

"access" means the ability of a person to enter into, approach, pass to and from and have use of any public building or public place, and the facilities and services provided therein, or any place where common services are available, without the assistance of any other person ;

"common services" means-

- (a) public transportation services and facilities connected to such public transportation services and shall include passenger buses, passenger trains, bus stops, depots and terminals, railway stations, air crafts, airport terminals buildings and airports and water transport ;

- (b) public communication services and facilities connected to such communication services and shall include post offices, communication centres and telephone booths.

"impaired" means a temporary or permanent loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or functions and includes the existence or occurrence of an anomaly, defect or loss of limb, organ, tissue of the body including the system of mental function ;

"persons with disability" shall have the same meaning assigned to that expression under the Protection of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 28 of 1996 ;

"public building" means a building used for

- (i) residential purposes, including staff residences located within multiple dwellings and high rise residential units and tenements ;
- (a) for commercial purposes, including office buildings, hotels, motels, inns, guest houses and other public lodgings, shopping centres, super markets, restaurants, general wholesale and retail stores and car parks ;

- (ii) industrial purposes, including factories and work shops and ware houses ;

- (iv) community, social and educational purposes including educational institutions, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, medical center dispensaries, home for elderly persons, temples, churches and mosques and other religious places, police stations, courthouses, assembly halls, village halls, community centres, auditoriums, conventions halls, libraries, museums, exhibition halls, public toilets and such other buildings ; and

- (v) recreational purposes, including cinema halls, theatres, concert halls, open houses, art galleries, stadiums, sport complexes, sports venues and other places of recreation.

"public places" includes pedestrian crossings, walkways, pavements, roads, streets, off-street and on-street parking spaces, out door staircases, steps, lifts, traffic signals and sign posts, botanical gardens, zoological gardens and places of tourist interest and attraction ;

"relevant authority" means any local authority or any officer, persons or body of persons appointed for the purpose of granting approval for any construction or reconstruction of any public building or for the purpose of issuing the required licences or permits in connection with vehicles providing public transportation under any written law.

SCHEDULE 1

Part I

BUILDINGS

Type of Building	Performance Specifications
1. Staff housing, multiple dwelling and highrise residential units and tenements	(a) A minimum of 01 unit for every 25 plus 01 additional unit for every 100 units thereafter to be constructed with barrier-free features (b) Entrances and exits to be accessible by ramp
2. Post offices, banks and financial service institutions	A minimum of 01 lowered service counter on the premises
3. Shop houses and single-story shops	Shopping area shall be accessible by ramp
4. Hotels	At least one guestroom in every 25 guestrooms or part thereof shall be accessible and usable and one accessible toilet in the common area. (a) A minimum of 01 table for every 10 tables to be attached to the floor without stools or seats. (b) A minimum of 02 tables for the whole premises to be attached to the floor without stools or seats.
5. Food centres	(a) Entrance, exit aisles, and main community or public gathering areas shall be accessible. (b) Accessible toilets facilities shall be provided. (c) Seating for persons with disabilities to be accessible from main entrance and lobbies. (d) Seating and viewing choices to be provided for persons in wheel chairs throughout the main seating area. (e) A minimum of 02 wheel chair spaces for seating capacity from over 100 to 400 seats (f) A minimum of one percent (1%) of the total seating capacity, where the total number of seats exceed 400 seats, shall be reserved for wheel chair users. (g) Easily removable seats shall be installed in wheel chair spaces. (h) Audio loop systems shall be provided.
6. Community centres, village halls, auditoriums, concert halls, assembly halls, cinemas, theatres and other places of public assembly	

Reference :

1. World Report on Disability
2. Barrier Free access Hand book,
A community Service initiative,
Standard Chartered Bank
3. Disabled Persons (Accessibility) Regulations,
No. 1 of 2006