

Employers Forum on Disability



From 1st October 2004, the duty to make reasonable adjustments set out in sections 21(2) (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Disability Discrimination Act came into force:

21(2) Where a physical feature (for example, one arising from the design or construction of a building or the approach or access to premises) makes it impossible or unreasonable difficult for disabled persons to make use of such a service, it is the duty of the provider of that service to take such steps as it is reasonable, in all the circumstances of the case, for him to have to take in order to:

- a) remove the feature
- b) alter it so that it no longer has that effect
- c) provide a reasonable alternative method of avoiding the feature; or
- d) provide a reasonable alternative method of making the service in question available to disabled persons

Part M of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2000 - The Approved Document, effective 1 May 2004

Part M will be met by making reasonable provision to ensure that buildings are accessible and usable.

People, regardless of disability, age or gender, should be able to gain access to buildings and to gain access within buildings and use their facilities, both as visitors and as people who live or work in them.

PROVISIONS OF LIFTING DEVICES

The requirements of M1 or M2 will be satisfied for new developments and existing buildings:

- ▶ if a passenger lift cannot reasonably be accommodated to provide access to persons with impaired mobility, they have a lifting platform, of a type designed for the vertical height to be travelled

and for existing buildings:

- ▶ a wheelchair platform stairlift serving an intermediate level or a single storey, only in exceptional circumstances.

INCLINE PLATFORM LIFTS

Incline lifts travel up the string of a stair, are only intended for wheelchair users and can be considered where it is not practical to install a vertical platform lift.

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VERTICAL PLATFORM LIFTS

Design considerations

A lifting platform should only be provided to transfer wheelchair users, people with impaired mobility and their companions vertically between levels or storeys.

Wheelchair users should be able to reach and use the controls.

Audible and visual information is needed for the arrival of the platform and the floor it has reached.

Lifting platforms travel slowly between landings, i.e. does not exceed 0.15 m/s.

Lifting platforms are operated by continuous pressure controls.

Vertical travel distance

Not more than 2m where there is no enclosure and no floor penetration.

More than 2m there is a lift enclosure or shaft .

Minimum clear dimensions

Where there is no enclosure and the wheelchair user is unaccompanied:

800mm wide and 1250mm long

Where there is an enclosure and the wheelchair user is unaccompanied:

900mm wide and 1400mm long

Where the doors/gate are on adjacent sides of the platform and there is an enclosure or the wheelchair user is unaccompanied:

1100mm wide and 1400mm long

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For professional advice, a quotation or further details on any of our lifting systems please contact us at:

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