

# Guide to accessible entrance doors for buildings other than dwellings

This brief guide aims to set out some basic criteria that should be considered when designing and installing doors in buildings other than dwellings. Comprehensive guidance can be found in Sections 2 & 3 of the 2004 edition of Approved Document M and in BS8300.



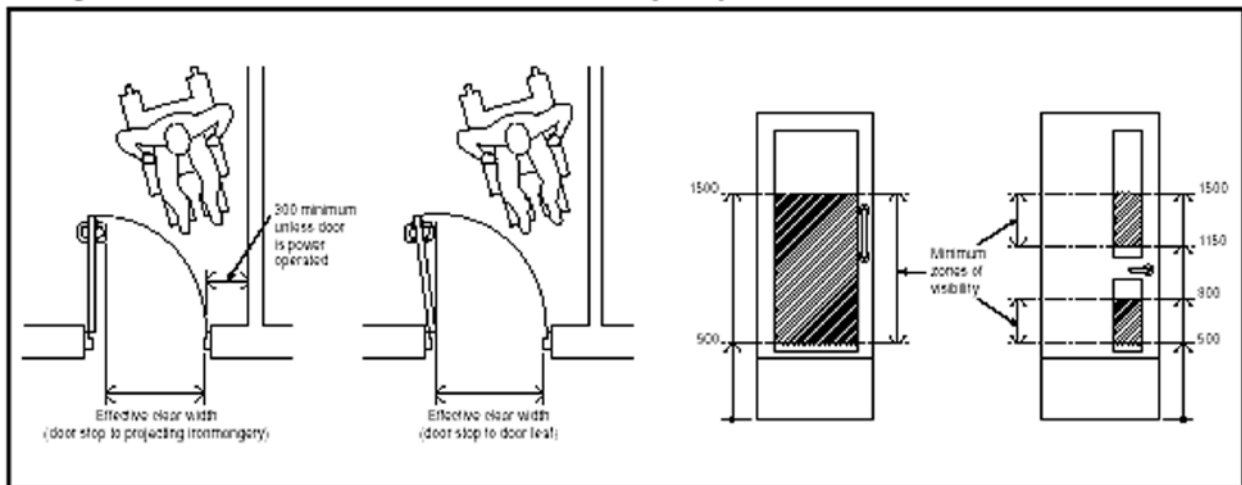
## Entrance Doors

- All doors in new buildings should have a clear width of at least 800mm, or 1000mm if they are used by the general public (see Table 2).
- All doors should contain vision panels so that people can be seen as they approach (see diagram below).

## Manual Entrance Doors

- Should not require a force of more than 20N to open the door, if the door is fitted with a self closer it is likely that some form of power assistance will be required.
- A 300mm space should be provided between the opening edge of the door and any return walls (see diagram below).
- All door furniture should visually contrast with the door and should be operable with one hand using a closed fist.

Diagram 9 Effective clear width and visibility requirements of doors



## Automatic Entrance Doors

- Can be operated by a Push Pad or Motion Sensor
- The door should stay open long enough to allow people to enter or exit safely.
- Visual and Audible warnings should be provided where doors swing towards approaching people.
- Suitable safety devices should be installed to prevent people being hit by the doors.
- Automatic doors should revert to manual operation or revert to the open position if the power fails.
- Doors should not project into access routes when they are open.
- Controls for the door should visually contrast with their surroundings, should be sited between 750 and 1400mm above ground level and should be operable with a closed fist.

## Internal Doors

- Should have the clear width shown in Table 2
- Should not require a force of more than 20N to open the door, if the door is fitted with a self closer it is likely that some form of power assistance will be required.
- A 300mm space should be provided between the opening edge of the door and any return walls (see diagram below).
- All door furniture should visually contrast with the door and should be openable with one hand using a closed fist.
- The door Frames should visually contrast with the walls.
- Doors that are not self-closing should have visually contrasting 'leading edges'.

**Table 2 Minimum effective clear widths of doors**

Direction and width of approach	New buildings (mm)	Existing buildings (mm)
Straight-on (without a turn or oblique approach)	800	750
At right angles to an access route at least 1500mm wide	800	750
At right angles to an access route at least 1200mm wide	825	775
External doors to buildings used by the general public	1000	775

**Note:**  
The effective clear width is the width of the opening measured at right angles to the wall in which the door is situated from the outside of the door stop on the door closing side to any obstruction on the hinge side, whether this be projecting door opening furniture, a weather board, the door, or the door stop (see Diagram 9). For specific guidance on the effective clear widths of doors in sports accommodation, refer to 'Access for Disabled People'.

## Conclusion

We hope that you have found this guide to be useful and if you would like any more information relating to doors or any other aspect of the Building Regulations please give us a call on **01789 260626**.