

Disability Access Guidelines

For

Community and Pilot Community Radio Services

Introduction

The “Guide to Submissions for Applications for Sound Broadcasting Services” specifies that the studios of Radio Stations operating under license of a Community or Pilot Community Radio Service must conform to the disability access guidelines summarized in this document. The disability access guidelines apply to all parts of the building that could necessarily be used by persons with a disability. The guidelines apply only to the building/buildings which contain the radio station studios. It does not apply to any buildings which might separately contain the radio transmitter, antenna or power plant.

This summary is based on guidelines contained in the ***Building Regulations 2022- Technical Guidance Document Part M*** available at:

[gov - Technical Guidance Document M - Access and Use \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

which specify requirements that ensure that persons with disability:

- can safely and independently approach and gain access to a building
- can move around within a building.
- have appropriate sanitary accommodation available.
- are not at risk from hazards.
- have access to aids for communication.

These requirements are specified within the following headings

- Approach to a building.
- Access into a building.
- Circulation within a building.
- Use of facilities within a building.

Guidelines on Approach to a Building

The approach to a building should be flat; if there is a stepped entrance to the building then a ramp suitable for wheelchair use must be provided. A protective railing and kerb may be required in some specified situations.

There should be a clear area of 1.5m by 1.5m in front of the entrance to the building – this applies also to the top landing of a ramp in front of the entrance door. Additional requirements are specified if the door opens out onto the landing

Details of these are provided in Section 1 of the Technical Guidance Document Part M

Guidelines on Access to a Building

An entrance door must have an opening width of not less than 800mm and have at least a space of 300mm on the side next to the leading edge. An explanation of “door opening width” and “leading edge” can be found in Diagram 5 of Section 1.7 of the guidelines. Double doors should have at least one leaf which has a minimum width of 800mm.

Guidelines on Circulation within buildings

Internal doors should have an opening width of not less than 750mm and have at least a space of 300mm on the side next to the leading edge.

All corridors or passageways must ideally have a clear unobstructed width of 1200mm. Increased door widths, as specified in the table in Section 1.28 of the guide, are required when corridor widths are less than 1200mm.

All lobbies must be designed with sufficient space to enable a wheelchair user and assistant to move clear of one door before using the next – example arrangements for external and internal lobbies, should they be present, are given in Diagram 7 (Section 1.7) and Diagram 8 (Section 1.8) respectively of Part M.

There must be sufficient circulation space around fixed furniture. The specific requirements for circulation around studio furniture are given in the Appendix to this document.

A passenger lift must be provided to any storey above or below the entrance storey where in a two storey building the net area per floor is more than 280sq m or for more than a 2 storey building that has a net area per floor of more than 200sq m. An explanation of the areas excluded in calculating net area is given in Section 1.12 of the guidelines. This section also outlines requirements on lift size, lift door width, positions and types of lift controls including tactile indicators, audible and visual floor announcements, mirror provision etc.

In cases where a lift is not mandatory there must be a suitable internal stairs. There are specific requirements for provision of handrails, rise and depth of steps etc. Details are available in Section 1.14 of Part M.



Guidelines on use of facilities within a building.

Studio desk height must be similar to that of normal office furniture – circa 740mm. Part of a reception desk must also conform to this requirement. The circulation space around studio furniture must comply with the dimension given in Figure 1 below.

The position of regularly used controls on studio desks should be within reach of persons using a wheelchair.

A disabled WC must be provided somewhere within the building. This toilet must be accessible and conform to the requirements specified in the guidelines. The full requirements are given Section 2 with Diagram 13 specifically giving details of the WC fittings and their positions.

Figure 1 – Studio Furniture Circulation Space

A & B ideally should be at least 1.2m, but must be a minimum of 750mm
If either A or B are less than 1.2m then a 1.5m turning circle is required behind desk
Ideally 1.5m turning circle in front of desk but minimum is that C is greater than 1.2m

