



# ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

**ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE**  
The Threshold Association, Finland  
2014

## **The accessibility guide**

All buildings should be accessible for everyone, even with reduced mobility. Accessibility is functionality: the premises and stores of the building have easy access and they are easy to function in.

Seeing impairments, hearing impairments or mobility impairments can be temporary or permanent. The assistive devices are for example a walking-stick, crutches, walker and a wheelchair.

With a good design the functionality of the building can be improved for all users.

## Routes

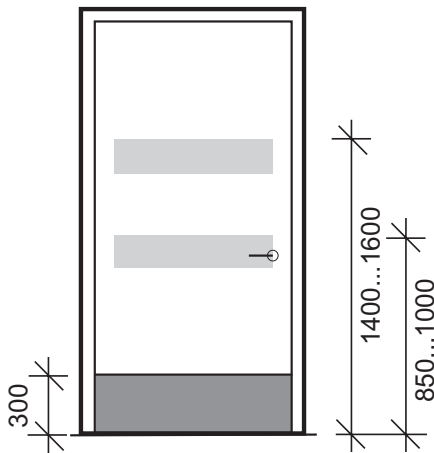
- The surface of the pedestrian route(s) has to be hard, even and non-slippery even when wet (for example concrete, stone dust, asphalt or flagstone).
- The clear width of the route should be at least 1200 mm. Width 1800 mm makes it possible for two wheelchair users to pass.
- There has to be enough space to turn around with a wheelchair. Diameter of the free space at the turning point should be at least 1500 mm.
- On the route there can be no structures or building blocks that cause a danger for collision. Free headroom should be at least 2200mm.
- Protect any area below stairs that has headroom less than 2200mm with for example a rail or by placing a piece of furniture or planting under the stairs.

## *Handrails*

- The route should be equipped with a rail if the vertical difference between levels at the side of the route is over 500 mm.
- Height of the securing side of the rail has to then be at least 700 mm, measured from the upper side of the platform.
- On the rail there can be no vertical structures that enable climbing.

## Doors and thresholds

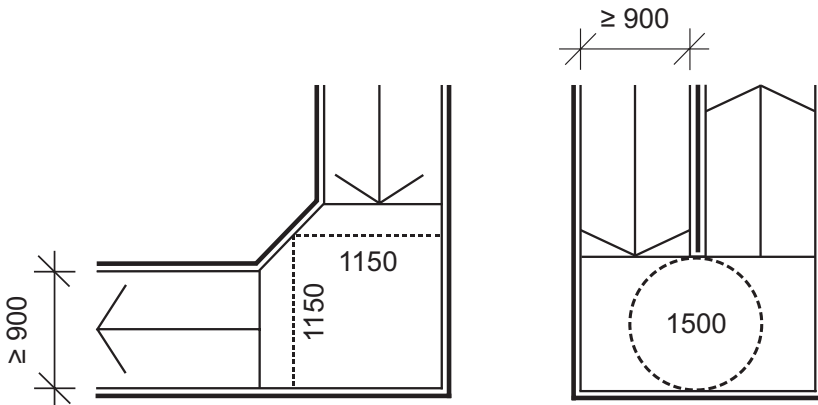
- The clear width of the door should be at least 850 mm.
- Doors should be made primarily without thresholds.
- If thresholds are necessary, they should be made as low as possible. Height of a threshold can be 20 mm at maximum.
- Doors should be easily opened or should open automatically.
- Automatic door should stay open for at least 25 seconds and the automatic door radar should be aimed so that it reacts to wheelchair users and persons with short stature also.
- The glass-doors will be equipped with high contrast markings at the 850–1000 and 1400–1600 mm high. The lower side of the door will be protected with the kicking plate that is at least 300 mm high.
- Door buzzer and other hearing based equipment will have lights.



The glass-doors should be equipped with visual contrast markings on at a child's eye-level [at 850–1000 mm] high and on the adults eye-level [at 1400–1600 mm high]. The lower side of the door should be protected up to 300 mm high.

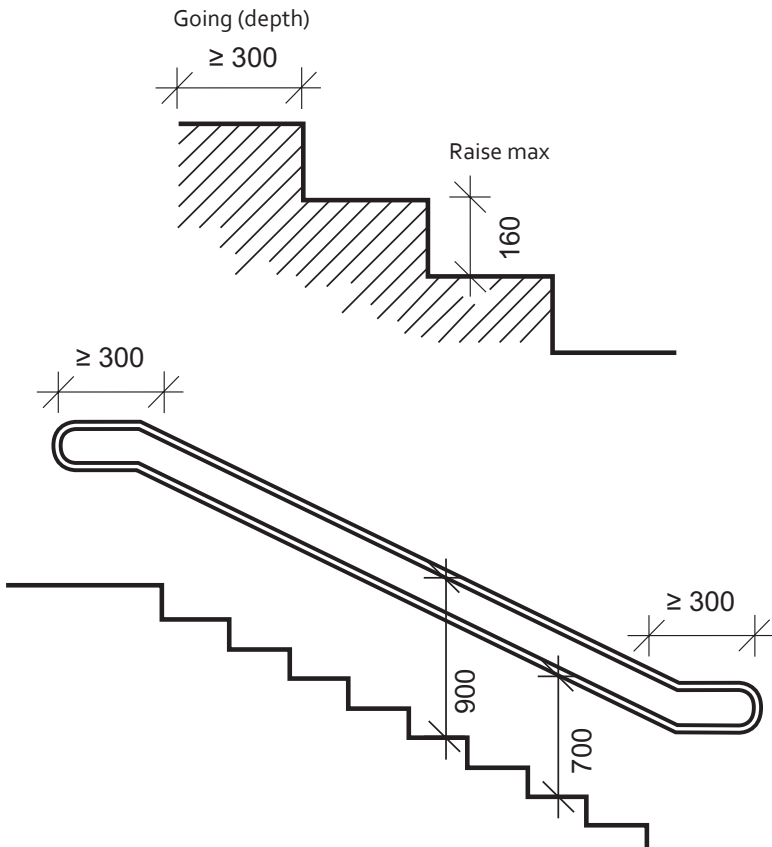
## Ramps

- The gradient of a ramp can be at most 8 % (1:12,5) and the sideways inclination at most 2 % (1:50).
- Over 6000 mm long ramp should have a 2000 mm long landing.
- The clear width of the ramp should be at least 900 mm.
- The ramp should be equipped with a kerbed upstand when it is not bounded by a sidewall. The kerbed upstand will prevent drifting off from the ramp. It should be at least 50 mm high.
- The ramp should have handrails at 900 mm and 700 mm high, on both sides. Handrails should be continuous to the full length of the flight and around intermediate landings. Handrails should extend at least 300 mm beyond the top and bottom of the ramp to provide support.



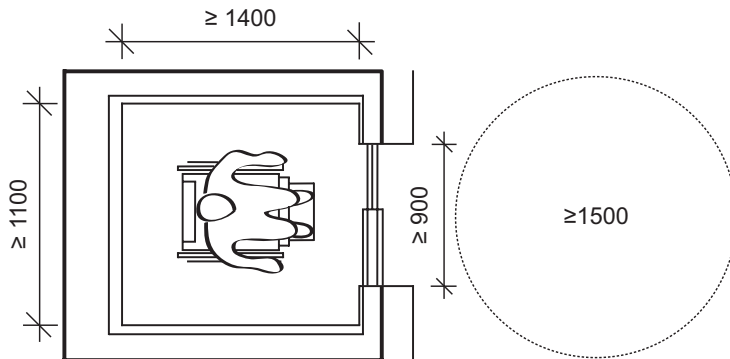
## Stairs

- The measurement of a stairs that is easy to walk are:  $2 \times \text{raise} + \text{going (depth)} = 630 \text{ mm}$ .
- Height of the stair may be at most 160 mm and going (depth) should be at least 300 mm.
- Handrails should be placed at 900 mm and 700 mm height, on both sides. Handrails should be continuous to the full length of the flight and around intermediate landings. Handrails should extend at least 300 mm beyond the top and bottom of the stairs to provide support.



## Elevators / Lifts

- The clear width of the elevator door should be at least 900 mm and the free height at least 2100 mm.
- The internal width (doorway ) of the elevator car should be at least 1100 mm and internal depth at least 1400 mm.
- The internal width 1400 mm and the depth 1600 mm of the car makes it possible to turn around with a wheelchair or a walker.
- The buttons of an elevator should be placed at the height of 900–1100 mm.
- All control buttons should be embossed and should contrast visually with a mounting plate and the mounting plate should contrast visually with the adjacent wall surface so that it is easy to identify. Button of the exit floor should be elevated, stand out from the other buttons and contrast visually. The buttons should illuminate when pressed.
- On the stopping-level (in front of the elevators door) there must be at least 1500x1500 mm of a free space to turn around.



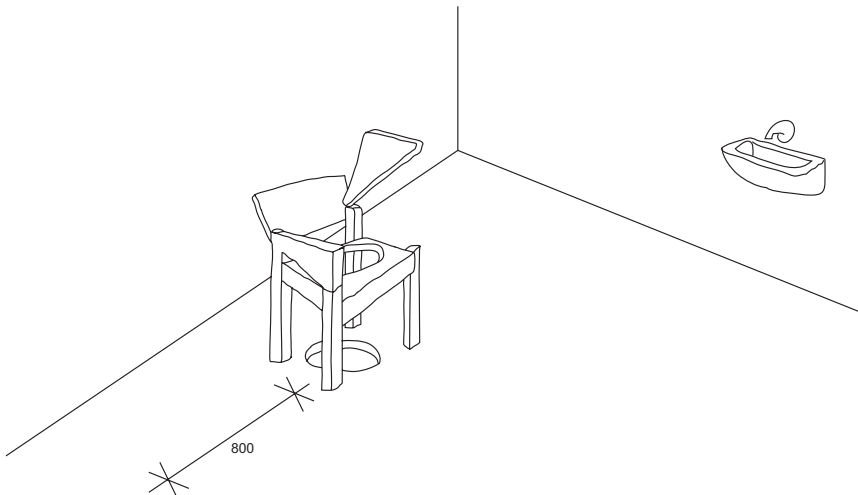


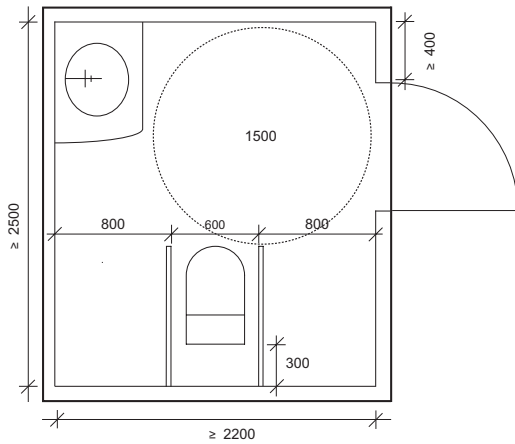
## Conference rooms

- There has to be an accessible route to the front and back or to the front and the middle part of the auditorium stand.
- Wheelchair places should be located at different rows of seats by the accessible route.
- There should be two wheelchair places for the first 60 seats, and then one wheelchair place for every further 60 seats or part thereof.
- There should be an accessible route to the stage.
- Conference rooms should have a sound system and induction loops.
- When choosing materials for linings, their acoustic qualities should be noted (as short reverberation time as possible).

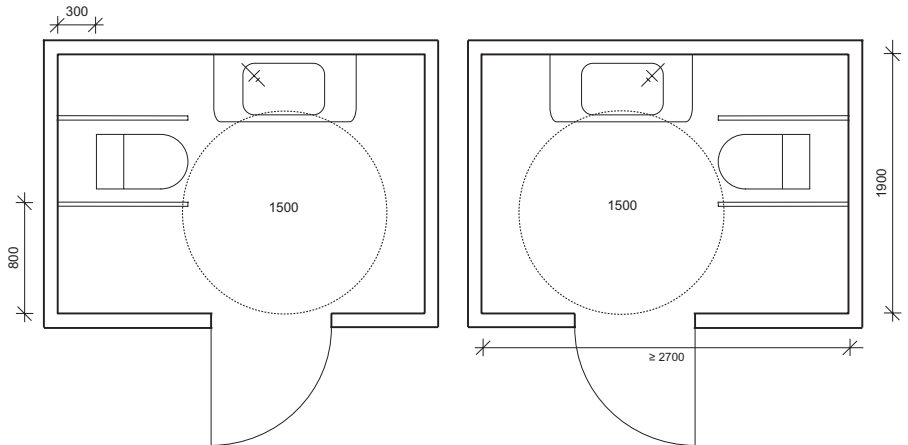
## Accessible toilet

- An accessible toilet needs to be located on an accessible route.
- For maneuvering with a wheelchair there should be a free space wheelchair turning space at 1500 mm diameter.
- Next to the toilet seat there should be 800 mm free space for the wheelchair.
- The toilet seat should have drop down grab rails on both sides, attached to the back wall.
- The grab rails should be located 800 mm above floor level and the distance between them should be 600 mm. Grab rails should extend to at least the front edge of the seat.
- The shape of the grab rail should be such that it is easy to get a good and firm grip on them. They should endure the body weight of a person.
- Water supply and waste pipes should be neatly fixed to the wall to maximise clear space below the washbasin (there should be at least 670 mm high free space).
- There has to be an alarm system in an accessible toilet. If the building already has a surveillance system it should be connected to the alarm system.





Accessible toilet that is usable on both sides. 800 mm free space for the wheelchair is on the both sides of the seat.



Toilets are implemented as mirror images of one another (right- and left-handed transfers). There is 800 mm free space for the wheelchair only on one side of the seat.

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