



## Access, inclusion, and escape

Ensuring premises are adapted to be as inclusive as possible, given the constraints of the building and the environment provided. Using the BS 8300 code of practice as a guide to converting the premises from the start.

This is aimed particularly at the disabled, elderly or those less able to stand.

note: You're disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

Our aim is to create an inclusive, accessible environment.

### What is the BS 8300 Code of Practice?

It sets out the requirements of how buildings should be designed, constructed and maintained to meet the needs of disabled people as well as create an accessible and inclusive environment for them. BS 8300 is in place to ensure everybody has access to enter, to use and to exit a built environment open to the public equally.

It focuses on the inclusive built environment as a whole and how it can be made universally accessible, making the environment. You must consider every aspect of a building/its surroundings and how it impacts on a user's accessibility.

Fire, evacuation, and emergency procedures incl PEEPS

The guidelines apply to within the building itself and the immediate surroundings. we have looked at:

- Access routes to and around all buildings
- Entrances
- Door fittings
- Steps/stairs and ramps
- Corridors and passageways
- Guard rails
- Surface finishes
- Signage
- Lighting
- Parking areas
- Storage facilities
- Provision of seating

### Means of escape for disabled people

Generally, disabled people are no different from anyone else in that they prefer to be in control of their own escape. The DDA requires that adaptations may be made to physical features of buildings to enable them to be used more easily by disabled people. However, the DDA recognises that it may not be possible to provide full access. The minimum requirement is difficult to outline, but a good guide would be to use the specifications set out in BS 8300. These can be considered a measure of accessibility under the DDA and can be considered desirable features for means of escape.

### Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) for members and regular visitors

Individual plans can be provided where members and regular visitors to a building require one. The plan must be tailored to their individual needs and is likely to give detailed information on their movements during an escape. It is also possible that there will be some building adaptation to facilitate their escape and to reduce the need for personal assistance.