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Dear Sir/Madam

CIRCULAR TO PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES / ASSOCIATIONS

CODE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 2013

Objective

1 This circular is to inform the building industry on the launch of the Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment 2013.

Background

2 The Code on Accessibility (“the Code”) was reviewed by a tripartite working committee comprising representatives from government agencies, industry stakeholders, academic institution and voluntary welfare organisations. In this fourth revision, there are enhanced provisions to improve accessibility in the built environment for persons with disabilities and the elderly. The Code also places greater emphasis on universal design concepts and introduces new requirements that will benefit the young and parents with infants. The key changes to the Code are listed in Annex A.

3 An electronic copy of the Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment 2013 can be downloaded from BCA’s website <https://www.bca.gov.sg/>.

Effective date

4 The Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment 2013 will be implemented from 1 April 2014. The provisions of the Code will apply to new buildings and existing buildings undergoing major retrofitting works, where the building plans are submitted for regulatory approval on or after 1 April 2014.

For clarification

5 I would appreciate it if you could convey the contents of this circular to members of your organisation. For clarification, please email to BCA_UD@bca.gov.sg or call 6325 8611.

Yours faithfully



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NO	NEW/ REVISED PROVISION IN 2013 CODE	PROVISION IN 2007 CODE	REMARKS
1.0	FAMILY-FRIENDLY FACILITIES		
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory family-friendly features such as lactation room, child-friendly sanitary facilities and family car parking lot at selected building types including transport interchanges, passenger terminals, sport complexes, public swimming pools, community club, theme parks, purpose built family amusement centre, large scale shopping and multipurpose complexes. <p><i>(Clause 6.9)</i></p>	Recommended design guidelines for family-friendly facilities. Not mandatory.	New requirements to support a pro-family nation.
2.0	ELDERLY-FRIENDLY FACILITIES		
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of ambulant disabled toilets for selected building types. At least 1 ambulant disabled toilet in every 5 toilet compartment. <p><i>(Clause 5.1.4)</i></p>	1 number of ambulant disabled toilet provision for selected building types.	Enhanced requirements to support an ageing population.
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of dimensions for water closet and urinal provision for ambulant disabled with additional illustrations for greater clarity. <p><i>(Clauses 5.4 and 5.5)</i></p>		Enhanced requirements to ensure clarity for compliance.
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resting areas with seats shall be provided along long paths of travel. <p><i>(Clause 4.2.5.1)</i></p>		Enhanced requirements to ensure clarity for compliance.
3.0	ACCESSIBILITY FOR HEARING IMPAIRED		
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing enhancement system to be provided in function rooms, halls and auditoriums used for meetings, lectures, performances or films, and in at least one of the public information/service counters for cinema, theatre, concert hall, stadium, museum, theme park, purpose built family amusement centre, transport station, interchange and passenger terminal. <p><i>(Clause 6.8)</i></p>	No provision.	To cater to the needs of persons with hearing impairment and older persons using hearing aids.

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4.0	ACCESSIBILITY FOR VISUAL IMPAIRED		
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of tactile warning indicators only at specific hazardous areas such as kerb ramps and road crossings. • Allow other types of detectable warning surfaces as alternatives to tactile treatment. • Detectable warning surface to be provided for ramps where there is a change in level of more than 200mm. <p><i>(Clauses 3.7.1.2 and 4.5)</i></p>	Coloured bands or tactile warning indicators to be provided when change in level is between 15mm to 200mm.	To address the concerns on tripping hazards caused by tactile surfaces.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staircases to provide non-slip nosing strips with contrasting colour, detectable warning surfaces at landings. <p><i>(Clause 4.11)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Braille and tactile sign on adjacent walls or stair handrail extensions to indicate the floor level for selected building types. <p><i>(Clause 4.11.1.2)</i></p>	Specific requirements for ambulant disabled-friendly staircase only.	New requirements.
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braille and tactile information for public toilet signs for selected building types. <p><i>(Clause 5.1.7)</i></p>	No provision.	New requirement.
5.0	ACCESSIBLE ROUTES, CORRIDORS OR PATHS		
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider corridor width of 1500 mm for building types such as residential development, hotels, service apartments, workers' dormitory, hostels, dormitories, schools, office buildings, factories, workshops, industrial buildings and office/showroom areas in warehouses; • Wider corridor width of 1800 mm for building types such as universities and similar institutions of learning, parks, open spaces and places of 	Minimum width is 1200 mm	<p>To provide safe and comfortable access routes for people using mobility aids.</p> <p>In anticipation of the fast ageing population.</p>

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	<p>public resort, sport complexes and public swimming pools, MRT stations and bus interchanges, shopping centres and multipurpose complexes, markets, hawker or food centres, restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes, homes for the aged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For existing buildings undergoing additions and alterations with exceptional circumstances and particular constraints, corridor width of 1200 mm may be considered with the provision of passing space. <p>(Clause 4.2.1)</p>		
6.0 HOTELS, BOARDING HOUSES AND BACKPACKER HOTELS			
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased in accessible guestroom ratio. At least 1 in every 100 guestrooms or part thereof shall be accessible. This is to be provided in addition to the current requirement to provide one elder-friendly room in every 50 guestrooms. <p>(Clause 2.3.3)</p>	<p>At least 1 in every 200 guestrooms or part thereof shall be accessible.</p> <p>In addition, one elder-friendly room is to be provided for every 50 guestrooms.</p>	Enhanced requirements to support “accessible tourism”.
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for manoeuvring spaces at entrance door of accessible guestroom shall follow the provision for residential development. <p>(Clause 6.10.1)</p>		Relaxed requirement.
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum provision of 1500 mm by 1500 mm clear space for wheelchair turning within the accessible guestroom. <p>(Clause 6.10.2)</p>	Not specified.	To ensure clarity for compliance.

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7.0	SERVICED APARTMENTS		
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1 in every 100 apartments unit to be accessible and all common areas shall be accessible. <p><i>(Clause 2.3.4)</i></p>	Not specifically mentioned.	To ensure clarity for compliance.
7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum provision of 1500 mm by 1500 mm clear space for wheelchair turning within the accessible apartment unit; Requirements for manoeuvring spaces at entrance door of accessible apartment unit shall follow the provision for residential development. <p><i>(Clauses 6.10.1 and 6.10.2)</i></p>		To ensure clarity for compliance.
8.0	RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT		
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There shall be at least one accessible and sheltered passenger alighting and boarding point with direct access to every block of the residential development. <p><i>(Clause 7.1.1)</i></p>	Not specified.	New requirement to cater to the needs of persons with disabilities, older persons and families in inclement weather.
8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent space fronting unit entrance is to be of non-structural element if there is difference in levels between the entrance to the unit and the abutting common area. This is to facilitate future ramp installation. Where a ramp is installed at the entrance to the unit to mitigate differences in levels, the ramp shall be located within a distance of 250 mm measured from the face of the door. <p><i>(Clause 7.2)</i></p>	Not specifically mentioned.	<p>Enhanced requirement to ensure that a ramp could be easily constructed when the need arises.</p> <p>To ensure that a wheelchair user can conveniently operate the door.</p>

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8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refinement to the requirements for unobstructed manoeuvring space in bathroom for future retrofitting. <p>(Clause 7.3)</p>	Unobstructed space of not less than 1000mm in diameter next to the doorway within the bathroom.	Enhanced requirements to ensure clarity for compliance.
8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switches and socket outlets in the kitchen need not comply with the height requirement for of controls and operating mechanism. <p>(Clause 7.4)</p>	Switches and socket outlets shall be provided at a height of between 450 mm and 1200 mm from the floor level.	Relaxed requirement.
9.0 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS			
9.1	<p>Differentiated requirements for different situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas exempted from accessibility provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process plant and structure which deals with oil and gas industry, refinery industry, chemical industry and premises which handle chemicals, toxic materials and potential explosive compounds. This includes ancillary office areas located within the same development; Areas with activities that require a “gowning regime” (e.g. clean or sterile rooms, etc); Production areas with heavy machinery, etc; Areas used for warehousing and storage. For flatted factories or industrial buildings for multiple users, at least one accessible toilet shall be provided at the common area of every level. <p>(Clause 2.3.11)</p>	All areas intended for access by employees or public.	<p>Differentiated requirement for different building types and functions.</p> <p>To ensure clarity for compliance.</p>
10.0 WORKERS' DORMITORY			
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one accessible room with accessible toilet and shower facilities at first storey level. <p>(Clause 2.1.1 - Table 1 Item 17)</p>	Not specified.	To cater to worker/resident who is temporarily injured or disabled.

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11.0	PASSENGER ALIGHTING AND BOARDING POINT		
11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one alighting and boarding point, if provided, shall be sheltered. <p>(Clause 3.3)</p>	Mentioned as good practice.	To cater to the needs of persons with disabilities, older persons and families in inclement weather.
12.0	SANITARY PROVISION		
12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one accessible individual washroom shall be provided at every level of a non-residential building where toilets are provided. <p>(Clause 5.1.1)</p>	Provide either one accessible individual washroom or one water closet compartment for wheelchair user in both male and female toilets.	To cater to needs of persons with disabilities who are accompanied by caregivers of the opposite sex.
12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible toilet is not required to be provided at every cluster of toilets at each level for pre-schools, schools, colleges, universities, institutions of learning, hostels, dormitories and halls of residence. <p>(Clause 5.1.3)</p>	Every cluster of toilets has to provide accessible toilet.	Relaxed requirement for selected building types to address the concern on over provision of accessible toilets.
12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed performance requirements for the use of motion sensor-type lighting switches within the accessible individual washroom or toilet compartment. <p>(Clause 5.6.7)</p>	Not specified.	In response to feedback from persons with disabilities.
13.0	HANDRAIL AND GRAB BARS		
13.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Height for staircase handrail shall be positioned between 800 mm and 1000 mm measured from the pitch line vertically to the top of the handrails. Handrails for stairs shall be continuous throughout the entire length of stairs and extend not less than 300 mm beyond the top and bottom steps. <p>(Clause 4.11.4)</p>	<p>Height for staircase handrail shall be positioned between 800 mm and 900 mm measured from the pitch line vertically to the top of the handrails.</p> <p>Optional requirement for ambulant-disabled friendly staircase only.</p>	<p>To align with Approved Document.</p> <p>To enhance way-finding and safety for persons with visual impairment</p>

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13.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Handrails shall have a circular section of 32 mm to 50 mm in diameter or an equivalent gripping surface. <p><i>(Clause 4.7.3.1)</i></p>	Handrails shall have a circular section of 35 mm to 45 mm in diameter or an equivalent gripping surface.	To align with market availability of material size.
13.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grab bars shall have a diameter of between 32 mm to 45 mm or a shape that provides an equivalent gripping surface. <p><i>(Clause 4.7.3.3)</i></p>	Grab bars shall have a diameter of between 35 mm to 45 mm or a shape that provides an equivalent gripping surface.	To align with market availability of material size.

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