

Entrances for Everyone

Designing inclusive entrances that
welcome all abilities.

GUNNEBO[®]
Entrance Control

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This white paper explores the regulatory framework surrounding building entrances and looks at how entrance control systems can be used by to ensure buildings remain secure, but also accessible for all users.

With BS8300-2:2018 'Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment', Building Regulations Part M and the Equality Act 2010, businesses are under obligation to provide for disabled people, ensuring unrestricted physical access into and around the building.

Realising the importance of accessible and inclusive design that accommodates for physical impairment and neurodiversity, architects and designers are also looking to adopt more inclusive design through guidance such as RIBA's Inclusive Design Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work.

This white paper outlines regulation, looks in depth at inclusive design in relation to entrances and receptions, and examines the role of entrance control systems in achieving a building that upholds regulation and is more welcoming to all users.

Regulations and standards

America's [Americans with Disability Act](#) (ADA) and the United Kingdom's [Equality Act 2010](#), as well as other similar legislations around the world

such as the EU's [European Accessibility Act](#), have established legal frameworks to ensure services remain accessible to disabled people. However, the varied approach to definitions of disability and accessibility, and the degree to which the regulations impact building specification, means that a universal approach is difficult to establish.

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This lack of clear, shared guidance makes for a challenging environment for building specification, but for the purposes of this white paper, we will look at two established acts:

Americans with Disability Act

The [ADA](#) mandates that in new constructions, building entrances must be accessible to individuals with disabilities, with at least 60% of public entrances required to comply (206.5.1). It also sets out minimum areas for manoeuvring clearance on both sides of entranceways (404.2.4). More specifically, the ADA also covers

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security barriers to ensure accessibility. In [206.8](#) guidance is given to the provision of security barriers:

Security barriers, including but not limited to, security bollards and security check points, shall not obstruct a required accessible route or accessible means of egress.

Exception: Where security barriers incorporate elements that cannot comply with these requirements such as certain metal detectors, fluoroscopes, or other similar devices, the accessible route shall be permitted to be located adjacent to security screening devices. The accessible route shall permit persons with disabilities passing around security barriers to maintain visual contact with their personal items to the same extent provided others passing through the security barrier.



Equality Act 2010

England's Equality Act 2010 defines accessibility for public and business building entrances within [Building Regulations Approved Document M Volume 2](#). Revised in 2015, it sets out clear guidance under 'Section 2: Access into buildings other than dwellings'. The aim is for the principal entrances of all new buildings to be accessible. Where this is not possible, for example in existing buildings, it stipulates the provision of an alternative accessible entrance.

Approved Document M also makes design considerations and provision on visibility, obstructions, landing areas and floor levels, and also specific requirements for doors:

2.8 Doors to the principal, or alternative accessible, entrance should be accessible to all, particularly wheelchair

users and people with limited physical dexterity. Entrance doors may be manually operated without powered assistance, or power operated under manual or automatic control. Entrance doors should be capable of being held closed when not in use.

2.9 A non-powered manually operated entrance door, fitted with a self-closing device capable of closing the door against wind forces and the resistance of draught seals is unlikely to be openable by many people, particularly those who are wheelchair users or who have limited strength.

2.10 A powered door opening and closing system, either manually controlled or automatically operated by sensors, is the most satisfactory solution for most people. An automatic sliding door arrangement is particularly beneficial as it avoids the risks

associated with automatic swing doors and its use can make it possible to reduce the length of any entrance lobby.

2.11 Once open, all doors to accessible entrances should be wide enough to allow unrestricted passage for a variety of users, including wheelchair users, people carrying luggage, people with assistance dogs, and parents with pushchairs and small children. It should be noted that double buggies are wider than wheelchairs and that, where relevant to the building type, this should be borne in mind when determining an appropriate effective clear width for an entrance door. There may be circumstances in existing buildings where it is not practicable or cost-effective to adopt the preferred effective clear widths for new buildings.

2.12 People should be able to see other

people approaching from the opposite direction, thereby allowing sufficient reaction time for both parties to avoid a collision. Exceptions may be acceptable for reasons of privacy or security.

The document also references powered entrance doors, including stipulating that revolving doors are not considered accessible. However, it does not define design considerations or provisions around security controls, such as turnstiles and speed gates, other than that they remain accessible and usable by all.

Both America's ADA and England's Equality Act 2010 acts offer clear guidance for new and existing public and business buildings, but other than following specific guidance in entrance and door design, with some consideration provided to entrance controls and security, what else

“Today, inclusive design represents one of architecture’s biggest challenges.”

can architects do to make sure the entrances they design are for everyone?

Inclusive Design

Focusing on creating spaces that are accessible and usable for everyone, inclusive design principles represent an opportunity for architects to create entrances and receptions that not only meet regulation, but that also consider differing physical abilities and neurodiversity as part of the design process. Today, inclusive design represents one of architecture's biggest challenges.

The Design Council's Commission for

Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) laid out a vision for inclusive design in its 2006 publication, '[The Principles of Inclusive Design](#)': Inclusive design aims to remove the barriers that create undue effort and separation. These principles uphold across the world, regardless of regulation or standard:

1. Diversity and difference, placing people at the heart of the design process
2. Offer choice when a single design solution cannot accommodate all users
3. Provision of flexibility in use
4. Communities that offer plenty of services, facilities and open space
5. Buildings and environments that are convenient and enjoyable for everyone to use

Since the release of that vision, there have been many subsequent publications that examine the topic in detail, examining how putting people of the heart of the design process can yield spaces and buildings that acknowledge diversity and difference, and which are convenient and enjoyable for everyone to use. However, perhaps because of a lack of standards or regulation, inclusive design is still not widely adopted in architectural design practice¹.

That said, there is certainly progress towards a future where inclusive design may become a standard practice for architecture and construction companies. Published in 2022 by the British Standards Institute, '[Design for the Mind. Neurodiversity & the Built](#)

[Environment - PAS 6463:2022](#)' is a step in that direction. Providing guidance on the design of the built environment for a neurodiverse society, it examines how site and building layout, access, wayfinding, internal layouts, acoustics, lighting, and fixtures and finishes can contribute to an interior that works for neurodiverse people. The guidance does not consider those with physical impairments.

RIBA's (Royal Institute of British Architects) [Inclusive Design Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work](#), further develops inclusive design as a principle for good buildings and stresses the importance of inclusive design:

“The role our built environment has on each and every person's life cannot be overestimated. That's why it is so important that inclusion and accessibility is at the heart of all stages of design; if we're going to build a world where everyone feels welcome, safe, and valued. This Inclusive Design Overlay provides a consensus across built environment professions for how we accelerate inclusion and value diversity.”

Robbie Turner

Director of Inclusion and Diversity, RIBA

With increasing focus on creating environments that accommodate for physical impairment and neurodiversity, an approach to people management and security must not only consider the needs of disabled users but also consider how barriers and restrictions appear to neurodiverse users.

People Management in Receptions

Due to the need for street access entrances to comply with regulations, the reception is often the first chance

¹ Matteo Zallio, P. John Clarkson, Inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility in the built environment: A study of architectural design practice, Building and Environment, Volume 206, 2021, 108352, ISSN 0360-1323 (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360132321007496>)

for businesses to include security measures that manage the flow of people and which accommodate physical impairment and neurodiversity through space planning, design and operation.

For space planning, entrance control systems should accommodate wheelchair users, leaving sufficient room for safe and unimpeded movement. Referencing design considerations as identified in relevant regulations can provide a guideline for planning the position of entrance control systems, though sensible measures include allowing as much possible space between control systems and internal and external entrances to provide unrestricted mobility for wheelchair users. Consideration should also be made for the provision of security systems that are easily accessible for wheelchair users.

For its white paper 'Places and Space with Everyone in Mind', WSP conducted research to establish guidance on designing spaces for people from across the neurodiverse spectrum, highlighting the difficulty of designing for the 'nuanced and intricate differences in the needs of neurodiverse individuals'², revealing these can sometimes be in tension with one another. Notably though, it does make some universal recommendations in terms of logical and intuitive layout with clear wayfinding. Positioning entrance control systems in clear sight of entrances with directional guidance and instructions clearly signposted will help neurodiverse users to understand their environment and how to progress through the reception.

Other than when high security is required, such as in data centres and sensitive government buildings, most environments requiring the safe and effective management of people can benefit from speed gates, such as the Gunnebo SpeedStile range from Gunnebo Entrance Control. These gates are for environments where a medium level of security is required. They are designed with a strong focus on aesthetics and enhanced functionality to promote accessibility with configurable lane widths that can accommodate wheelchairs.

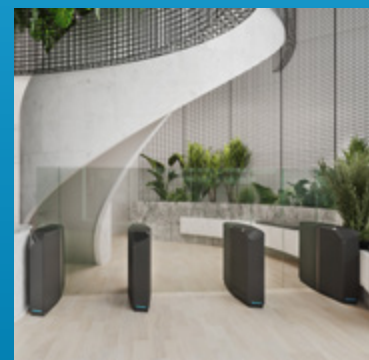
“They are designed with a strong focus on aesthetics and enhanced functionality to promote accessibility with configurable lane widths that can accommodate wheelchairs.”

[Gunnebo SpeedStile FP Glide](#) has recently been introduced to the range. The gate features a telescopic action enables the same unit to control wide and narrow lanes, enabling the installation of more gates while accommodating wheelchair users seamlessly and without compromising aesthetics. The gate's unique asymmetric design also provides guidance to the user due to its shape.

SpeedStile FP Glide also aids understanding with the use of intelligent and energy efficient LED lighting. The optional User Interaction Pack displays gate status, guiding users to the gate and highlighting the authorisation area. On successful authorisation the LEDs guide users through.

Gunnebo SpeedStile FP Glide

With a sleek design and advanced features, Gunnebo SpeedStile FP Glide is ideal for offices embracing improved accessibility.



- ✔ 35% reduction in wide-lane footprint for wheelchair users
- ✔ Same unit controls wide and narrow lanes, enabling the installation of more gates and a uniform aesthetic
- ✔ Dynamic LED lighting and optional User Interaction Pack displays gate status, highlights authorisation area and guides users
- ✔ Advanced fraud detection, crawl proofing and climb detection for an effective security measure
- ✔ Unique asymmetric design available in customised finishes provides guidance to the user

² WSP, 'Places and Spaces with Everyone in Mind Designing for Neurodiversity and Mental Health', wsp.com, 2025, <https://www.wsp.com/-/media/insights/uk/documents/gdm-01165-wsp-white-paper---designing-for-neurodiversity.pdf>, p4

These additional visual cues can be especially important in the gate being accessible and easy to use for neurodiverse and sight impaired people. The gate's use of transit profiles allows adaptability and response to different user authorisation input signals, optimising user experience. The use of transit profiles also gives flexibility to change door opening and closing speeds depending on the authorised user and the detection algorithm can be tuned to user type.

These practical measures, alongside a modern and customisable aesthetic makes the new SpeedStile FP Glide an ideal solution for accessible entrance control systems that accommodate people with disabilities and neurodiversity through design and functionality. It's security features and integration with building management systems ensure a high level of protection and user analytics for more efficient building operation.

“It is so important that inclusion and accessibility is at the heart of all stages of design; if we’re going to build a world where everyone feels welcome, safe, and valued.”

Robbie Turner
Director of Inclusion and Diversity, RIBA

Conclusion

With little in the way of absolute guidance or regulation for the layout of receptions, designers must consider the needs of people with disabilities and the neurodiverse from a practical level and consider accessibility as part of core design thinking, opposed to additional adaptations or revisions.

Growing awareness and knowledge of how people with disabilities and neurodiversity understand

and interact with spaces is helping to make this shift in design thinking more common. Leading practices are now developing their own design models, checklists and pathways to improve accessibility, providing practical guidance to interior designers.

For people management, working with Gunnebo Entrance Control can help designers and specifiers to ensure the design of the reception not only provides a secure and safe building for

all users, but also accommodates for a wide range of physical and neurological abilities, while meeting expectations for an attractive and stylish system that upholds design integrity.

Contact us for more information on our solutions for improved accessibility.

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For more information:
gunneboentrancecontrol.com

