



Access & Awareness Project 2005-2008
A&A Information Sheet 10
INTERNAL DOORS

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF
DEVON**

helping communities help themselves

The main consideration regarding doors is whether it is actually necessary for adequate function and whether it could be 'designed out'. If a door is required and it is on a main circulation route or provides access to a key facility or service, it should be easy to use.

- The minimum clear opening width (Figure 23) of an internal door varies according to the type of door, the angle of the approach and the width of the access route (see table below). The effective clear width should be measured from the face of the door when open to the opposite frame or door stop. Protruding door furniture will reduce the useable space.
- In existing buildings where it is not possible to achieve 800mm, internal doors should provide a minimum 750mm clear width (or 775mm as opposed to 825mm for doors at right angles to corridors narrower than 1200mm).
- Doors and door frames should be clearly highlighted by using tonal contrasts with the wall.
- The surface of the leading edge of any door that is not self closing, or is likely to be held open, should contrast visually with the other door surfaces and its surroundings.
- Doors (and side panels wider than 450mm) should have vision panels (Figure 24).
- Substantially glazed doors, and side panels, should bear markings for safety and visibility (Figure 25). Markings should be two toned to be visible against a variety of backgrounds and lighting conditions. Decorative features like company logo or sign can be used as a marking.
- In double doors the leaf which is in regular use should be clearly identified as such. At least one leaf should provide the minimum opening width.
- Door furniture should be clearly highlighted from the door using tonal contrast; door furniture should be easily reached and gripped (see Entrance Doors); it should be possible to open a latch or lever type opener using a closed fist (see Figures 26 & 27).
- Full height door pulls and substantial weather boards can restrict the clear opening width and thus, additional opening width should be provided.
- Where doors are heavy, consideration should be given to providing automatic opening. For example, electromagnetic catches which hold doors open, closers linked to fire alarm installations, or low energy swing door operators. All low energy powered swing door



systems should be capable of being operated in manual mode, powered mode or power assisted mode.

- Where doors are opened manually, the opening force should be as low as possible. Part M recommends that the opening force at the leading edge of the door should not be greater than 20 newtons. See 'Building Management Checklist'.

Minimum effective clear widths of external doors as recommended in AD M		
Direction and width of approach	New buildings (mm)	Existing buildings (mm)
Straight on (without a turn or oblique approach)	800	750
At right angles to an access route at least 1500mm wide	800	750
At right angles to an access route at least 1200mm wide	825	775