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The campaign for  
accessible hotels

**Design Layout and Equipment Guidelines**



## Introduction

An Accessible Hotel needs to tick all the boxes to be verified. From room layouts to equipment lists, the venue needs to ensure that everything is covered if they want to be considered truly accessible. The guidelines and list below specify exactly what is needed to become an Accessible Hotel.

These guidelines have been put together in conjunction with 'Document M: Access to and use of buildings' in relation to hotel rooms that contain a bedroom with an ensuite bathroom.

Whilst the following gives a good overview of what is required, we strongly recommend that you contact an Accessible Hotels specialist for advice. Please see our website for further details.



## Bedroom Layout

1. There must be adequate internal space for the room to be suitable for a wheelchair user:
  - a) This must include clear, unobstructed space of at least 1000mm wide around the sides and foot of the bed and in front of all furniture.
  - b) There must also be a minimum of 1200mm by 1200mm manoeuvring space on either side of the bed.
  - c) There must be at least 1200mm by 1200mm manoeuvring space inside the main doorway, clear of the bed and the door itself (when it is closed).
  - d) A clear access route from the doorway to the window that is at least 750mm wide should also be included.
2. Electrical switches and sockets must be easily accessible:
  - a) Light switches and other controls must be on individual plates unless full plate fittings or wide rockers are provided.
  - b) Wall-mounted switches and sockets must be accessible to people with reduced reach, and should be fitted 1350-1450mm from the floor.
  - c) Double socket outlets should have switches located at the outer ends of the panel (instead of being in the centre).
3. The equipment and structural elements should be able to:
  - a) The ceiling or wall being strong enough to support a patient overhead hoist system (recommended safe working load 200kg).
  - b) Door handles, locks and latches should be easy to grip, and fitted 850-1000mm above floor level.



## Bathroom Layout

1. There must be suitable internal space and equipment for the use of wheelchair users:
  - a) This includes a minimum 1500mm by 1500mm turning circle space.
2. The room should meet the structural requirements of:
  - a) The ceiling or wall being strong enough to support a patient overhead hoist system (recommended safe working load 200kg).
  - b) All walls and surfaces of the bathroom should be strong and sturdy enough to support grab rails, seats, and other equipment that could impose a load of 1.5kN/m<sup>2</sup>.
3. The toilet must be positioned accordingly and be easy-to-use:
  - a) The flush control should be on the front of the cistern unit on the side that is most easy to transfer to and from.
  - b) The flush handle should also be easy to grip, i.e. a lever flush.
  - c) The toilet pan itself should be at least 400mm from the ground.
4. The shower/bath should be easy-to-control and in the right location:
  - a) If installing a level access shower, it should be positioned in the corner of the room to allow for a shower seat to be mounted on the wall. The controls should then be installed on the adjacent wall.
  - b) Taps and controls should be easy-to-use and grip for a person with limited strength and dexterity. They should also be suitable for single-handed operation.
5. The sink/basin should meet the requirements of:
  - a) Being wall mounted (with the rim being 770-850mm above floor level), leaving a clear zone beneath the basin for wheelchair users to sit comfortably. This clear zone should be 400-600mm from the finished floor level.



## Equipment

Certain equipment must also be included for it to be considered an Accessible Hotel room. The following pages show what is needed for the venue to be verified as an Accessible Hotel.

### Hoisting System

A patient hoisting system is required to allow the guest to move freely around the room and into the bathroom. The hoisting system you choose to install is based entirely on what your building can facilitate.

If your ceiling is strong enough to support a hoist lifting up to 200kg, then a fixed straight track is the best option. This can lead from the bed to the chair or right through to the bathroom. If the venue is looking for a subtler option in hoist tracking, or for rooms with a lower ceiling height, inset tracking (which is installed into the ceiling) is ideal. If the bathroom ceiling is strong enough to support a hoist, then a fixed track is the best option.

If the ceiling is not strong enough, or you are looking for a more aesthetically pleasing solution, then there is the option of a hidden hoist unit. This unit, known as the Integralift, is manufactured by our main campaign sponsor Innova Care Concepts, and is designed to be folded away into a bedhead unit that looks just like a cupboard. It can be pulled out to help the guest transfer from the bed to a wheelchair and vice versa.

### Shower Commode Chair

Be advised that a shower commode chair should also be included in an Accessible Hotel room. This chair can help the carer move the individual from the bed to the bathroom with ease. If you do not plan to install a hoist in the bathroom, then a shower chair is the next best thing to offer. It can also be stored away if there is a guest that does not need it.

### Doc M Pack

In compliance with the requirements in the previous section, the Doc M pack includes a range of wall-mounted grab rails, and fold-down toilet rails that give the guest more to hold on to when supporting themselves in the bathroom. This is a necessary requirement of Accessible Hotels, and as previously mentioned, the walls that these rails are mounted on must be able to take weight.



## Other things to consider:

Whilst the following items are not mandatory to become an Accessible Hotel, they would be an excellent addition to ensure complete accessibility for guests.

- Body Dryer – For those with limited flexibility and mobility, this should be installed near the shower so the guest can simply step out and use it.
- Changing Bench – A height adjustable, adult-sized changing bench could be fitted to the wall of the bathroom.
- Bed & Pressure Relieving Mattress – A specialist bed and mattress would enhance your guests' experience.
- Height Adjustable Basin – This is ideal for the wheelchair users in the bathroom. They can adjust the position of the sink so that it sits just above their lap.
- X-Y Hoist System – A X-Y system offers more room coverage than a straight track, and it can be connected to the hoisting system in the bathroom with a subtle transit coupling mechanism.

Whilst the above options are not mandatory, rooms with these facilities will ensure your hotel stands out from other venues, and shows commitment to providing for disabled guests.

It should be noted that hotels should be prepared to hire any other specific equipment that their disabled guests may need on request.



## Further Information

The links listed below may help if you need more information about Accessible Hotels, disabled guests, and equipment:

- [www.accessiblehotels.org.uk](http://www.accessiblehotels.org.uk)
- [www.innovacareconcepts.com](http://www.innovacareconcepts.com)
- [www.chuc.org.uk](http://www.chuc.org.uk)
- <http://accomable.com>
- <http://cae.org.uk/resources/inclusive-hotels-group/>

## Contact Us

The best way to contact us is to use the contact form on our website at [www.accessiblehotels.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.accessiblehotels.org.uk/contact-us).

Alternatively you can speak to our main sponsor, Innova Care Concepts, using the contact details below. Innova Care Concepts have been instrumental in helping to kick-start the campaign, so have detailed knowledge of the campaign and what we're looking for.

### About Our Main Sponsor: Innova Care Concepts



With a mission 'to enhance quality of life through innovation', Innova Care Concepts are a forward-thinking dynamic UK healthcare equipment manufacturer, supplier, and installer.

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