8.2 SWITCHES & CONTROLS

THIS SECTION DEALS WITH THE PROVISION, LAYOUT AND DESIGN OF SWITCHES AND CONTROLS.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE

The design and positioning of switches and controls shall be consistent within a building and shall enable all users to identify them, understand their purpose, access them and operate them easily, safely and effectively.

8.2.1 MANDATORY PROVISIONS

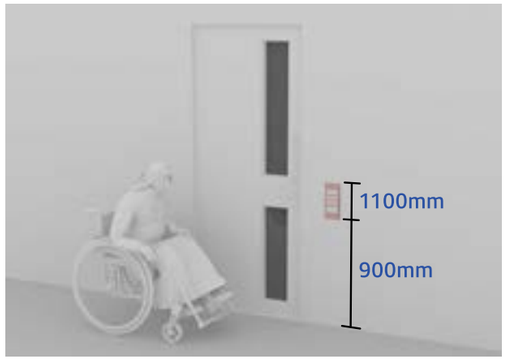
The design and layout of switches and controls will satisfy the performance objectives if:

1. Switches and controls are operable without the simultaneous use of both hands except where safe operation of machinery requires it.
2. Where red and green are used as “ON” and “OFF” indicators the switch or control status is clarified by additional text or pictograms.
3. The positioning of switches and controls falls within the ranges shown in Figure 53 and is consistent within the building.
4. Switches and controls contrast visually with their mounting plates (where fitted) and the wall surface.
5. Equipment instructions, visual and tactile, are positioned adjacent to the relevant switch or control and are readable at close range.
6. Electrical mains and circuit isolation switches are clearly labelled and the on an off positions are easy to identify.
7. All electrical power sockets are switched and the on and off positions are easy to identify.

8.2.2 MANDATORY DESIGN OBJECTIVES

GENERAL

1. In some circumstances such as the provision of ‘cleaner’s sockets’ health and safety requirements may dictate that sockets are located at low level to avoid trailing cables becoming a hazard.



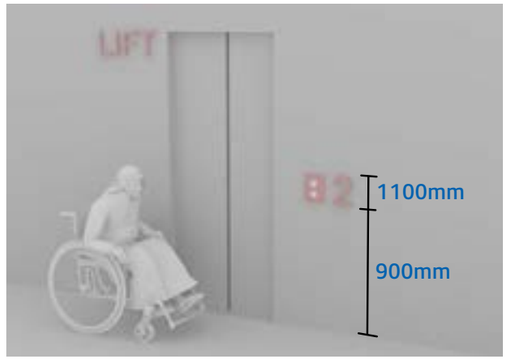


Figure 53 / Heights of switches and controls (door access controls and lift call buttons)

8.3 INTERNAL LIGHTING

THIS SECTION DEALS WITH THE PROVISION AND DESIGN OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING AND THE CONTROL OF DAYLIGHTING.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE

Where artificial lighting is provided to supplement or replace natural lighting within buildings it shall provide good visibility and shall ensure safe access, circulation and exit for all users. Artificial lighting shall be provided wherever required to ensure safety.

8.3.1 MANDATORY PROVISIONS

The design and layout of artificial lighting and the provision of natural lighting will satisfy the performance objectives if:

1. Artificial lighting systems are designed to maintain a level of illumination that is suitable for people with sight impairments as well as all other users.
2. Illumination levels across a room or space are even so that there is no glare, pools of bright light or strong shadows.
3. Artificial lighting provides good colour rendering.
4. Natural & artificial lighting levels controllable and adjustable to suit individual need
5. Artificial lighting is compatible with electronic and radio frequency installations and does not cause interference to hearing aids.

8.3.2 MANDATORY DESIGN OBJECTIVES

GENERAL

1. Natural lighting should be used wherever possible provided heat gain and the potential for glare can be controlled. Artificial lighting provides the means to ‘model spaces’ by accentuating colour, tone and texture; provides background and task lighting, highlights signage, provides safe access and makes face to face communication comfortable. It also has the ability to change the ‘mood’ of a space from warm and welcoming to cold and clinical. Lighting design should therefore be carefully considered from the perspective of the needs of all users and how they will use / interact with a particular space in order to ensure that accessibility is not compromised by the lighting design. Reference should also be made to Section 4.4 Surfaces.
2. Where face to face communication is important e.g. at reception desks the lighting design should provide good illumination to the receptionist’s face.