

2. Accessibility

2.1. Intention

- 2.1.1.** The Accessibility requirements of Civil Defence are to address the following.
- 2.1.2.** To provide “ACCESS ABILITY” to all UAE people who are physically challenged, inline with UAE leader’s vision of making UAE the most “Accessible” country in the world for “People with Determination”.
- 2.1.3.** To make Sites, Buildings, Structures, Facilities, Elements and Spaces, both exterior or interior, both public and personal, accessible to people with determination so that they can maneuver, evacuate and find refuge as naturally as everyone.

2.2. Scope

- 2.2.1.** Only accessible routes, doors, elevators, Stairs, refuge areas and parking are addressed in this chapter as ‘Accessible Means of Egress’. Other accessible requirements for Utilities, recreational facilities, Furnishing and Equipment etc., where required by designers to comply with ‘Accessible compliant buildings’ shall be as per **NFPA 5000** and **ICC ANSI A117.1**.

2.3. Accessibility Concept

- 2.3.1.** Physical disability, or severe mobility impairment, is the “the ability to move to stairs but without the ability to use the stairs.” as per ADA (Americans with Disability Act)
- 2.3.2.** ANSI A117.1 defines the technical criteria as to “make sites, facilities, buildings and elements accessible to and usable by people with such physical disabilities as the inability to walk, difficulty walking, reliance on walking aids, blindness and visual impairment, deafness and hearing impairment, incoordination, reaching and manipulation disabilities, lack of stamina, difficulty interpreting and reacting to sensory information, and extremes of physical size.”
- 2.3.3.** The Accessibility scope is broadly inclusive of all aspects of construction that affect the ability of people with determination to approach, enter, utilize a facility and evacuate the facility. The term “facility” includes not only the building and structures, but also the site on which they are located. Features of a site, such as parking areas and paths of travel from a public way to a structure, affect accessibility and are, therefore, within the scope.
- 2.3.4.** The Accessibility requirements required by this code of practice are minimum guidelines. It is the architect and consultants responsibility to design and implement these requirements along with **Municipality, NFPA 5000** and **ICC/ANSI A117.1** requirements.

Did You Know?

UAE is already a friendly nation on many fronts for people with determination .

Municipalities have building codes in place which ensure entrances, elevators, rest rooms, libraries, parks, traffic signal junctions etc. are addressed

RTA has designed metro station ticket counters, bathrooms, audio-visual notices, tactile floor paths for visually impaired, buses with lower entry access, foot bridge having elevators with people with determination in mind.

Dubai Taxi has 7 special taxis to meet special needs of people with determination, available 24x7