



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

FIRE SAFETY GUIDANCE NOTE

Number:

GN29

Access for Fire Appliances

This Guidance Note covers the access arrangements needed for fire appliances to get close enough to a building to fight fire. It details such requirements as minimum road widths, turning circles, road humps and projections from buildings. It is primarily aimed at developers and architects for planning reference, but may be useful to anyone who has concerns about fire brigade access to a building.

This Note one of a series produced by the Authority to provide advice on various aspects of fire safety. If you require any further guidance on the advice given or require advice on another topic please contact your local borough Fire and Community Safety Centre or visit the London Fire Brigade web site at <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk>

CONTENTS:

| | |
|---|---|
| INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| OTHER AUTHORITIES YOU MAY NEED TO CONSULT | 3 |
| GENERAL | 3 |
| ACCESS | 3 |
| TURNING AND SWEEP CIRCLES OF APPLIANCES | 5 |
| DEAD END ACCESS | 5 |
| OBSTRUCTION TO ACCESS | 5 |
| POSTS AND BOLLARDS | 5 |
| WIDTH RESTRICTIONS | 6 |
| GATE BARRIERS | 6 |
| SPEED CONTROL HUMPS | 6 |

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|
| 25 | PEDESTRIANISED AREAS | 7 |
| 26 | STANDARD PADLOCKS | 8 |
| 27 | ACCESS FOR BUILDINGS | 8 |
| 28 | WATER MAINS AND HYDRANTS | 11 |
| 29 | BRITISH STANDARDS | 11 |
| 30 | | |

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Guidance Note has been prepared to give advice on the provisions necessary to provide adequate Fire Brigade access for appliances to and around buildings. The information provided is based around compliance with the Building Regulations 2000 Approved Document B Volume 1: Dwellinghouses (2006 edition), B5, Section 11, Access and facilities for the fire service and Volume 2: Buildings Other Than Dwellinghouses (2006 edition amended 2007), B5, Section 16, Access and facilities for the fire service. Compliance with this guidance note should enable the requirements of the Building Regulations to be met, though should you wish to review the full content of the relevant content of Approved Document B, this link will allow you to do so:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/1115314110382.html>

2 OTHER AUTHORITIES YOU MAY NEED TO CONSULT

- 2.1 As the local authority administers the Building Regulations and the London Building Acts, they should be consulted.

3 GENERAL

3.1

Access roads may be public highways, private roads, footpaths or specially strengthened and defined

routes through the land surrounding the buildings. The recommendations for pumping appliances, turntable ladders/hydraulic platforms and special large aerial appliances are as follows:

| Appliance Type | Min. width of road between kerbs(m) | Min. width of gateways (m) | Min. turning circle between kerbs (m) | Min. turning circle between walls (m) | Min. clearance height (m) | Min. carrying capacity (tonnes) |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Pump | 3.7 | 3.1 | 16.8 | 19.2 | 3.7 | 14.0 |
| High Reach | 3.7 | 3.1 | 26.0 | 29.0 | 4.0 | 23.0 |
| Special Appliance | 4.0 | 3.1 | 26.0 | 29.0 | 4.27 | 32.0 |

Table 1 - Typical vehicle access route specification

- 3.2 Because the weight of high reach appliances is distributed over a number of axles, it is considered that their infrequent use of a carriageway or route designed to 14.0 tonnes should not cause damage. It would therefore be reasonable to design the road base to 14.0 tonnes, although structures such as bridges should have the full 32.0 tonnes capacity.

4 ACCESS

Access for pumping appliances

- 4.1 Access roads for pumping appliances should be provided with 6m working area(s) at appropriate locations where appliances are to be positioned and used around the building.

