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AS 1428.1—1993

Australian Standard®

Design for access and mobility

Part 1: General requirements for access—Buildings

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME/64, Access for People with Disabilities. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 5 November 1992 and published on 15 February 1993.

The following interests are represented on Committee ME/64:

Access Australia

ACROD

Aged Care Australia

Australian Chamber of Manufactures

Australian Council on the Ageing

Australian National Council of and for the Blind

Australian Uniform Building Regulations Coordinating Council

Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia

Department of Administrative Services—Australian Construction Services

Department of Housing, New South Wales

Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning, Queensland

Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia

Disability Advisory Council of Australia

Housing Industry Association Australia

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Part 1: General requirements for access—Buildings

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Access for People with Disabilities to supersede AS 1428—1988 and is part of a series which comprises:

AS
1428 *Design for access and mobility*

1428.1 *Part 1: General requirements for access—Buildings*

1428.2 *Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements—Buildings and facilities*

1428.3 *Part 3: Requirements for children and adolescents with physical disabilities*

1428.4 *Part 4: Tactile ground surface indicators for the orientation of people with vision impairment*

Major alterations to the previous edition are as follows:

(a) The inclusion of provision for the limited encroachment of a washbasin into the WC pan circulation space.

(b) The inclusion of requirements for wheelchair seating spaces in places of public entertainment.

(c) The optional extension of the grabrail at the back of a WC pan, and the shower head support grabrail in a shower recess.

(d) Changes to Figure 24 showing the outer limits of obstructions beneath a washbasin, in order to permit the installation of smaller washbasins.

(e) The inclusion of requirements for listening systems to aid hearing–impaired people.

Other changes in the Standard include the incorporation of Amendments 1, 2 and 3 to the previous edition, and editorial changes where clarity of the requirements was considered necessary.

In 1988, at the request of the Australian Uniform Building Regulations Coordinating Council (AUBRCC), AS 1428—1977 was revised so that a Standard for access for people with disabilities into and within buildings would include only those items which could be covered by building regulations to be applied through the Building Code of Australia. In consequence of that revision, the committee decided that AS 1428 would be divided into two parts, this Standard (Part 1) consisting of only those requirements for access which are to be regulated under the Building Code and Part 2, which includes other requirements for access which may or may not be regulated by other Authorities together with requirements for special–purpose buildings.

As a project for the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, a study was commissioned by AUBRCC to test those provisions of AS 1428—1977 that could be regulated. As a starting point for the study it was decided that convenient access for 80% of known adult wheelchair types (and hence wheelchair users) was an acceptable target. The concept of the 'A80' (adults/80%) wheelchair was then developed. The 'A80' test wheelchair is an adult size wheelchair which is representative of at least 80% of the manual and electric wheelchairs currently used in Australia, and its dimensions have been applied in determining minimum space requirements in this Standard.

The 'A80' test wheelchair dimensions are adopted as the minimum requirement for physical access as most other forms of mobility impairment can be accommodated within these dimensional parameters. It should be noted that Part 2 provides comfortable access for 90% of people who use wheelchairs and people with other types of disabilities such as sensory impairments.

The research involved the actual testing of full size facilities by persons with various disabilities using a variety of mobility aids. In some instances, further tests were carried out using a one–fifth scale model wheelchair and facilities.

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Access difficulty for the subject was recorded during selected field tests on a 1 to 5 scale, where ‘1’ represented ‘very easy access’ and ‘5’ represented ‘impossible’.

A safety problem was considered to exist where a subject stated that a situation was hazardous, became entangled, tripped, stumbled, or would have fallen, over–balanced or tripped without the support given by the test supervisor.

Where more than 20% of a subject group could not use a feature, obtain access, had a degree of difficulty greater than 3, or had a safety problem, the test results were treated as significant and the subject of a possible amendment to the 1977 edition.

In the case of model testing, where the space needs of the ‘A80’ wheelchair plus user variance were found to be in excess of the minimum requirements of the 1977 edition, an amendment was suggested. The user variance was determined by field testing and observation of test subjects. Variance depends on the manoeuvre involved and represents the extra space needed by real people over that which would be required if perfect control and no clearance were possible.

Because of the many different situations which may need to be addressed when designing buildings and facilities, it was seen as necessary for the Standard to provide a range of data so that the requirements for access can be met and also allow flexibility in design and when limitations are posed by other building conditions. The intention was to make the Standard a practical reference document for designers, particularly with regard to problem areas such as doorways and sanitary facilities. To assist in the designing of combined sanitary facilities, a set of transparent overlays for each sanitary facility, i.e. WC, washbasin, two–walled shower recess and three–walled shower recess, together with its required circulation space, has been provided with the Standard (not available in PDF version).

Because this Standard contains only those items which are able to be regulated by the Building Code of Australia, some items such as lighting, shelving and wall units, signals and warnings and work surfaces which were included in AS 1428—1977, are not included in this Standard but are specified in Part 2. Also because this Standard claims to meet only basic needs for minimum access, items such as WCs and shower recesses are included, but urinals and baths, which are additional to what are considered to be minimum requirements, are included in Part 2.

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