

Buildings fitted with fire mains

- 15.4 For buildings fitted with dry fire mains, both of the following apply.
- a. Access should be provided for a pumping appliance to within 18m of each fire main inlet connection point. Inlets should be on the face of the building.
  - b. The fire main inlet connection point should be visible from the parking position of the appliance, and satisfy paragraph 16.10.
- 15.5 For buildings fitted with wet fire mains, access for a pumping appliance should comply with both of the following.
- a. Within 18m, and within sight of, an entrance giving access to the fire main.
  - b. Within sight of the inlet to replenish the suction tank for the fire main in an emergency.
- 15.6 Where fire mains are provided in buildings for which Sections 16 and 17 make no provision, vehicle access may be as described in paragraphs 15.4 and 15.5, rather than Table 15.1.

Design of access routes and hardstandings

- 15.7 Access routes and hardstandings should comply with the guidance in Table 15.2. Requirements can only apply to the site of the works.
- It may not be reasonable to upgrade the route across a site to a small building. The building control body, in consultation with the fire and rescue service, should consider options from doing no work to upgrading certain features, such as sharp bends.
- 15.8 Where access to an elevation is provided in accordance with Table 15.1, the following requirements should be met, depending on the building height.
- a. Buildings up to 11m, excluding small buildings (paragraph 15.1): pump appliance access should be provided adjacent to the building for the specified percentage of the total perimeter.
  - b. Buildings over 11m: access routes should comply with the guidance in Diagram 15.2.
- 15.9 Where access is provided for high reach appliances in accordance with Table 15.1, overhead obstructions (such as cables and branches) should be avoided in the zone shown in Diagram 15.2.
- 15.10 Dead-end access routes longer than 20m require turning facilities, as in Diagram 15.3. Turning facilities should comply with the guidance in Table 15.2.

Table 15.2 Typical fire and rescue service vehicle access route specification

| Appliance type | Minimum width of road between kerbs (m) | Minimum width of gateways (m) | Minimum turning circle between kerbs (m) | Minimum turning circle between walls (m) | Minimum clearance height (m) | Minimum carrying capacity (tonnes) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Pump           | 3.7                                     | 3.1                           | 16.8                                     | 19.2                                     | 3.7                          | 12.5                               |
| High reach     | 3.7                                     | 3.1                           | 26.0                                     | 29.0                                     | 4.0                          | 17.0                               |

NOTES:

1. Fire appliances are not standardised. The building control body may, in consultation with the local fire and rescue service, use other dimensions.

2. The roadbase can be designed to 12.5 tonne capacity. Structures such as bridges should have the full 17-tonne capacity. The weight of high reach appliances is distributed over a number of axles, so infrequent use of a route designed to accommodate 12.5 tonnes should not cause damage.

See paras 15.8 and 15.9

