

CAFE Information Note 1

1. VIEWING AREAS FOR SPECTATORS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) welcomes and supports the publication in August 2009 of Technical Report CEN/TR 15913 "Spectator facilities – Layout criteria for spectators with special needs". The report was approved by CEN, the European Committee for Standardisation on behalf of its 30 member nations (see Note 1).

The technical report gives certain design solutions on how a spectator viewing area should be designed for people with disabilities and special needs. It includes specific recommendations for wheelchair users and spectators with ambulant disabilities including visual and hearing impairments. It applies to all spectator facilities including sports grounds, stadia and entertainment venues whether permanent or temporary.

Architects, engineers, local authorities, governing bodies, stadium and facility managers, access consultants and all stakeholders should refer to the detail of the report which is available from national standards bodies and CEN (see Notes 1 and 2).

Whilst initially published in English, it is understood that the report is currently being translated into Czech, French, German, Italian and Norwegian. The Report was prepared by CEN Committee CEN/TC 315 Spectator Facilities (see Note 3) and the Project Leader, Jim Froggatt.

It is not proposed to replicate the recommendations within this summary. (Reference should be made to the Technical Report).

The principles are as follows:

- **Viewing Areas**

New and existing stands will need to provide accessible viewing areas to all disability groups, including ambulant disabled spectators. These areas must be in adequate numbers located around the spectator facility and must be of appropriate viewing quality, to give all spectators a suitable range of viewing options. Provision and standards should be reviewed by management, disabled spectators and local disability groups on a regular basis.

- **Number of Spaces**

The table gives the appropriate guidance on the minimum acceptable scale of provision of wheelchair spaces in newly constructed stands.

Seated capacity of stand or stadium	Number of wheelchair spaces
Under 10,000	Minimum of 6 or 1 in 100 of seated capacity (whichever is greater)
10,000 to 20,000	100 plus 5 per 1,000 above 10,000
20,000 to 40,000	150 plus 3 per 1,000 above 20,000
40,000 or more	210 plus 2 per 1,000 above 40,000

It is recommended that the table is applied to existing stands, but where this is impracticable it will be necessary to consult with supporters and local disability groups over compensatory provision elsewhere in the stadium and this may result in a requirement for extra spaces in new stands.

- **Location of Viewing Areas**

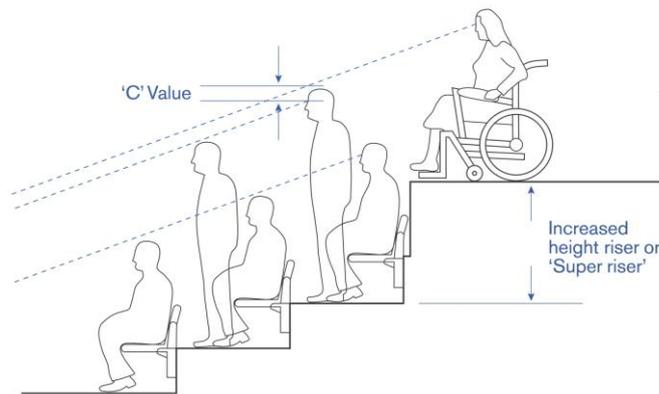
Good practice highlights the preference for providing wheelchair users with “a range of vantage points”. It is therefore recommended that areas for disabled spectators should, where possible, be dispersed throughout the spectator facility to provide a variety of locations at different levels and for various prices. Where appropriate, designated viewing areas should be provided for both home and visiting spectators. Management should make available clear advice on the location of disabled facilities and wheelchair spaces to away spectators who may be visiting the spectator facility for the first time.

- **Quality of Viewing Spaces**

Wheelchair users should be provided with a choice of sitting next to a disabled or non disabled companion. Some seats should be located so that an assistance/guide dog can accompany its owner and rest in front of, or under, the seat. Although an individual wheelchair place can be provided by a clear space with a width of at least 900mm and a depth of at least 1400mm, it is recommended that each designated place should ideally measure 1400mm x 1400mm to allow space for one helper per wheelchair space to sit alongside in a fixed or removable seat.

- **Sightlines**

Sightlines should be such that all spectators have a clear view of the event to the whole of the activity area, unobstructed by persons in front, by roof stanchions or by other obstructions. The provision of areas located around the stadium designated for spectators in wheelchairs has implications for the sightlines of both disabled spectators and other spectators seated or standing nearby. The main principle is that any wheelchair seating area should be designed so that spectators in wheelchairs can still see the event when located behind standing accommodation or where people in front may stand up.



In order to create an acceptable viewing standard for those in wheelchairs, an increased height riser, or 'Super riser', will be necessary, which may be in the order of several times the height of a normal stepping riser.

The report goes on to give recommendations in respect of:

- Viewing areas for ambulant disabled spectators
- Viewing areas at activity level, elevated and mid tier positions, flexible viewing areas and fully enclosed viewing areas
- Standing accommodation
- Alternative events
- Supplying match commentaries to viewing areas

A worked example is also included (see also Note 4).

Notes

Note 1: CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Note 2: The report is available from The European Committee for Standardisation, Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels - Ref. No. CEN/TR 15913:2009. (www.cen.eu) and will also be available from national standards bodies

Note 3: Refer to CEN 13200 Parts 1-6 European Standards on Spectator facilities - Layout criteria, Service area, Separating elements, Seats, Telescopic stands and Demountable stands. Further standards are in preparation for Entry and exit systems and Safety management prepared by CEN/TC 315.

Note 4: Further good practice recommendations to the design of facilities to meet the needs of disabled spectators and other users including entry and exit systems, circulation, toilets, refreshment areas and access audits and accessibility appraisals can be found in "Accessible Stadia" published by the Football Licensing Authority and the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (ref www.flaweb.org.uk and www.footballfoundation.org.uk).

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