

DDA, BS8300, Approved Document M & The Equality Act (2010)

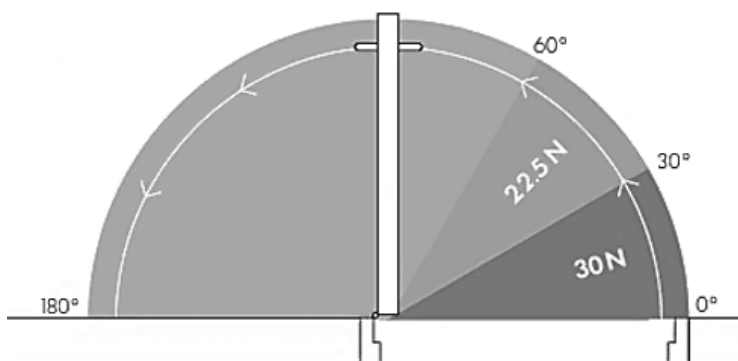
The Equality Act (2010) works to protect people with disabilities – including blind and partially sighted people – from discrimination.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was replaced with the **Equality Act** in 2010 in England, Scotland and Wales. Specifically, the DDA now applies in Northern Ireland only.


A common misconception is that Architectural Hardware needs to be designed to be DDA compliant. Strictly speaking, elements originally covered by the DDA are now covered in the Equality Act 2010 which incorporated (and repealed) the DDA. This means that the Equality Act therefore renders the term 'DDA compliant' obsolete.

Operating forces of doors when installed with overhead door closers:

Consideration should be given to the Equality Act (2010 – with amendments) & Approved Document M and BS 8300. The required opening force of door controls to assist less-abled users is below 30N between 0°-30° and below 22.5N between 30°-60°.



Opening resistance for door closers.



EQUALITY ACT 2010

Newly supplied door closers on fire doors should have the relevant documentation to comply with BS 8300 Part 2.

This requires the opening force of door controls to assist less-abled users, children, the elderly, and disabled.

Most fire doors should be fitted with an appropriately controlled self-closing device that will effectively close the door from a suitable and tested angle.

The strength and control of the closing device should be compatible with the size of the door and other factors. Certain door closers will require the suitable intumescent kit when being fitted on fire doors.

Note: these opening forces are according to specific controlled Test Lab Data. However, other installed hardware may affect the force readings – additional friction on hinges or door seals installed may affect the opening forces.