

Accessible Stand Guidelines

Accessible stand design must be a part of the exhibition development philosophy as people with disabilities form part of our community and audience.

Following guidelines to make exhibitions accessible will positively impact people with disabilities, as well as many non-disabled people. Let us embrace Accessibility as a mandate to serve people who have been discriminated against for centuries.

- The stand should be designed to enable access for wheelchair users. If the stand is above ground level a ramp with a reasonable gradient is required.
- If a ramp is provided, handrails may be required if the ramp is long.
- If there is stepped access handrails should be provided where there is more than 1 step.
- Is the stand double height? If so does the staircase have handrails provided on both sides?
- The circulation routes need to be wide enough for wheelchair users to manoeuvre and turn easily.
- Counters and display areas should be designed to enable someone in a wheelchair to view them. If the counter is high, a lowered section should be provided.
- Stands should display materials to ensure people who are short, seated, or standing can view them easily.
- If your stand includes any glass doors or walls they should be clearly marked for safety reasons for someone with a visual impairment.
- The colours used within the exhibition stand should be suitable for people with visual impairments. The walls should contrast to the floor and any display stands/counters.

- If the stand is above floor level the edge of the stand should contrast to the remainder of the floor to ensure there are no trip hazards, especially for visually impaired people.
- The stand should be evenly lit and not create areas of shadow which could be an issue for visually impaired visitors.
- The concourse around the stand should also be evenly lit.
- Sufficient lights should be projected on to all display items inside the stand to make them clearly visible for all visitors, especially visually impaired visitors.
- Where there are seating areas, space should be allocated to accommodate seating for wheelchair users and their companions.
- Seating areas should be provided within the exhibition space to enable people to rest if required.
- Where required hearing enhancement systems should be provided i.e. at registration desk.
- Signage should be suitable for people with a visual impairment i.e. it needs to be clear and simple. Where appropriate it should incorporate braille.