

Access Audit Smart Audit

One-in-ten people in Ireland have a disability, representing a large proportion of the spending power in the economy. Providing equal access to buildings, products and services to all people in Ireland is not only fair and right, it also makes good business sense. The most effective way to establish the impact that a building has on disabled people is to undertake an access audit. Phoenix Safety is the first approved user of the Configure Access Audit software in Ireland.

Legal Obligations – Do We Have To Audit?

The Irish Government is addressing the issue of access to public buildings and services through the recently enacted Disability Act 2005, requiring that thousands of state buildings throughout Ireland be audited for their accessibility for people with disabilities.. The related Outline Sectoral Plans, from the Department of the Environment, also commit to train staff in disability awareness issues, designate disability liaison officers and revise Building Regulations.

Do Private businesses need to comply also?

Best Industry Practice is to make sure everyone has access to your products and services. Equality legislation 2000 to 2004 states that you cannot discriminate against anyone on the basis of their Disability. An Access Audit provides a clear and thorough review of any accessibility issues facing a disabled person when accessing your goods and services. Good Access is good practice - The most successful companies understand that inclusive access to all customers makes good business sense

Is There A Code of Practise which Phoenix Audits Follow?

Yes the SMART Audit system used complies with the BS8300:2001 and Part M of the Building Regulations

Why Audit your building?

An audit enables informed decision making about any adjustments required, and aids the formulation of a plan of action for the future. Phoenix has a team of access auditors covering Ireland who will audit your building for you.

Phoenix carries out the Access Audits on site using SMART Audit software, a special bespoke audit tool. Recorded data and images are compiled into a comprehensive Accessibility Report, providing a detailed assessment of the site including referenced photographs and an Access Plan with prioritised actions and indicative costs to make the adjustments recommended. Accessing your audit online allows you to track changes to the report as you make adjustments to your building to make it more accessible. Phoenix can supply you with a paper copy in a neat bound folder or issue you with a password to view it online.

The SMART Access provides


- Cost effective Access Audit
- Comprehensive Accessibility Report
- Access Plan with prioritised actions
- Indicative costs of recommendations
- Data is checked, and processed by Access experts at Phoenix
- Available online with secure client password

How can you be sure the audit makes the correct recommendations?

The SMART audit bases its guidelines on the British Standard 8300:2001 and Part M of the Building Regulations. The British Standards Institute involves over 30 bodies including disability institutions, architects, facilities management companies, engineers, universities and government departments in its research of Best Practice in this area to produce comprehensive best practice guidance for access. The SMART Audit is being promoted by the British Standards Institute among its registered auditors in the UK., it is also planned to form a component of Heriot Watt University's Inclusive Environmental Access and Design MSc.

How will my audit look?

The Access Audit is comprehensive and clearly written, with prioritised recommendations and indicative costings for building adjustments.



SMART Access Assessment

Company Name: Sample County Council
Premises: County Hall, Sample County
Date of Audit: 30/09/2005
Auditor: Patrick Smith

Priority 1 1	Priority 2 2	Priority 3 3
Adjustments required as a high priority to remove or avoid barriers to access for people with disabilities	Adjustments to be incorporated in an existing maintenance plan within 24 months of the Assessment date.	Non-essential works although considered desirable and beneficial. Incorporate on refurbishment of Premises.

How do I find out more?

For further information please contact the Phoenix Dublin Office. (01-473 0550) or Cork (021 435 4884)