



The Equality Act and Reception Desks

From 1 October 2010, the Equality Act 2010 replaced most of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). So far as rights of access are concerned (and for office furniture suppliers, reception desks in particular) in practice nothing has changed. However, to avoid being thought out of date or out of touch, we should stop referring to the DDA and talk instead about the Equality Act.

The Equality Act places responsibility on service providers and employers to make “reasonable adjustments” so as not to disadvantage those with any type of disability (e.g. restricted mobility, visual or hearing impairment etc) who visit their premises. There are no specific physical requirements for reception desks under the above Act and no particular furniture design or configuration can ensure compliance. No item of any kind can be considered to be “Equality Act Compliant” (still less “DDA Compliant”) as it is not the product but the “reasonable adjustment” that matters.

We have updated our guidance document “Disability Access Guidance”, available from our website under Downloads, correcting the terminology and updating links.

Sven Christiansen plc

www.sven.co.uk