Approved Document M for *furniture and joinery*

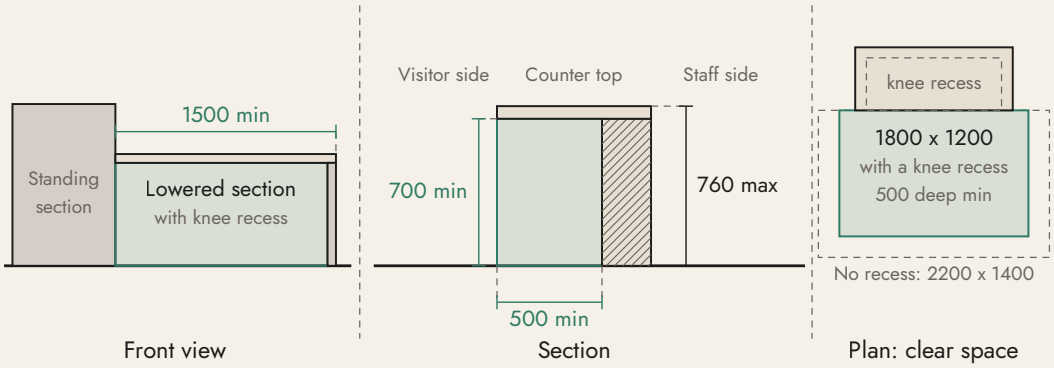
Reception, bar, bedroom and door figures from Approved Document M volume 2, with paragraph numbers.

Compliance guidance. Figures are quoted from Approved Document M, Volume 2 (2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments, for use in England), read on 5 November 2026. Check the current edition and your building control body. This is guidance, not legal or accessibility advice; the studio does not certify compliance.

AT A GLANCE

Item	What the document says (mm)	Paragraph	Affects
Reception counter, lowered section	One section at least 1500 wide, surface no higher than 760, knee recess not less than 700 above floor level.	3.6(e)	Joiner, architect
Space in front of reception	1200 deep by 1800 wide with a knee recess at least 500 deep; 1400 by 2200 with none.	3.6(d)	Architect, joiner
Bar or serving counter	Part of the working surface wheelchair-accessible, at not more than 850 above the floor; part higher for standing if needed.	4.16(b)	Joiner, FF&E
Shared refreshment worktop	At 850 above the floor, clear space beneath at least 700 above the floor.	4.16(c)	Joiner
Accessible bedrooms	One wheelchair-accessible bedroom per 20 bedrooms or part; space to transfer to one side of a bed.	4.24(g), (l)	Designer, FF&E
Bedroom wardrobes, handles, window controls	Wardrobe swing doors open through 180 degrees; easy-grip, contrasting handles; window controls 800 to 1000 above the floor.	4.24(b) to (d)	Joiner, ironmongery
Sockets and switches	Sockets, telephone and TV points 400 to 1000 above the floor; appliance switches 400 to 1200; precise controls 750 to 1200.	4.30(a) to (c)	Joiner, if built in
Door effective clear width	New buildings 800, 800, 825, 1000 by approach; existing 750, 750, 775, 775.	Table 2	Joiner, supplier
Beside a door's leading edge	300 unobstructed on the pull side to any return wall, unless the door is powered or opens to a standard hotel bedroom.	3.10(c)	Architect, joiner
Entrance threshold	Level; where a raised threshold is unavoidable, not more than 15 total height, upstands over 5 chamfered or rounded.	2.7(e)	Joiner, flooring

Millimetres, heights above the floor. 'Affects' is our reading, not the document's. Table and seat heights are not in it: see the sister sheets.



Schematic. 1500, 760: 3.6(e). 700: 3.6(e), read as a clear height (our reading). 500, 1200 x 1800, 1400 x 2200: 3.6(d). Original drawing.

WHAT THE DOCUMENT DOES NOT SAY

- No height for beds, tables, desks or restaurant, bar, lobby and bedroom seating; none for the standing part of a counter; no knee clearance or width for a bar's accessible part.
- No wardrobe rail, shelf or drawer heights, cabinet handle heights or internal threshold height; no fire-performance requirements (Approved Document B).
- Diagram 17 is "one example": only its 300 mm is in the text of 4.24. BS 8300-2:2018 has not been read.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP CUTS ANYTHING

- Name the edition and who accepts the drawings; give the finished floor level; work to the safe side of each limit; settle loop, sockets and switches first; mock up the recess.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

RECEPTION COUNTER

Reception counter with one section not less than [1,500] mm wide, surface not higher than [760] mm above finished floor level, knee recess beneath (Approved Document M volume 2, 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments, paragraph 3.6(e)). Clear space in front [1,200 x 1,800] mm, recess at least [500] mm deep (3.6(d)). Dimensions on the shop drawing, accepted by [building control body / access consultant] before manufacture.

BAR OR SERVING COUNTER

Bar counter with a section of the working surface permanently accessible to wheelchair users at not more than [850] mm above finished floor level, and a higher section for standing where needed (Approved Document M volume 2, 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments, 4.16(b)). Width, depth and knee clearance of that section: [per access consultant].

BEDROOM WARDROBE AND STORAGE

Built-in wardrobe and storage swing doors to open through [180] degrees (Approved Document M volume 2, 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments, 4.24(b)); handles easy to grip and contrasting (4.24(c)). Rail and shelf heights: [per access consultant]. [300] mm unobstructed beside the door's leading edge where required (3.10(c)).

TERMS USED

Effective clear width

The width of a door opening from the outside of the door stop on the closing side to any obstruction on the hinge side, such as projecting furniture, the open door or the stop (Table 2 note).

Knee recess

The space under a counter for a seated person's knees: not less than 700 mm above floor level at the lowered reception section (3.6(e)), and at least 500 mm deep for the 1200 by 1800 mm space in front (3.6(d)).

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document M, Volume 2 (2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments), for use in England: Buildings other than dwellings, HM Government. Read as the gov.uk PDF on 5 November 2026 (page last updated 1 October 2024). Crown copyright 2024, Open Government Licence.
- BS 8300-2:2018: Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, Buildings. BSI listing read; the standard has not been read, no figures quoted.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/approved-document-m-furniture-and-joinery. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.