Door *sizes* and tolerances

Leaf sizes, the clear width the regulations measure, tolerances and clearances, and tall or heavy leaves.

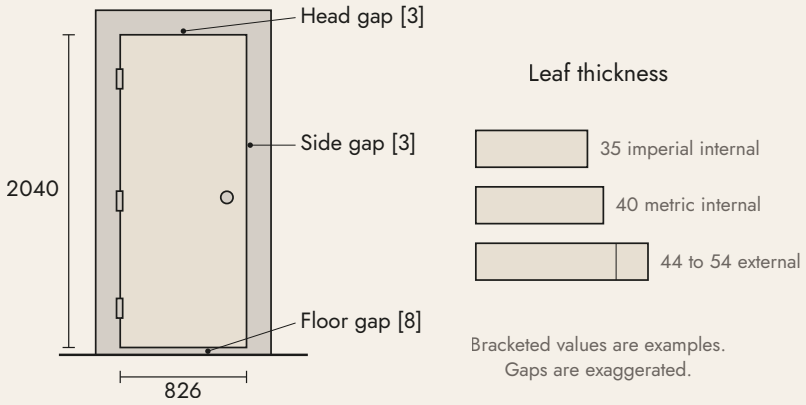
Compliance guidance. Access figures are quoted from Approved Document M Volume 1 (2015 edition incorporating 2016 amendments) and Volume 2 (2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments), both for use in England, read on 5 November 2026. Fire doors follow their own certification, not this sheet. Check the current editions, your building control body and your fire consultant. This is guidance, not legal, accessibility or fire advice; the studio does not certify compliance.

AT A GLANCE

Item	Figure (mm)	Source	Note
Internal leaf, two series	Imperial-derived: 1981 high; 610, 686, 762, 838, 915 wide; 35 thick. Metric: 2040 high; 626, 726, 826, 926 wide; 40 thick.	Retailer's size guide	What is sold, not a standard. The series do not mix. External leaves are usually 44 to 54 thick.
BS 4787-1, BS EN 1529, BS EN 1530	Metric coordinating sizes; leaf tolerance classes for size, squareness and flatness	BSI listings only	Not read. BS 4787-1 status differs between listings (current; withdrawn 11 Mar 2025). Class values unknown.
Dwellings (Approved Document M Vol 1)	M4(1): entrance 775, internal 750 to 800 with a matching corridor. M4(2): entrance 850. M4(3): 850 every door.	1.14, 1.15, 2.20, 2.22, 3.24	Clear opening width. An 826 leaf up to 44 thick is deemed 775.
Not dwellings (Vol 2)	800, 800, 825 by approach; 1,000 for external doors to public buildings	Table 2	Effective clear width. Furniture on the hinge side counts.
Door hung on site	Gap to head and jamb 4 max; face distortion 5 (height), 3 (width)	LABC Warranty v11, 20.1.6	A new-home acceptance level, not a design tolerance.
Fire doorset	The door's certification sets the gaps	BWF Fact Card 11	Do not scribe or plane. General tolerances do not apply.
Tall or wide leaf	No published maximum found	None read	The partner workshop states the size and weight it will guarantee.

Millimetres unless stated. 'Retailer's size guide' means one UK retailer's published guide; we found no table we could read in a standard. Our arithmetic and the sources are set out below.

A LEAF IN ITS FRAME



Millimetres; bracketed values are examples; gaps exaggerated.

FROM LEAF TO CLEAR OPENING (OUR RULE OF THUMB)

Volume 1: an 826 mm leaf up to 44 mm thick is deemed to give 775 mm, which is 51 mm less. On that arithmetic, leaf needed = clear width + 51: 750 needs 801, 775 needs 826, 800 needs 851, 825 needs 876, 850 needs 901, 1,000 needs 1,051. Volume 2 counts projecting furniture on the hinge side; Volume 1 ignores handles.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

LEAF SIZE AND TOLERANCE

Door leaves to be [40] mm thick, [2,040 x 926] mm finished size, [flush, balanced construction]. Leaf tolerance class: [BS EN 1529 class [ ] and BS EN 1530 class [ ]], edition to be confirmed by the maker. Sizes are finished sizes, heights from finished floor level.

CLEAR OPENING WIDTH

Doors on the accessible route to give an effective clear width of not less than [800] mm, measured as in [Approved Document M volume 2, Table 2 and Diagram 9] with the projection of door furniture allowed for. The supplier is to state the achieved clear width for each door type on the schedule before manufacture.

GAPS AND FLOOR ALLOWANCE

Leaf to frame gaps [3] mm at head and sides, floor gap [8] mm above finished floor level, [after the floor finish is laid]. Fire doorsets to the gaps in their certification and installation instructions: the leaf is not to be planed or scribed.

TALL OR HEAVY LEAF

Leaf [2,400 x 1,000 x 54] mm, [stile and rail with floating panels / engineered core], balanced. The maker is to state the mass of the leaf, the largest size and weight it will guarantee, and the hinge or pivot rating for [ ] kg.

TERMS USED

Doorset

A door leaf supplied or certified together with its frame, seals and ironmongery as one tested unit.

Effective clear width

The usable width through an open door, measured at right angles to the wall from the door stop on the closing side to the nearest obstruction on the hinge side.

Leaf

The moving part of a door: the slab that opens and closes, without its frame, lining or hardware.

Clear opening width

In Approved Document M Volume 1, the width through an open door measured from the inside face of the open leaf to the inside edge of the frame or stop, ignoring handles and other door furniture.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document M, Volume 1: Dwellings, 2015 edition incorporating 2016 amendments (England): 1.14, 1.15, 2.20, 2.22, 3.24, Diagrams 1.1, 2.2, 3.2.
- Approved Document M, Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings, 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments (England): Table 2 and its note.
- BWF Fire Door Alliance Fact Card 11: Fire door frames (September 2024): gaps and field of application.
- LABC Warranty Technical Manual Version 11, Section 20 Tolerances, 20.1.6: doors and door frames.
- Architectural Woodwork Standards, 1st edition (2009), Section 9 Doors: 1.2.8.2, 1.2.19. US practice.
- BS 4787-1:1980 (wood doorsets, leaves and frames: dimensional requirements); BS EN 1529:2021 and BS EN 1530:2000 (door leaves: tolerance classes): BSI listings only; not read. A distributor lists BS 4787-1 as withdrawn 11 Mar 2025.
- USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Wood Handbook FPL-GTR-282 (2021): Table 4-2, equation 13-3, Table 13-5, Table 5-3a.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/door-sizes-and-tolerances. 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.