

LABSS INFORMATION PAPER INFOP08 - 2015 Version 1**ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING DWELLINGS****Electrical Fittings and Fixtures**

Applicable to Domestic Buildings only in relation to
Section 4: Safety
Mandatory Standard Standard 4.8.5 Electrical Fittings and Fixtures

BACKGROUND

Mandatory Standard Standard 4.8.5 Electrical Fittings and Fixtures

Electrical fixtures - outlets and controls of electrical fixtures and systems should be positioned at least 350mm from any internal corner, projecting wall or similar obstruction and, unless the need for a higher location can be demonstrated, not more than 1.2m above floor level. This would include fixtures such as sockets, switches, fire alarm call points and timer controls or programmers.

THE QUERY – FROM HOUSING DEVELOPER

In reviewing the standard house type drawings used in Scotland and having STAS House Type Approval on most of them, we have done our best to maintain, when reading section 4.8.5, the 350mm from internal corners for all controls.

Can you clarify the following for us?

- Do all light switches in a hallway, lounge, bedrooms, kitchens have to be 350mm from an internal corner as this is not always possible and could mean light switches are not next to the door openings.
- If we fit a full height kitchen unit into a design (usually as a client upgrade) does the unit become the internal Corner?

This issue was discussed at CWG Meeting 2 April 2015. BSD agreed to inform LABSS on outcome of discussions between themselves and developer.

BSD ADVICE

I would advise you that the intention of the guidance is to allow light switches, socket outlets, etc. be easily accessible for wheelchair users and people with a mobility disability. For this reason, they should be located outwith 350mm from an internal corner.

Figure 27 of BS 8300 illustrates the difficulties for a wheelchair user in gaining access to a switch located at the corner of a room. However, depending on the nature and length of an adjacent wall/feature, it may be possible to show that it does not pose a barrier and the switch is within a reachable distance, although this would likely have to be proven to a Verifier.

Figure 27 Distance of outlets, switches and controls from the corner of a room

