

Table 20 Typical fire and rescue service vehicle access route specification

Appliance type	Minimum width of road between kerbs (m)	Minimum width of gateways (m)	Minimum turning circle between kerbs (m)	Minimum turning circle between walls (m)	Minimum clearance height (m)	Minimum carrying capacity (tonnes)
Pump	3.7	3.1	16.8	19.2	3.7	12.5
High reach	3.7	3.1	26.0	29.0	4.0	17.0

Notes:

1. Fire appliances are not standardised. Some fire services have appliances of greater weight or different size. In consultation with the Fire and Rescue Service, the Building Control Body may adopt other dimensions in such circumstances.
2. Because the weight of high reach appliances is distributed over a number of axles, it is considered that their infrequent use of a carriageway or route designed to 12.5 tonnes should not cause damage. It would therefore be reasonable to design the roadbase to 12.5 tonnes, although structures such as bridges should have the full 17 tonnes capacity.

Buildings fitted with fire mains

16.6 In the case of a building fitted with dry fire mains there should be access for a pumping appliance to within 18m of each fire main inlet connection point, typically on the face of the building. The inlet should be visible from the appliance.

16.7 In the case of a building fitted with wet mains the pumping appliance access should be to within 18m and within sight of, a suitable entrance giving access to the main and in sight of the inlet for the emergency replenishment of the suction tank for the main.

Note: Where fire mains are provided in buildings for which Sections 15 and 17 make no provision, vehicle access may be to paragraph 16.6 or 16.7 rather than Table 19.

Design of access routes and hard-standings

16.8 A vehicle access route may be a road or other route which, including any inspection covers and the like, meets the standards in Table 20 and the following paragraphs.

16.9 Where access is provided to an elevation in accordance with Table 19 for:

- a. buildings up to 11m in height (excluding buildings covered by paragraph 16.2(b)), there should be access for a pump appliance adjacent to the building for the percentage of the total perimeter specified;
- b. buildings over 11m in height, the access routes should meet the guidance in Diagram 49.

16.10 Where access is provided to an elevation for high reach appliances in accordance with Table 19, overhead obstructions such as cables and branches that would interfere with the setting of ladders etc, should be avoided in the zone shown in Diagram 49.

16.11 Turning facilities should be provided in any dead-end access route that is more than 20m long (see Diagram 50). This can be by a hammerhead or turning circle, designed on the basis of Table 20.

Diagram 50 Turning facilities

See para 16.11

Fire and rescue service vehicles should not have to reverse more than 20m from the end of an access road

