

Survey Guidance Notes March 2010

These notes are for experienced surveyors. If you are just starting out or in a qualifying period, please call us to discuss any applications for in-depth specific guidance.

For a successful survey we give below 14 points which you will find helpful:-

- 1) A good quality tape measure bearing a calibration mark stamped on the tape. It looks like two capital I's or II in a radiused rectangle. This will ensure your dimensions are absolutely correct. Please submit them in metric millimetres. Alternatively, a calibrated laser measurement.
- 2) Digital photographs showing both sides of the application, supporting steel structures, obstructions and all existing equipment including any thresh details. Please record any poor quality surfaces or damaged metalwork. This may affect the installation.
- 3) Please provide a drawing showing the height and width of the door inside the jambs and from the lintel to the thresh. This is the physical clear space provided by the aperture.
- 4) Please provide details of the existing door, the make, the method of operation and an illustration of its operating path and supporting mechanical equipment, e.g. a sectional up and over door - the line of the guide rails, a roller shutter door - details of the supporting gear for the head mounted roller. These details only need to be general outline details but they must be accurate as it affects the supporting steel structure for the proposed door for which you are surveying.
- 5) Scaled drawings or CAD drawings by email or fax are always well received but a quality lined diagram with 3 elevations showing the exact aperture size, the dimensions and positions of any other equipment or services within the vicinity are just as acceptable.
Once we have received this information, in the event of an order, we will overlay the exact equipment for you to approve and carry out any pre-installation checks.

Things to look out for:-

- 6) If the door cannot be fitted to the inside, please check that the external cladding faces are fitted directly on to the steelwork supporting the existing door. If there is a gap between the cladding and the structural steelwork this will have to be supported with special fixings and will be extra to a standard installation which includes only to fix directly to existing structural steelwork for which it is the customer's absolute responsibility to ensure its adequacy. If in doubt they should get a structural engineer to check it. In this instance supporting these doors through existing lightweight structures is always

doubtful practice and worthy of a second opinion. Such structures include any sheet work forming part of the outer building skin, cladding rails supporting this, and any cold rolled structural sections for which there is no clear information. This adds about £1,000 to the installation price.

- 7) The best fit is directly on to hot rolled channels or main building columns. Where these are not available and there is no other obvious place to secure the installation, it may be necessary to provide a structural goalpost. These can be mounted to the floor and tied back to a suitable structural integral support forming part of the main building. In the event none is available then these structures usually have to be somehow tied at the top and grouted in at the base. This is not a normal installation and will add around £3,000 to the installation price including builders work or £2,000 for a floor mount but in cases of both items 6 and 7 we will provide firm prices on receipt of your survey report.
- 8) In the event the door has to be fitted outside please make sure the cladding terminates on to hot rolled structural sections. If it does not the cladding will have to be cut back, a goalpost prepared and fastened into the main fabric of the building. This will be around the same price as item 7, between £2,500 and £3,500 for a large door.
- 9) Watch out for services, drainage culverts, manhole covers and anything which may be in the way of goalpost anchor points. The cost of rerouting drainage usually makes such installations unviable. Additionally pipe work, cabling and alarm systems are important pieces of information to us. Please provide accurate details of size and position for anything which may affect the installation in this regard.
- 10) In the event we do have to fasten to or through sheet work we will have to provide finishing materials to seal the aperture across the top of the lintel for corrugated affect finishes, this can be done by either a foam fill or with drip flashings which looks better. This also applies to internal fits where there are gaps between existing installations that require operating space. We can use brush strip to infill or other sealing devices.
- 11) For low headroom applications use a rotational fast action door model. The pull up fast action doors require approximately 1m of headroom above the clear opening height to store the raised door screen. If this is not available we have to make the door to roll up to fit into the space. Headroom details therefore are important to us and we need to know approximate heights over 1200mm and exact heights and dimensions less than 1200mm. An indication of where we can secure the framework to the building at this height is also useful.