



**SCDF**  
The Life Saving Force  
... for a safer Singapore

Building and Construction Authority

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE



**Date** : 1 Mar 2024

**Our Ref:** CD/FSSD/12/02/03/01  
APPBCA-2024-05

Registrar, Board of Architects  
Registrar, Professional Engineers Board  
President, Singapore Institute of Architects  
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore  
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore

Dear Sir/ Mdm,

## **ADVISORY ON AMBULANCE ACCESS TO BUILDINGS**

With the increase in ambulance calls that SCDF has seen in recent years, there is growing concern about ambulance access into buildings (especially non-landed residential), particularly for patients who require urgent medical attention. Some building designs and layouts make it difficult for ambulances and emergency crew to reach patients in a timely manner. It is also important that the patient should be sheltered during conveyance, especially during adverse weather conditions.

To address this issue, it is important to provide sheltered access to ambulances,

Additionally, providing sheltered access/walkways at ground level should be considered, taking into account the shortest route from the driveway to any building in a development.

2 This circular serves to provide recommendations to building industry stakeholders to incorporate the following guidelines:

*a. Access via basement*

The current LTA/BCA headroom requirements to basement carpark is 2.2m. Over and above such minimum headroom requirements, many developments also choose to increase the carpark clearance height at selected locations to allow larger vehicles access to facilitate loading/unloading. Similarly, developments are advised to increase the clearance height of basement carparks at selected locations to accommodate SCDF ambulances, so that access to patients who require medical emergency attention can be through the basement carparks. (Refer to Annex A for ambulance dimensions)

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*b. Access on ground level*

Alternatively sheltered access/walkways at ground level should be provided, considering the shortest route from the driveway to any building in a development.

3. Please convey the contents of this circular to members of your Board/ Institution/ Association. This circular is also available in CORENET's e-Info: <http://www.corenet.gov.sg/einfo>.

4. For any inquiry or clarification, please contact CPT Rafidah Binte Ibrahim at 68483561 or email address [Rafidah\\_IBRAHIM@scdf.gov.sg](mailto:Rafidah_IBRAHIM@scdf.gov.sg).

Yours faithfully

(transmitted via email)

LTC TAN CHUNG YEE  
for COMMISSIONER  
SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

JANE ONG  
DIRECTOR  
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

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SCDF Ambulance Dimensions

Minimum height clearance for SCDF ambulances is **3 metres**.

