

Legislation and Standards

Some people need to know about the standards and legislation that relates to products they buy and this is especially important for Fire Safety products, so here goes... We have tried to make it as simple as possible.

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 provides a new legislative framework to protect the rights of individuals updating, simplifying and strengthening previous legislation including the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Act delivers a simple, modern and accessible framework of discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society. Part 3 of the Act came into force on the 1st October 2010 and states that service providers must undertake reasonable adjustments to avoid disabled people being substantially disadvantaged in accessing services. Examples of reasonable adjustments are:

- Putting in a ramp to replace steps
- Provisions for deaf and hard of hearing people
- Providing larger, well defined signs for people with a visual impairment
- Improving access to toilet or washing facilities

Businesses and organisations are called 'service providers' and include hotels, shops, restaurants, leisure centres and places of worship. A disabled person is covered by the Act if they have 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.