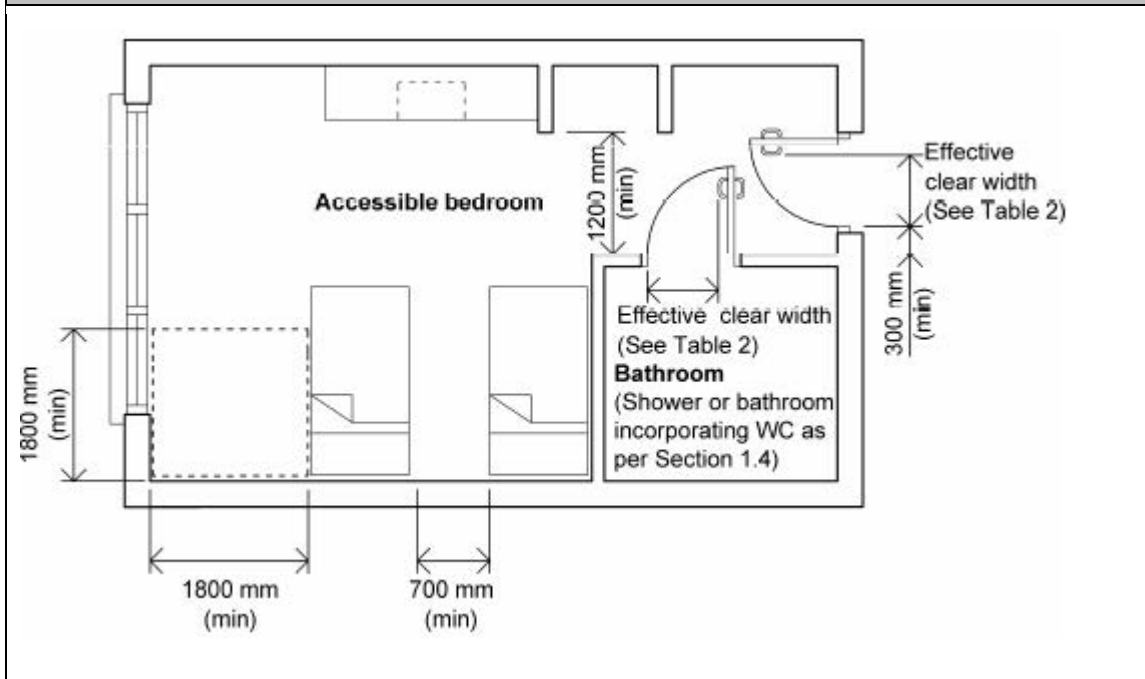


Diagram 31 Example of an Accessible Bedroom



1.5.7 Switches, Outlets and Controls

Where switches, outlets and controls are provided:

- Socket outlets should be located between 400 mm and 1200 mm above the floor, with a preference for the lower end of the range. Examples include wall mounted power socket-outlets, telephone points and TV sockets (refer to Diagram 32). Exceptions may be made where floor sockets are provided in open plan areas and the like, or if skirting or dado trunking is required e.g. for safety reasons. These height requirements apply only to convenience socket-outlets used for general purposes and do not apply to dedicated socket-outlets not readily accessible and used for appliances that are intended to be continuously connected in normal use;
- Switches for lighting and permanently wired appliances should be located between 400 mm and 1200 mm above the floor, unless needed at a higher level for particular appliances (refer to Diagram 32). The height requirements apply to all control devices, except where the manufacturer's instructions specify otherwise;

-
- (c) All switches and controls that require precise hand movements should be located between 750 mm and 1200 mm above the floor, e.g. controls for heating systems (refer to Diagram 32);
 - (d) Simple push button controls that require limited dexterity should be provided and should be located not more than 1200 mm above the floor;
 - (e) Pull cords for emergency alarm systems should be coloured red, located as close to a wall as possible and have two red 50 mm diameter bangles one set at 100 mm and the other set between 800 mm and 1000 mm above the floor;
 - (f) Controls that need close vision, e.g. meters or heating controls should be located between 1200 mm and 1400 mm above the floor so that readings may be taken by a person sitting or standing (with thermostats at the top of the range). This does not apply to electricity meters or distribution/fuse boards;
 - (g) Socket-outlets should be located consistently in relation to doorways and room corners, but in any case no nearer than 350 mm from room corners;
 - (h) Light switches for use by the general public should have large push pads and align horizontally with door handles within the range 900 mm to 1200 mm for ease of location when entering a room;
 - (i) Where switches described in (h) cannot be provided, lighting pull cords should be set between 900 mm and 1200 mm above floor level and fitted with a 50 mm diameter bangle visually contrasting with its background and distinguishable visually from any emergency assistance pull cord (refer to 1.6.4) ;
 - (j) The operation of switches, socket- outlets and controls should not require the simultaneous use of both hands except where this mode of operation is necessary for safety reasons;
 - (k) Switched socket-outlets should indicate visually whether they are on or off;
 - (l) Mains and circuit isolator switches should clearly indicate whether they are on or off;
 - (m) Controls should visually contrast with their backgrounds to facilitate people with vision impairment locating controls (refer to 1.6.4);
-

- (n) Switches on controls e.g. switched sockets should be adequately separated to allow selection of one at a time and avoid the unintended selection of adjacent switches.

Diagram 32 Heights to the Centre of Socket-Outlets, Switches and Controls

