

ACCESSIBILITY FUND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1	Must the buildings built before implementation of the Code on Barrier-Free Accessibility in Buildings (1990) comply with the code requirements?
A1	No. However, owners of such buildings are strongly encouraged to provide at least basic accessibility features for elderly and persons with limited mobility to access their buildings.
Q2	Does BCA advise applicants on the accessibility features required for a building?
A2	Yes. BCA will be glad to guide private building owners for upgrading their existing buildings with basic accessibility features. For assistance please call the BFA Hotline at 6325 8611, or email to bca_bfa_upgrading@bca.gov.sg
Q3	Where can applicants obtain more information on accessibility features?
A3	The accessibility features are explained in the “Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment 2007”.The code can be downloaded free of charge from BCA’s website at http://www.bca.gov.sg/BarrierFree/others/AccessibilityCode2007.pdf
Q4	Are we eligible for subsidy if we provide Barrier Free Accessible ramps to our existing building instead of all the Basic Accessibility Features?
A4	Basic Accessibility features include Barrier Free Accessibility to the building, Accessible toilet at first storey or entrance level, and signage for finding way to the accessibility features. A building should be upgraded with Basic Accessibility Features in order to qualify for the subsidy.
Q5	Is existing building undergoing major addition & alteration works eligible for Accessibility Fund?
A5	Existing buildings undergoing major addition & alteration works are to comply with the prevailing Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment, and are not eligible for Accessibility Fund.

Q6	Will the building owners be fined if they couldn't complete the upgrading works within the proposed completion date?
A6	BCA reserves the right to recover administrative charges from the applicant who obtained in-principle approval for Accessibility Fund, and did not complete the upgrading works within six months from the proposed completion date.
Q7	Will BCA be auditing the buildings upgraded with the help of Fund?
A7	Yes. In addition, applicant need to forward photographs of the completed works to BCA.
Q8	The basic accessibility feature requires an accessible toilet at 1 st storey. Can applicant build an accessible toilet at 3rd storey instead of 1st storey and apply for fund?
A8	The accessible toilet at 3rd storey could be eligible for Accessibility Fund provided wheelchair users could access it from 1st storey. Furthermore, the applicant needs to provide clear signage at strategic locations to guide wheelchair users to the accessible toilet at the 3rd storey.
Q9	Should applicant submit Building Plan/ Structural plan of the Accessibility Upgrading Works to BCA for approval?
A9	Not all building works require submission of Building Plans. A Qualified Person would be able to advise on the requirement for submission of Building Plans. Alternatively, you could check with us.
Q10	What are the other accessibility features that Accessibility Fund support
A10	The fund could also provide grants up to 40% of construction cost of basic barrier-free accessibility features erected beyond the first level requirements and Family Friendly Features cited below: a) Accessible Family washroom, b) Water closet compartment for ambulant disabled and elderly, c) Lactation rooms, d) Child friendly water closets, urinals and wash basins e) Diaper changing stations
Q11	Does the applicant need to submit photographs showing the progress of the upgrading works?
A11	Applicant need to provide photographs of the areas before and after the upgrading works. BCA would request photographs showing the progress of the upgrading works if the upgrading works are very extensive.

Q12	How should the application be submitted?
A12	Accessibility Fund application forms are available in both 'pdf 'and 'doc' format at the BCA website. As the application form must be signed, all original documents need to be submitted by post/hand . Applicants may send an electronic copy via email to bca_bfa_upgrading@bca.gov.sg to inform officers on the submission. Only upon receiving the complete set of documents with original signatures, BCA will process the applications.
Q13	The building works were completed just after 1990, say 1991 and the building do not have basic accessibility features. Is this building eligible for accessibility fund?
A13	BCA would study the building and advise the building owner on case-by-case basis.
Q14	Our building was built before 1990. Currently, we are carrying out A&A to this building. The A&A works include provisions for accessibility features. Can we apply Accessibility Fund just for this accessibility features?
A14	Generally, buildings undergoing major A&A works are required to comply with the prevailing Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment and will not qualify for the Accessibility Fund. The applicant could apply for fund if substantial part of the A&A works are for building's accessibility. BCA would study the application and advise accordingly if applicant qualifies for the fund.