

Escape and Rescue Route

Areas occupied by people must have at least two escape routes leading to the outside. These must be independent of one another and run in opposite directions.



Image: Robert Tober

Building regulations make a distinction between primary and secondary escape routes.

An escape route can be horizontal (e.g., in the form of passageways) or vertical (eg, in the form of an external fire escape).

The maximum escape route distance from any point in an enclosed area to the nearest outdoor exit, or to the nearest safety area must not exceed 40 m.



Image: Pixelio.de



Emergency and fire doors must be able to be opened freely and easily from the inside.

The protective function of an escape route is threatened by fire and smoke in the event of an outbreak of fire. The type of building (e.g., hospital, shopping centre, warehouse) has to be considered in the planning of the escape routes. Hospitals require much wider escape routes (for the rapid evacuation of bed-ridden patients) than smaller retail outlets



Image: Robert Tober

The escape and rescue routes must be appropriate for the local conditions and logically planned.