

## Part B - Health Facility Briefing and Planning

### 150 AMBULANCE UNIT

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#### INTRODUCTION

##### Description

- 150 .2.00 The specific requirements of the Ambulance Service(s) serving the area shall be obtained and complied with. These requirements will be in relation to areas such as ramp gradients, ambulance parking/unloading area gradients, height clearance and ambulance bay dimensions.

Note 1: Some Ambulance Services may require drive-through Ambulance Bays for efficient movement, especially at busy Emergency Units.

Note 2: Some Ambulance Services are not in favour of tandem ambulance parking bays and may require each Ambulance Bay to be independently accessible.

#### PLANNING

##### Functional Relationships

- 150 .3.00 Access for Ambulances shall not conflict with other vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Note: Nothing in this clause prevents a section of the road or driveway being shared between an ambulance and other vehicles.
- 150 .4.00 The Ambulance Access to a Hospital shall be located away from public entrances and shall be reasonably screened from public view.

Note: In this context, "away from public entrances" means not shared with public entrances.

Note: In day procedure units that are not part of a Hospital, Ambulance Entrances may be combined with public entrances, although a separate entrance is highly recommended.
- 150 .5.00 If the Ambulance Access is directly connected to a Hospital Department (such as Emergency Unit), an air lock shall be provided between the inside and the outside.

Ambulance Access to an Emergency Unit shall not be via hospital corridors that are open for public access.

### DESIGN

#### General

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- 150 .6.00 The number of Ambulance Bays required depends on the services provided by the Hospital or Day Procedure Unit.

Any Hospital without an Emergency Unit, regardless of its size or level of service shall have a minimum of one Ambulance Bay.

Any Hospital with an Emergency Unit shall have one Ambulance Bay for each Resuscitation Room/Bay or a minimum of one.

- 150 .7.00 The Ambulance Collection/Drop Off Points in any Hospital must be discreet and shall be covered.

Ambulance access to and from a Day Procedure Unit must be readily accessible. A direct and dedicated way is recommended.

- 150 .8.00 Suitable access ways for trolleys will be flat (ie no ramps) and provide adequate turning circles/workspace for trolleys and carers between the entry/exit and the departments requiring access.

Doorways should be designed to allow easy access for trolleys and carers (automatic doors are recommended).

The need for ambulance vehicles to reverse should be minimised. Drive-through facilities minimise the risk to other pedestrians including staff.

#### Building Service Requirements

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- 150 .9.00 In Ambulance Bays serving Hospitals which include an Emergency Unit, the following additional requirements shall apply:

1. A lockable storage cupboard or room no less than 2 m<sup>2</sup> shall be provided for Ambulance supplies. The cupboard or room shall have adjustable shelves and be lockable with a separate key or keypad lock.
2. A hose cock with attached hose shall be located close to an Ambulance Bay serving an Emergency Unit. It is recommended that the hose cock and hose be located in a discrete cabinet or recessed bay.
3. An intercom system shall be provided between the Ambulance door and the Emergency Unit Reception/Clerical Area, Triage Area or Staff Station. The Intercom system shall be integrated with a security CCTV system located to clearly show those requesting entry.
4. Emergency Units in Level 5 or 6 Facilities will require a Decontamination Area. If provided, this may be integrated with the Ambulance Bay by incorporating shower heads in a section of the Ambulance Bay ceiling. This may be further enhanced by a retractable plastic screen to contain the water flow. Any water flowing out of such a decontamination area shall be treated as contaminated water and treated accordingly.

- 150 .10.00 LIGHTING

Any Ambulance Bay used for access to an Emergency Unit or a Birthing Unit shall be permanently lit during the night.

In other Hospitals and Day Procedure Units, an Ambulance Bay shall have

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adequate lighting systems to be used as needed. This may involve a manual switch, timer or movement detector.

### 150.11.00 SIGNAGE

All Ambulance Bays shall be clearly marked and sign-posted. The external signage system shall direct ambulances and vehicles carrying emergency cases to the Ambulance Bays. These sign(s) shall be clearly visible at the entrance to the Hospital and/or any major change of direction.

Signs directed to ambulance bays intended for emergency units or birthing units shall be permanently lit during the night.

In order to avoid confusion, the signage system shall be designed in such a way that ambulant patients, including ambulant access to an emergency unit are not to be directed to the ambulance bay or ambulance door.

## APPENDICES

### References and Further Reading

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- 150.12.00
- American Institute of Architects, Guidelines for Design & Construction of Hospital & Healthcare Facilities, 1997.
  - Health Department Western Australia, Private Hospital Guidelines, 1998.

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### FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS DIAGRAM - AMBULANCE UNIT

