



Technical Fire Safety

Technical Bulletin No 17

Subject	Mobility Scooters in Sheltered Accommodation
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Concerns and requests for advice have arisen in respect of the storage of Mobility Scooters in protected staircases, corridors or other escape routes in sheltered accommodation.

In respect of such requests for advice, the policy of Wiltshire FRS Technical Fire Safety Department is as follows.

- Mobility scooters offer an increased fire loading and potential source of ignition. As such, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 would expect such risks to be mitigated.
- If involved in fire they can release large amounts of highly toxic smoke and gases.
- The storage and charging of such Scooters should therefore be fully risk assessed by the Responsible Person.
- It is unacceptable to store and/or charge scooters in protected corridors or staircases.

- It is unacceptable to store and/or charge scooters on other escape routes if they reduce the escape width to less than would be reasonably required in the event of an emergency.
- Ideally a separate external charging and storage area should be provided. Many Housing Associations and Councils around the country have work plans in place to provide such facilities. Some may charge rent and also recoup charging costs for these facilities.
- It is acceptable to create protected charging/storage areas in areas such as under staircases, provided there is 30 minutes FR and AFD supplied.
- Folding scooters can normally be stored in the resident's flat.
- Scooters may be stored in common areas as long as they are segregated from protected escape routes and subject to risk assessment.

If enforcement action is required then some consideration may be given to allow the responsible person to make alternative provisions before removal of scooters from impromptu storage areas. This must be governed by the risk it presents to other occupiers. In serious circumstances where the storage of scooters is causing a serious risk to occupiers then consideration of prohibition of such storage through Article 31 notices may be considered.