



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Increasing Accessibility through Legislation

Following up on the Syse Committee Report
Equality and Accessibility

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The Syse Legislative Committee Report NOU 2005: 8 *Equality and Participation*

Mandated to prepare a proposal for legislation to improve the legal safeguard against discrimination for people with disabilities

Presented report May 2005

Broad public hearing completed in December 2005

Government is following up the proposal with the intention to present draft legislation to Parliament end 2007/beginning 2008

The act planned to enter into force 1 January 2009

The Syse Committee – Main Proposals

1. Legal safeguards against discrimination
3. General obligation on general accomodation
5. General obligation to accomodate individually
7. Deadlines for universal design on buildings, constructions and developed outdoor areas
9. Two-pronged approach: anti-discrimination and accessibility

Codification of Universal Design

The Committee:

Design or accommodation of the main solution as regards the physical conditions so that the normal function of the undertaking can be used by as many people as possible.

The Norwegian State Council on Disability (1997):

Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Obligation on General Accommodation (Universal Design)

1. For public and private undertakings that offer goods and services to the general public
3. Consideration of unreasonableness
5. Breach of the obligation considered discrimination
7. On the other hand, if requirements are fulfilled one cannot be in breach of the obligation

Obligation on Individual Accommodation

1. Situations where universal design is insufficient
3. The requirement of "permanent relation"
5. Applies to labour, school and education, kindergarden and certain municipal authorities services specifically targeted to persons with disabilities
7. Consideration of unreasonableness
9. Breach of obligation considered discrimination

Deadlines for applying universal design to buildings, construction etc

2. An obligation to implement universal design to buildings and construction intended for the use of the general public
4. Deadline 1 January 2009 for newly erected buildings, constructions and developed outdoor areas (as well as following major alterations)
6. Deadline 1 January 2019 for all buildings, constructions and developed outdoor areas

Deadlines for universal design, cont`d

Committee minority proposal:

4. Deadlines for ICT and transportation as well

The public hearing results

7. Support for the minority proposal

Government follow-up

10. Working on universal design for ICT

Universal design of ICT

2. Commissioned report from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
 - examining costs
 - proposing deadline on all new ICT versions
 - two years to develop standards

Action Plan on Increased Accessibility

1. The current action plan on increased accessibility (2005 – 2009)
2. The Government is just starting work on a new action plan
3. Objective: support intentions and facilitate implementation of new legislation
4. The planned areas of priority are buildings, developed outdoor areas, ICT, transport and labour.
5. Planned start of period 1 January 2009, simultaneously with entry-into-force of new and revised legislation to increase accessibility

Developing Indicators on Accessibility

A need for

2. determining the status in all major sectors
3. Measuring progress
4. Finding out where most efforts are needed

Ongoing initiatives in several sectors:

7. Need for coordination and structure
8. The Delta Centre in charge of coordination
9. An inter-ministerial steering group

Challenges:

Simultaneous development of regulations & standards