



Freedom of Information Request FOI 23 134

Fire Safety Guidance and Travel Distances

Query:

Given the current use of the Bibby Stockholm and that fire safety guidance is that the maximum travel distance to the nearest exit when travel is possible in more than one direction should not exceed 18m (ref: Approved Doc. B1 table 2.1 purpose group 2(a)) it would seem from a plan of the BS that this max. travel distance is exceeded for many of the bedrooms in some case by some considerable distance.

- 1. How has DWFR satisfied itself that these travel distances that exceed the maximum 18m are acceptable and safe ?***
- 2. What evidence/mitigations has DWFR seen and have in their recods that would allow these travel distances to be extended in this way.***

Response:

1. The Bibby Stockholm is an existing premises built under a Swedish building code and as such is not required to meet the requirements of Approved Document B. We do not consider the accommodation to be 2(a) Purpose group (Residential (Institutional)) as it is more akin to an hotel/hostel and therefore more appropriately considered as 2(b) Residential (Other) as per the descriptors in Table 0.1 to Approved Document B (for comparative purposes). As such, 35 metres travel distance would be considered acceptable where two direction escape is possible within normal risk bedroom corridors. The assessment of travel distance has been done with consideration to the requirements in the government guide to Fire Risk Assessment in Sleeping Accommodation which also refer to this travel distance as a guide. There has been no significant change to the travel distances since the vessel was in use in other parts of the UK previously.
2. Responsibility for assuring the safety of occupant's rests with CTM as the Responsible Person. The role of DWFRS is to ensure that appropriate steps have been taken by the Responsible Person to assess the risk and implement appropriate control measures to keep people safe. The Responsible Person is required to continually review their procedures and fire risk assessment to ensure that the measures in place remain appropriate for the intended occupancy and risk profile.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 09, October 2023