

Consideration on disability and access to public EV charging infrastructure in the UK

*REA briefing paper – for member review
V2 as of 10th June 2020*

Background

The REA has produced this high-level briefing on the accessibility of EV charging infrastructure following some Government interest in the topic. This is relevant for public and private charging infrastructure. The themes below are derived from REA research, largely into accessibility requirements in the US charging market.

This briefing is designed to begin a conversation around accessibility of EVSE in the UK, and:

- is not designed in response to Government request,
- is not for external (non-member or media) distribution
- has not been reviewed by lawyers in the UK

Accessibility considerations for manufacturers and installers

Screen

- Has there been consideration to the visibility of colorways to those with sight limitations?
- Is touch screen technology available for those wearing gloves or with limited mobility?
- Is the height positioned so that it can be accessed by a range of users?
- Is the angle is positioned so that it can be accessed by a range of users?

Starting the charge

- Are there physical buttons on the charger, and if so do they pose a potential issue to disabled persons?
- Is there an app in place which can start the charging session and minimise physical contact with the EVSE screen or buttons?

Cable

- Is the total weight and distribution of weight of the cable designed to be easy to manoeuvre?
- Has the height of holster been considered so as to be accessible to a range of users?
- Is the position of the plug in the holster angled to require significant force to remove it from the charger?

Regarding the installation of public EVSE, accessibility considerations include:

- Extra space around the EV charging parking bay for wheelchair access to the unit
- Step-free access from vehicle to screen
- Bollards and other structures around the charging station positioned so they do not obstruct access
- Requirement for some EV charging spaces in every car park to be 'accessible'

With questions or comment, contact Daniel Brown, REA EV Lead – dbrown@r-e-a.net