



Design advice

DLF Factsheet

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ABOUT THE DISABLED LIVING FOUNDATION (DLF)

The DLF is a UK organisation whose primary role is to provide information and advice on assistive technology – equipment designed to enable older or disabled people to live more independently. We maintain a database that lists and describes over 13,000 items of disability equipment together with information on over 2,000 suppliers. The DLF is also a Disabled Living Centre, displaying and demonstrating equipment to give people an opportunity to see for themselves what is available and how it works, enabling them to make an informed choice about the equipment they use.

Our services are not exclusively for disabled and elderly people. We have an educational role amongst professionals working in the field of disability, including students and those working in the area of disability and design. We are not designers ourselves, so cannot advise on the specifics of design, but we can offer designers information on what is available currently, and the advantages and shortcomings of equipment designs.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Disabled Living Foundation has offices in the Harrow Road, in West London and this is where our equipment demonstration centre and helpline are based.

We can be contacted by telephone or email, or you can write to us. Users of the internet can visit our website and learn more about our services and access our

factsheets. Our helpline number is 0845 130 9177 (weekdays only from 10am to 4pm); email: advice@dlf.org.uk

There may be a Disabled Living Centre nearer to you than the DLF or our helpline staff can give you the address of the one nearest to you; or look on the Assistive Technologies Advice Centres Council's (previously the Disabled Living Centres Council) website: www.dlcc.org.uk.

WHERE TO GO FOR FURTHER DESIGN ADVICE

We have several contacts that may be useful to you. Many of the organisations listed below publish information and factsheets, and have developed their own lists of relevant links, accessed via their websites.

British Standards Institution BSI House,
389 Chiswick High Road, London W4
4AL - tel: 020 8996 9000; fax: 020 8996
7001;
email: cservices@bsi-global.com; website:
www.bsi-global.com

The British national standards body that belongs to the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Responsible for drawing up standards using the expertise of people who have a particular interest in the subject, i.e. manufacturers, users, research organisations, government departments and consumers. Offers a library service that can help identify relevant Standards.

Business Links - tel: 0845 600 9006;
textphone: 0845 606 2666; website:
www.businesslink.gov.uk

Has set up business advisory offices throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that can give advice on general business practices, marketing, funding. Contact the telephone number above for the location of your nearest office. Publishes factsheets on design development accessible via its web site.

Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, 95 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1DT -tel: 020 7405 9450; fax: 020 7430 0471; email: mail@cipa.org.uk; website: www.cipa.org.uk

Holds clinics at a number of sites around the UK giving free, basic advice to inventors who are at the early stages of developing an idea. Holds a national list of registered patent attorneys who offer professional services, drawing up the legal documents necessary for a patent application.

Cornwall Innovation Centre, 28 Chapel Street, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 8EL tel: 01209 612670 fax: 01209 612671.

Helps inventors to protect their ideas (Intellectual Property Rights Protection), advice on possible materials, including engineering and quality requirements. It has a wealth of knowledge to identify manufacturing, marketing, or licensed outlets for the new products. Has a database of unexploited ideas to create expansion opportunities for existing manufacturers. Also offers

assistance with grant applications.

Design Council, 34 Bow Street, London WC2E 7DL tel: 020 7420 5200; fax: 020 7420 5300; email: info@designcouncil.org.uk; website: www.design-council.org.uk

Government funded organisation that is committed to educating everyone on how effective design can make a significant difference in all environments - within business, at home, in schools. Support is available to help small and medium sized firms with design needs; assistance is given with feasibility studies, the design and development of new products and the redesign of existing products. Information on design issues can be accessed via its web site.

Ergonomics Society, Elms Court, Elms Grove, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 1RG tel: 01509 234904; fax: 01509 235666; email: ergsoc@ergonomics.org.uk; website: www.ergonomics.org.uk

The society aims to educate and increase awareness among the general public, industry, health and social care staff and the government about the importance of ergonomics in our everyday life. It maintains a register of professional ergonomists and registered consultancies and publishes advice and basic information on ergonomic design.

UK Institute for Inclusive Design (UK

branch of European Institute for Design and Disability.) email: mail @ukiid.org; website: www.ukiid.org

Supports the ethos that considerate design of the environment and products benefits all. Aims to promote interest in design as a response to disability; undertakes studies of, and provides information on, the relationship between design and disability; initiates design solutions to meet identified needs.

Institute of Patentees and Inventors, PO Box 1301, Kingston-on-Thames Surrey KT2 7WT tel: 020 8541 4179; fax: 020 8541 4195; email: ipi@invent.org.uk; website: www.invent.org.uk

Membership organisation that advises on all aspects of the invention process. Members can access the expertise of other members, receive a regular newsletter and information to assist in the development of design ideas and are kept in touch with pertinent issues, exhibitions and trade shows.

The Patent Office, Concept House, Cardiff Road, Newport, S. Wales NP10 8QQ - tel: 0845 9500 505; fax: 01633 813600 Textphone: 0845 9222 250; email: enquiries@patent.gov.uk; website: www.patent.gov.uk

Government department responsible for registering designs and trademarks, and the issuing of patents. Can give advice on the patenting procedure and other forms of intellectual property protection. Information available via its website.

Ricability, 30 Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1V 2PT tel: (020) 7427 2460; fax: (020) 7427 2468; textphone: (020) 7427 2469; e mail: mail@ricability.org.uk homepage: www.ricability.org.uk

National research charity that provides practical information needed by older or disabled consumers. Has produced a series of reports looking at the suitability of general domestic equipment for older and disabled people, and has also reviewed some of the more purpose designed equipment. Has produced a factsheet for manufacturers, researchers and designers *Meeting the needs of older or disabled consumers*, accessed only via their website: www.ricability.org.uk.



DLF online

The majority of DLF's advice is now online. If you would like advice and support to get online or information on local courses about getting online please visit one of the following websites.

Age UK

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/work-and-learning/technology-and-internet/>

Call **0800 169 8787**

BBC Webwise

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/>

Call **08000 150 950**

Digital Unite

<http://learning.digitalunite.com/category/using-the-internet/>

Call **0800 228 9272** Or you can write to them

Digital Unite Limited, Unit 2B Poles Copse, Poles Lane, Otterbourne, Winchester, SO21 2DZ

Go On

<http://www.go-on.co.uk/>

Call 0800 77 1234

UK online centres, The Quadrant, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WG

UK Online Centre

<http://www.ukonlinecentres.com/>

