

IMPROVED BUILDING ACCESSABILITY FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE

A recently constructed residential building in The Netherlands wasn't accommodating its residents by limiting their freedom of movement and self-reliance. A prompt solution was urgently required.

INTRODUCTION

The accessibility of a recently finished apartment complex for senior citizens posed challenges for its residents. The existing doors proved excessively heavy for seniors and individuals with physical challenges, leading residents to depend on the willingness of neighbors or friends for assistance when entering or exiting the building. At times, this reliance even confined them indoors, highlighting the urgent need for a more accommodating solution.

JOB SITE

Constructed in 2023 in Oude Pekela, Netherlands, the newly built apartment building is designed to cater to the needs of elderly individuals and those with limited mobility or strength. The building features a singular manually operated swing door for residents to access and exit the premises, and internally, there are additional manually operated swing doors.

PROBLEM

The absence of automated doors in the building posed challenges for some senior residents and their visitors, particularly those with limitations in motion and strength.

On the second floor, an elderly woman using a wheelchair faced significant restrictions as she couldn't independently open the doors, greatly impeding her freedom. Basic activities like stepping outside for fresh air or visiting the supermarket necessitated seeking assistance through a neighborhood communication app.

According to Louiz van den Beek of Isidoor Service, this is a common problem, especially when developers opt for "low cost" solutions.



SOLUTION

Isidoor Service was approached by the president of the Owners Association of the building with the request to automate three swing doors. The new situation had to feature tag or push-button access, and to comply with the EN16005 standard.



The existing doors were equipped with operators and the OA-Edge T sensor was added on both sides of the doors for additional safety as it prevents the door from hitting pedestrians by re-opening or stopping the swing movement of the door when the detection area is occupied.

1

OA-Edge T is a safety sensor for automatic swing doors based on active infrared triangulation technology. It is in compliance with the EN-16005 standard and approved by TÜV.

2

Due to the slim, modular design this sensor fits many different types of swing doors. To upgrade the safety level of the sensor, you can add extra modules.

3

The wide detection area of each module secures a high level of safety around the door and will prevent the door leaf from hitting an object or person near the door.

RESULT

With this solution in place, residents can enjoy unhindered movement, free from challenging doorways and without relying on others for assistance.



CONCLUSION

Automated doors play a crucial role in enhancing accessibility, self-reliance, and independence for individuals with physical limitations. The OPTEX OA-Edge T-sensor ensures the safety of automated swing doors, preventing potential harm to individuals and adhering to the required accessibility and safety standards. This integration creates a secure and accommodating environment, supporting the freedom of movement for individuals facing mobility challenges.



Facing a similar challenge?
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