

Safety Audit Evaluation criteria

Lighting

Is the lighting too bright or too dark in any specific area?

How well does the lighting illuminate pedestrian walkways and sidewalks?

How clearly does the lighting illuminate directional signs?

Sightlines

Can you clearly see what's ahead?

Is your visibility obstructed by: pillars, sharp corners, walls, bushes, advertisement panels, snow-banks, ditches, or other obstructions?

What would make it easier to see ahead?

Isolation

Can you see and hear people around you and do you feel you could be seen and heard by others?

Do you feel the nearest emergency service such as an alarm or emergency phone is close at hand?

Possible assault sites

Are there any areas where someone could hide from view?

Are there any specific areas in and around the area where you feel more vulnerable?

Maintenance

Is there litter lying around?

Is there evidence of vandalism?

Are there any broken items?

Signage

Is the lettering on the signs easy to read and large enough?

Can you see signs directing you to emergency assistance?

Are there visual symbols to represent important information such as emergency telephones, stairwells, etc.?

Are the signs easy to understand for a person whose first language is neither English nor French?

Animals

Are there any domestic animals in the area?

Is this area dirty due to the animals?

Accessibility

Is the area easily accessible for persons with mobility disabilities?
Are there wheelchair access ramps and are they located in appropriate areas?
Are peepholes, mailbox, information shelves, etc., located at an appropriate height?

Overall Design

If you were not familiar with the area would it be easy to find your way around?
Is it easy to access the area?
Are signs located within visual range for a person seated or within range for a person with visual impairment?

Specific Criteria for Residential or Work Buildings

Stairwells

Is the lighting level comfortable?
How do you feel using the stairs?
Would you use the stairs at night?
Could someone hear you if you called for help?

Elevators

Is the lighting level comfortable?
What atmosphere do the elevators project?
Do you know how to call for assistance when in the elevator?
Are there visual symbols to represent important information?
Is the lettering on the signs tactile, raised or in Braille?

Laundry room/ lockers/ bike room/garbage room

Is there a window in the door to see inside or outside?
Can someone hide and wait for you in the room?
Can anybody have access to the room?

Crisis Prevention and Intervention

Are there reception staff trained to handle different situations?
Is there, or are you aware of, the policy/plan to deal with unsafe behavior?
Are there adequate security measures in place after hours?
Are you aware of policies/plans in place to deal with safety issues for rental agreements to outside organizations?

Parking garage and parking lots

Is there adequate lighting in the parking garage or lot?

Does the colour of the walls in the parking garage allow lighting to be used efficiently?

Are the garage exists and main routes clearly signed, using distinctive colours and symbols?

How far is the nearest person; could you be heard if you yelled for help?

Are there any entrapment sites in the parking lot/garage?

Lobby/main entrance and waiting room

Is access easily available to people from outside?

Do you feel threatened by people waiting in the lobby alone at night?

Do you have any concerns when the common room is rented?