

Floor weight capacity resource

In some circumstances the person and their equipment combined weight may exceed weight capacity for the floor of the home, potentially leading to damage to the floor structure.

Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People, with involvement from EMS Providers, have undertaken an independent project and established the following mandatory requirement:

An Advice request is required to be submitted to Accessable by the EMS Assessor when the person has:

- A body weight greater than 140 kilograms and,
- Uses extra-large/heavy equipment and
- Is accessing any part of the home with timber flooring i.e., deck, ramp, internal floor.

The EMS Assessor needs to provide the following information in the advice request:

- Details of the weight of the person,
- Their equipment and footprint size of the equipment (i.e., the width and length of the power chair base) .
- Pictures of the interior and exterior of the home and provide as much information as they are able regarding the age of the home, type of construction (i.e., weatherboard, brick etc.) and any noted issues with the home.

EMS Provider will:

- Investigate the issue raised and provide recommendations for resolution.

Whaikaha will consider recommendations on a case-by-case basis via EMS Panel submission for Genuine and Exceptional Circumstances.

Guidance to EMS Assessors – key information to consider during your visit:

- Where does the person go to inside the home?
- Are there any current visible repairs and maintenance issues?
- How long has the person been using the equipment in the home?
- Are there any floor weakness/damage currently noted from using the equipment in the home?
- Is the home a Kainga Ora property?
- Is the home owned by a private landlord?
- Is the person aiming to live in the home for at least 2-3 years?
- Are other housing modifications likely (i.e., door widening - ramps)?



Useful tips in identifying timber floors:

- Houses built before late 70's are likely to have a timber floor
- Where a home is less than 300mm above ground height it is likely that the home has a concrete floor (but may have a timber deck).
- Where a home has ventilation bricks visible low exterior walls, the home has a timber floor (even if a home has a brick cladding finish).

If you have any questions, please contact the Professional Advisory Team