8.0 Floors

8.1 Anti-static / Conductive Flooring

A distinction must be made between antistatic and conductive flooring. Antistatic flooring reduces the risk of static occurring while conductive flooring absorbs the electrical charge. However, if rubber soled shoes are worn on conductive flooring the effect is negated.

In the past, anti-static flooring was required in Operating Rooms because of the use of flammable anaesthetic agents. These types of anaesthetics are no longer in use, so the requirement for this type of specialised flooring no longer applies.

In addition, anti-static flooring is expensive, both to install and maintain. Most public and staff areas do not pose a problem with respect to generation of an electrical charge. Where there is any possibility of such an event, for example a computer technician working inside a computer or a worker in a specialised micro-electronics laboratory, use is made of anti-static mats that more than adequately provide the necessary barrier.

If there are areas and rooms in which flammable anaesthetic agents are stored or administered to patients, floors shall minimise combustion hazards arising from the medical use of flammable anaesthetic agents

Conductive flooring may be omitted in anaesthetising areas where flammable anaesthetic agents will not be used and appropriate notices are permanently and conspicuously affixed to the wall in such areas and rooms. Otherwise, appropriate conductive flooring shall be provided.

In summary, anti-static or conductive flooring are not mandatory in any part of the hospital. Any special requirement may be noted specifically on the Project Brief.

8.2 Slip Resistance

Slip resistance is governed by the nature of the anticipated activity. In equating safety, consideration must be given to all the relevant variables; slip potential is a function of footwear, activities, gait, contamination, environment and other factors.

The choice of floor finish shall consider the slip resistance appropriate for different conditions. The following can be used as a guide:

- Standard vinyl is suitable for dry areas where patients and staff are expected to wear shoes (Standard - Dry).
- Standard Textured Viny is similar to standard vinyl but provides greater dry condition slip resistance (Standard / Slip resistant)
- Studded vinyl flooring balances slip resistance with ease of cleaning, and is suitable for wet areas such as patient showers where water, soap and body fat are present (Non-Slip).
- Safety vinyl flooring that suits wet areas without soap or body fat where trolley movement is also expected, such as CSSU Decontamination Areas and Dirty Utilities (Extra Non-Slip).
- Ceramic tiles can be used for Ensuites and Bathrooms, but not clinical areas requiring seamless finishes. Smaller ceramic tiles generally provided greater slip resistance. The best combination of slip resistance and easy cleaning is commonly referred to as 'Orange Peel'.

Stone and terrazzo are sometimes used in entrance foyer areas; however, on rainy days these finishes may present a danger to staff and visitors and in such circumstances proprietary non-slip chemical treatments shall be used to increase slip resistance.

Design considerations include:

- Floor finishes and floor finish characteristics (wear resistance and cleanability)
- The amount and type of expected traffic (vehicles, trolleys people hurrying, elderly, disabled people with or without walking aids and children)
- Consequences of exposure to contaminants including environmental design factors (visibility issues and contamination minimisation)
- Management policy and maintenance practised (frequency, type and effectiveness of cleaning equipment)
- Compliance with Occupational Health & Safety requirements
- Special provision for slip hazards (guards and rails)
- Alternative information sources (use of contrasting colours, tactile indicators and warning signs).

8.3 Floor Joints

Thresholds and expansion joint covers shall be flush with the floor surface to facilitate the use of wheelchairs and trolleys. Expansion and seismic joints shall be constructed to resist passage of smoke.

HFG India

The Indian Health Facility Guidelines recommends the use of HFBS "Health Facility Briefing System" to edit all room data sheet information for your project.

HFBS provides edit access to all HFG India standard rooms, departments, and more than 40 report templates.

HFBS **Health Facility Briefing System**

Briefing Module

The Health Facility Briefing System (HFBS) has numerous modules available via annual subscription. It suits healthcare Architects, Medical Planners, Equipment Planners Project Managers and Health Authorities.

Use the HFBS Briefing Module to quickly drag in health facility departments or pre-configured room templates from the HFG standard, edit the room features such as finishes, furniture, fittings, fixtures, medical equipment, engineering services. The system can print or download as PDF more than 100 custom reports including room data sheets, schedules, and more…

To learn more about the HFBS web-based Healthcare Briefing and Design Software and to obtain editable versions of the "Standard Components" including Room Data Sheets (RDS) and Room Layout Sheets (RLS) offered on the HFG website, signup for HFBS using the link below.

Get Started Now:
hfbs.healthdesign.com.au

- ✓ HFG India Room Data Sheets and Departments are instantly editable in the HFBS software available online in the HFBS India Domain.
- ✓ You can access hundreds of report templates to print your HFG India room data in HFBS.
- ✓ HFBS has a onetime free 3 day trial available to all new users – signup for the HFBS India Domain today.

Get Started Now:
hfbs.healthdesign.com.au

HFBS

Health Facility Briefing System

hfbsinfo.com | techsupport@healthdesign.com.au