

NEWS RELEASE

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Scandic continues to improve accessibility at its hotels

Autumn 2006 saw Scandic launch its Accessibility Standard at all 122 hotels in the Nordic region. The aim is to better adapt all the chain's 129 hotels to the needs of people with various disabilities. The hotel therefore now provides a hearing loop for conference guests on request.

There are currently around 2.5 million people in the Nordic region with impaired hearing. Over a year ago, Scandic therefore installed a hearing loop in reception and introduced a vibrating alarm clock that goes under the guest's pillow. The alarm clock also alerts a person with impaired hearing if the fire alarm sounds. Now, Scandic is adding a portable hearing loop for use in meeting rooms to its Accessibility Standard, further increasing accessibility for people with impaired hearing.

"Scandic's Accessibility Standard" has been drawn up by Magnus Berglund, Scandic's Disability Coordinator, in consultation with Nordic disability organisations and hotel guests. Appointed in autumn 2003, Magnus Berglund and his Labrador guide dog Ada have had the task of training Scandic's team members and creating a better understanding of what life is like for a disabled person. All Scandic staff have now received training on accessibility, service and disability issues.

By following "the guest's route" from arrival at the hotel, via the entrance and reception to the room, the restaurant and the conference rooms, all the areas of Scandic's hotels have been examined from the point of view of accessibility. The results have been compiled in a 93-point programme of adaptations, which makes up "Scandic's Accessibility Standard".

The 77 points which are compulsory within the accessibility standard include:

- Hearing loop and walking stick holder in reception
- Vibrating alarm clock/fire alarm
- Shower stool in disabled rooms as standard and available for other rooms
- Single-grip mixer tap in the bathroom
- Access to a workstation for wheelchair users

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