Annex D The general principles of prevention

You, as designer, must take into account the general principles of prevention when preparing or modifying a design.

	General principles of prevention	Examples of applying them in practice
A	Avoiding risks by asking if you can get rid of the problem (or hazard) altogether.	Move air conditioning plant on a roof to ground level, so that work at height is not required for either installation or maintenance. Position a door away from a traffic route. Design a roof with a high parapet to eliminate the risk of falls.
B	Evaluating the risks that cannot be avoided.	Work out whether the effort and expense of installing a fixed access system is appropriate if an area is only occasionally reached and the work can be done using a MEWP.
C	Combating the risks at source.	Arrange for services to be isolated and diverted to where they will be away from the work area.
D	Adapting the work to the individual, especially the design of workplaces, the type of work equipment and the choice of working and production methods, with a view, in particular, to reducing the health effects of monotonous work and work at a predetermined rate.	Provide workstations at an appropriate height. Position lighting so it can be accessed easily for maintenance, such as by positioning bulkhead lights on landings and not halfway down staircases.
E	Adapting to technical progress: consider new techniques or technologies.	Specify self-cleaning glass. Prefabricate elements off site.
F	Replacing the dangerous with the non-dangerous or the less dangerous.	Switch to using a paving block that is lighter in weight. Substitute solvent-based products with water-based equivalents. Recycle tyre kerbs instead of using heavy concrete ones.
G	Developing a coherent overall prevention policy which covers technology, organisation of work, working conditions, social relationships and the influence of factors relating to the working environment. Set standards.	Specify that all blocks should be cut using block splitter techniques rather than mechanical cutting, which produces large amounts of harmful silica dust.
H	Giving collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures, and making provisions so that the work can be organised to reduce exposure to hazards.	Make provision for traffic routes so that barriers can be provided between pedestrians and traffic. Provide fixed edge protection (barriers) rather than running lines.
I	Giving appropriate instructions to employees.	Provide information on drawings or instructions, such as intended sequencing.