

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: February 12, 2004

TO: City Departments and City Facility Managers

FROM: Frank Belock, City Engineer
Tina Christiansen, Development Services Director
Linda Woodbury, Disability Services Coordinator

SUBJECT: Accessibility Design Standards for City Owned or Leased Facilities

The City is committed to having its buildings accessible to all individuals. This memorandum sets forth the City's first set of recommendations to be used for the new construction and alterations of City owned or leased facilities. It shall be used by all City departments and incorporated in all City contracts for new construction, alteration, and addition projects in any City-owned or leased facilities.

As part of the City's ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with the State and Federal accessibility laws¹, a technical group of City staff, known as the City's Access Law Technical Group (Technical Group), has been formed to review areas of conflict or confusion and recommend policies. When a recommendation, such as those listed here, is specified, it is to be followed in new construction, alterations, and additions, unless the Deputy Director and the Technical Group determine that to follow such a recommendation is infeasible either structurally or economically.

A reference to a specific code section is a reminder of current legal requirements, whereas a recommendation sets forth a goal which exceeds minimum legal requirements. The recommendations set forth here are in bold.

I. Sanitary Facilities - (Multiple Accommodations, Single-Occupancy Toilets and Family Stalls):

1. General:

All sanitary facilities shall be designed per the most current accessibility

¹ The California Building Code (CBC) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), respectively.

regulations of the CBC and the ADA/ADAAG adopted at the time of submittal for a building permit review.

2. Urinals:

Grab bars are recommended on each side of urinals (please see attached diagram). Where urinals are provided, install at least one accessible urinal with a 24" long (min.) and 1½" diameter grab bar vertically placed on each side of the fixture. The top of the grab bars shall not exceed 48" as measured from the finish floor (based on maximum forward reach height requirement per CBC 1118B.5 and ADAAG 4.2.5). An accessible urinal shall have a clear floor space of 30" by 48" in front of the fixture to allow a forward approach (CBC 111B.9.4 and ADAAG 4.22.5). All grab bars shall comply with CBC 1115B.8 and ADAAG 4.26.

3. Accessible Stalls within Multiple Accommodation Restrooms:

- a. Provide the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) on the center of a stall/partition door mounted at 5'-0" max. from the finish floor to the centerline of the sign (height per CBC 1117B.5.7 and ADAAG 4.30.6). The ISA shall consist of a white figure on a blue background. The blue shall be equal to Color No. 15090 in Federal Standard 595b (CBC 1117B.5.8.1.1)
- b. Install a "Loop Handle" on the inside and outside of a stall/compartments door immediately below the latch. The latch should be a flip-over style, sliding, or other hardware not requiring the user to grasp or twist. Center the opening hardware approximately between 30" and 44" above the finish floor (CBC 1133B.2.5.2 and ADAAG 4.13.9).

The "Loop Handle" is recommended over a "U-Shaped Handle", but either is allowed per CBC 1115B.7.1.4 and ADAAG 4.13.9.

4. Single-Accommodation and Family Unit Restrooms:

- a. General - For single user portable toilet or bathing units clustered at a single location, at least 5% but no less than one accessible toilet unit or bathing unit shall be installed at each cluster whenever typical inaccessible units are provided. Accessible units shall be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility. ADAAG 4.1.2(6)
- b. **A 3'-0" wide and 7'-0" high door is recommended.** Although a clear width of 32" minimum door width is allowed by CBC 1133B.2.2 and ADAAG 4.13.5, we recommend installing a minimum 3'0" wide and 7'0" high entry door (CBC 1133B.2.2). The effort to operate the door shall be

within the allowed 5-pound pressure (CBC 1133B.2.5 and ADAAG 4.13.11(2)) with a privacy latch (push button-lever release) (ADAAG 4.1.6(e)).

II. Library Facilities, Recreation Centers, and Senior Centers (including facilities where there is a high usage by senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities) are **recommended to install power-assisted doors when they are constructed.**

1. General:

Construction of all facilities (new construction, alteration, and addition) shall be designed per the most current accessibility regulations of the CBC and the ADA/ADAAG adopted at the time of the submittal for a building permit review.

2. Doors:

Power-assisted doors are recommended for the main entry. Construct all facilities (new construction, alteration, and addition) with at least one power-assisted door(s) at the main entry. All new doors must comply with the most current accessibility regulations of the CBC and the ADA/ADAAG adopted at the time of the submittal for a building permit review.

These recommendations are specific to urinal grab bars, accessible toilet compartment doors, and power-assisted doors. The overall design is required to comply with the ADA/ADAAG, the CBC, and other governing laws and regulations adopted at the time of the submittal for a building permit review.

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