



ACCESS LAW DESIGN COMPLIANCE
Engineering and Capital Projects Department
Architectural Engineering and Contracts
MEMORANDUM

Date: April 20, 2006

To: All CIP Project Managers and Building Section Resident Engineers

Subject: Clarification Of Required Accessible Stall Hardware For City Projects

From: Fletcher Callanta, Senior CIP Access Law Compliance Officer, Engineering and Capital Projects Department, Architectural Engineering and Contracts Division

This is a clarification of the current City policy on accessible stall door hardware. This is to be applied to all new construction, alteration, and addition projects in any City-owned or leased facilities.

[Access Memo 2004-01, Section I.3.b, 2/19/04](#): For all accessible restrooms with multiple stall...”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](#).”

Assure that the accessible stall doors in multiple accommodation restrooms comply with this policy. This is not a personal recommendation but a policy signed by the City Engineer, the Director of Development Services, and the Disability Services Coordinator to be applied to all new and alteration types of City projects including Turn-Key projects.

It seems like there has been a confusion on the difference between a "loop handle" vs a "u-shaped handle." Some books and manuals may call these handles differently but for the purpose of this email, I would refer to a loop handle as the one that looks like a hook and a "u-shaped" handle as one that is pictured below. Unfortunately, the loop handle (not the one pictured below) has been found to be more costly. We recommend the "u-shaped" handle (pictured below) instead of the loop to avoid cost and other issues.



Picture: Sample of a U-Shaped Door Pull, min. of 5" long x 3" high

Why is this required? Per ADAAG 4.13.9 - Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operating devices on accessible doors shall have a shape that is easy to grasp with one hand and does not require tight grasping, tight pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate. Lever-operated mechanisms, push-type mechanisms, and U-shaped handles are acceptable designs. When sliding doors are fully open, operating hardware shall be exposed and usable from both sides. Hardware required for accessible door passage shall be mounted no higher than 48" above finished floor.

The CBC has a similar language. The intent of the access memo is to regulate one type of hardware for consistency to all city projects.

The standard pull that we often use on standard stall doors (i.e. 4" x 1/2" pulls) are not considered accessible because their size is not easily graspable by individuals who may not have the use of their fingers. The larger opening of the pull (as pictured above) allows them to insert the hand inside so they can easily open or close the door. This has already been discussed and clarified by the citywide access law technical group via the access memo and the advisory groups on accessible design (FAR & SCRAB). Note that with the use of this hardware, the stall doors must be provided with stops to prevent the pull from damaging the adjacent tile or wall.

If you have an alternative hardware that can be more usable, please submit sample to Fletcher Callanta or Vern Westenberger, chairs of the Access Law Technical Group.