



DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AND BUILDINGS

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DEB Notice 010720

(Effective: 01/07/2020)

Clarifications to Accessibility Standards for State-Owned Buildings and Buildings on State-Owned Property: Vertical Grab Bars

Accessibility Standards for State-Owned Facilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990: Title II, Subtitle A of the Act applies to all state-owned buildings and structures. The *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-1159 provides that the Division of Engineering & Buildings shall prescribe standards for the design, construction, and alteration of buildings constructed in whole or in part or altered by the use of state funds, other than schools, necessary to ensure that persons with physical disabilities will have ready access to, and use of, such buildings. The prescribed accessibility standards are the Department of Justice's *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*, dated September 15, 2010, sometimes referred to as *2010 ASAD*.

Conflicting Standards / Modifications

The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design is incorporated by reference in the current edition of the International Building Code. The applicable code for a project shall be that which is adopted by the Commonwealth at the time of building design and permit. Where codes and standards conflict, the most stringent standard shall be used in designing accessible facilities. That is, the code or standard most favorable or advantageous to the disabled shall be used.

Clarifications for State-Owned Buildings and Buildings on State-Owned Property

ICC A117.1 *Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities* is referenced by the current edition of the Virginia Construction Code and requires vertical grab bars to be provided in the following locations:

- on the sidewall of wheelchair accessible toilet compartments above the horizontal grab bar,
- on both sidewalls of ambulatory accessible toilet compartments,
- on the control wall of accessible bathtubs, and
- on the control wall of accessible transfer shower compartments.

Because vertical grab bars are advantageous to the disabled, vertical grab bars shall be provided in accord with ICC A117.1 as referenced by the current edition of the Virginia Construction Code. Refer to Chapter 6 of this standard for vertical grab bar dimensional locations and other requirements. Vertical grab bars may be omitted from buildings with anti-ligature requirements. Vertical grab bars may conflict with accessible locations for toilet tissue dispensers. Assure that these accessories are located in accord with *2010 ASAD* accessibility requirements.

This requirement shall apply to projects for which working drawings have not been approved by DEB or an approved CO-6 has not been issued as of the effective date for this DEB Notice. Section 4.2.2 of the CPSM, which lists clarifications to accessibility requirements for state-owned buildings and buildings on state-owned property, is hereby revised to include the requirement of providing vertical grab bars.