

Glossary

Access Aisle – An accessible pedestrian space between elements, such as parking spaces, seating, and desks, that provides clearances appropriate for use of the elements.

Accessible - Describes a site, building, facility, or portion thereof that complies with the ADA or TAS.

Accessible Route - A continuous unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements and spaces of a building or facility. Interior accessible routes may include corridors, floors, ramps, elevators, lifts and clear floor space at fixtures. Exterior accessible routes may include parking access aisles, curb ramps, cross walks at vehicular ways, walks, ramps, and lifts.

Adaptability – The ability of certain building spaces and elements, such as kitchen counters, sinks, and grab bars to be added or altered so as to accommodate the needs of individuals with or without disabilities or to accommodate the needs of persons with different types or degrees of disability.

Addition - An expansion, extension or increase in the gross floor area of a building or facility.

Alteration - An alteration is a change to a building or facility made by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity, a public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of the building or facility or part thereof. Alterations include remodeling, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, historic restoration, changes or rearrangement of the structural parts or elements, and changes or rearrangement in the plan configuration of walls and full height partitions. Normal maintenance, reroofing, painting or wallpapering, or changes to mechanical and electrical systems are not alterations unless they affect the usability of the building or facility.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Law signed on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with Disabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) – Guidelines that cover access for people with disabilities to buildings and facilities in the public and private sectors. The guidelines are used to establish standards that are enforced by different agencies, like the Department of Justice or Federal Highway Administration

Area of Rescue Assistance – An area, which has direct access to an exit, where people who are unable to use stairs may remain temporarily in safety to await further instructions or assistance during emergency evacuation.

Assembly Area - A room or space accommodating a group of individuals for recreational, educational, political, social, or amusement purposes, or for the consumption of food and drink, or awaiting transportation.

Auxiliary aids and services – aids and services includes but is not limited to qualified interpreters, note takers, transcription services, written materials, telephone handset amplifiers, assistive listening devices, assistive listening devices, telephones compatible with hearing aids, closed caption decoders, open and closed captioning, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TDD's), video text displays qualified readers, taped texts, audio recordings, Brailled materials, and large print materials.

Balcony - That portion of a seating space of an assembly room, auditorium, or theater that is raised at least four feet above the level of the main floor.

Building – Any structure used and intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

Circulation Path – An exterior or interior way of passage from one place to another for pedestrians, including walks, hallways, courtyards, stairways, and stair landings.

Clear – Unobstructed.

Clear Floor Space – The minimum level and unobstructed floor or ground space required to accommodate a single, stationary wheelchair and occupant.

Closed Circuit Telephone – A telephone with dedicated lines such as a house phone, courtesy phone, or phone that must be used to gain entrance to a building or facility.

Common Use. Refers to those interior and exterior rooms, spaces, or elements that are made available for the use of a restricted group of people (for example, occupants of a homeless shelter, the occupants of an office building, or the guests of such occupants).

Cross Slope - The slope that is perpendicular to the direction of travel.

Crosswalk – That part of a roadway where motorists are required to yield to pedestrians crossing, as defined by state and local regulations, whether marked or unmarked.

Curb Line – A line that represents the extension of the face of the curb and marks the transition between the sidewalk and the gutter of roadway at a curb ramp or flush landing.

Curb Ramp – A short ramp cutting through a curb or built up to it.

Detectable Warning - A standardized surface feature built in or applied to walking surfaces or other elements to warn visually impaired people of hazards on a circulation path or path of travel.

Department of Justice (DOJ) – Agency charged with enforcement of the ADA.

Disability means with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; a record of such and impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

Dwelling Unit – A single unit which provides a kitchen or food preparation area, in addition to rooms and spaces for living, bathing, sleeping, and the like. Dwelling units include a single family home or a townhouse used as a transient group home; an apartment building used as a shelter; guestrooms in a hotel that provide sleeping accommodations and food preparation areas; and other similar facilities used on a transient basis. For purposes of the ADA and TAS, use of the term “Dwelling Unit” does not imply the unit is used as a residence.

Federal Register Part IV 28 CFR Part 35 – Regulations for nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in state and local government, Final Rule.

Facility means all or any portion of buildings, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock, or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the building, property, structure, or equipment is located.

Element – An architectural or mechanical component of a building, facility, space or site, e.g., telephone, curb ramp, door, drinking fountain, seating, or a water closet.

Employee Work Area – An area designated for employee use only and used only for work. Corridors, toilet rooms, kitchenettes and break rooms are examples of areas that are not employee work areas.

Entrance - Any access point to a building or portion of a building or facility used for the purpose of entering. An entrance includes the approach walk, the vertical access leading to the entrance platform, the entrance platform, vestibules, the entry doors or gates, and the hardware of the entry doors or gates.

Entrance Platform – The clear floor or ground area at accessible entrances.

Essential Function – Those supporting elements and spaces that make a building or facility usable by or serve the needs of its occupants or users. Essential features may include, but are not limited to, entrances, toilet rooms, dining areas, accessible routes, laundry rooms, lounges, play areas, service aisles, exercise or weight rooms, laboratories, darkrooms, swimming pools, concession stands, atriums, fishing piers, boat docks, hike and bike trails, picnic areas, courtyards, and plazas. Essential features do not include those spaces that house the major activities for which the building or facility is intended, such as classrooms and offices.

Facility - All or any portion of buildings, structures, site improvements, complexes, equipment, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property located on the site.

Federal Communication Commission – Agency that is charged with regulating Title IV of the ADA, that deals with telephone and television access for individuals with hearing and speech impairments.

Federal Highway Administration – An agency that is a part of the U. S. Department of Transportation, whose function, is to over see transportation issues that effect individuals with or without disabilities.

Functional Spaces – The rooms and spaces in a building or facility that house the major activities for which the building or facility is intended.

Ground Floor – Any occupiable floor less than one story above or below grade with direct access to grade. A building or facility always has at least one ground floor and may have more than one ground floor as where a split level entrance is provided or where a building is built into a hillside.

Level - A ground or floor surface or part of a surface having a slope of not more than 1:50 (2%) at any point, in any direction. Slopes expressed in terms of ¼ inch per foot shall be considered 2.0% and shall be acceptable as level.

Marked Crossing – A crosswalk or other identified path intended for pedestrian use in crossing a vehicular way.

Means of Egress – A continuous and unobstructed way of exit travel from any point in a building or facility to a public way. A means of egress comprises vertical and horizontal travel and may include intervening room spaces, doorways, hallways, corridors, passage ways, balconies, ramps, stairs, enclosures, lobbies, horizontal exits, courts and yards. An accessible means of egress is one that complies with the ADA and TAS and does not include stairs, steps, or escalators. Areas of rescue assistance or evacuation elevators may be included as part of accessible means of egress.

Mezzanine or Mezzanine Floor – That portion of a story which is an intermediate floor level placed within the story and having occupiable space above and below its floor. Any area that exceeds One-third of the total floor area of the room or space in which it is located shall be considered a full story.

Occupiable - A room or enclosed space designed for human occupancy in which individuals congregate for amusement, educational or similar purposes, or in which occupants are engaged at labor, and which is equipped with a means of egress, light, and ventilation.

Operable Part – A part of a piece of equipment or appliance used to insert or withdraw objects, or to activate, deactivate, or adjust the equipment or appliance (for example a coin slot, pushbutton, handle).

Pedestrian Access Route – An accessible route for pedestrian use within the public right of way.

Primary Function – With respect to alteration of a building or facility, the primary function is a major activity for which the facility is intended. Areas that contain a primary function include, but are not limited to, the customer service area of a bank, the dining area of a cafeteria, the meeting rooms in a conference center, as well as offices and other work

areas in which the activities of the public accommodation, commercial facility, or other private entity using the facility are carried out. Mechanical rooms, boiler rooms, supply storage rooms, employee lounges or locker rooms, janitorial closets, entrances, and restrooms are not areas containing a primary function.

Principal or Primary Entrances - Building and facility entrances that are recognized by the occupants and visitors as the main points of entry and exit and are used as such.

Public Entity – Any state or local government.

Public Funds - Funds provided by any governmental entity including federal, state, county, city, or any other political subdivision of the state.

Public Use – Describes interior or exterior rooms or spaces that are made available to the general public. Public use may be provided at a building or facility that is privately or publicly owned.

Public Right of Way – The land or property provided for public roadways, including the roadway itself and the areas between the roadway and adjacent properties.

Ramp - A walking surface which has a running slope greater than 1:20 (5%).

Running Slope – The slope that is parallel to the direction of travel.

Service Entrance – An entrance intended primarily for delivery of goods or services.

Sidewalk – That portion of an exterior circulation path that is improved for use by pedestrians and usually paved.

Signage – Displayed verbal, symbolic, tactile, and pictorial information.

Site – A parcel of land bounded by a property line or a designated portion of a public right of way.

Site Improvement – Landscaping, paving for pedestrian and vehicular ways, outdoor lighting, recreational facilities, and the like, added to a site.

Sleeping Accommodation – Rooms in which people sleep; for example, dormitory and hotel or motel guest rooms or suites.

Space – A definable area, e.g., room, toilet room, hall, assembly area, entrance, storage room, alcove, courtyard, or lobby.

Stage – An area of an assembly building or assembly area that is designed or used for demonstrations or the presentation of theatrical, educational, musical or other events.

Story – That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and upper surface of the roof or roof next above. If such portion of a building does not include occupiable space, it is not considered a story for purposes of the ADA or TAS.

There may be more than one floor level within a story as in the case of a mezzanine or a balcony.

Structural Frame – The structural frame shall be considered to be the columns and the girders, beams, trusses and spandrels having direct connections to the columns and all other members which are essential to the stability of the building as a whole.

Structurally Impracticable – With respect to new construction, those rare circumstances where full compliance has little likelihood of being accomplished because the unique characteristics of terrain prevent the incorporation of an accessible feature.

Tactile – Describes an object that can be perceived using the sense of touch.

Technically Infeasible – With respect to alteration of a building or facility, it has little likelihood of being accomplished because existing structural conditions would require removing or altering a load bearing member which is an essential part of the structural frame; or because other existing physical or site constraints prohibit modification or addition of elements, spaces, or features which are in full and strict compliance with the minimum requirements for new construction and which are necessary to provide accessibility.

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation – The agency responsible for enforcing the Texas Accessibility Standards.

Texas Accessibility Standards – The sets of standards for accessibility to public buildings and facilities, privately owned buildings and facilities leased or occupied by state agencies, and commercial facilities by individuals with disabilities in the State of Texas.

Text Telephone – Machinery or equipment that employs interactive graphic communications through the transmission of coded signals across the standard telephone network. Text telephones can include telecommunication display devices (TDD's) or Telecommunication devices for the deaf or computers.

Transient Lodging – A building, facility, or portion thereof, excluding inpatient medical care facilities that contain one or more dwelling units or sleeping units or sleeping accommodations. Transient lodgings may include resorts, group homes, hotels, motels, and dormitories.

United States Access Board - An independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities. The Board develops and maintains design criteria for the built environment, transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and for electronic and information technology. It also provides technical assistance and training on these requirements and on accessible design and continues to enforce accessibility standards that cover federally funded facilities.

U. S. Department of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) - Federal agency in charge of administrative and judicial enforcement of the federal civil rights

laws, and providing compliance education and technical assistance for Title I of the ADA.

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD) – Federal Agency charged with enforcing discrimination laws in housing.

Vehicular Way - A route intended for vehicular traffic, such as a street, driveway, or parking lot.

Walk – An exterior pathway with a prepared surface intended for pedestrian use, including pedestrian areas such as plazas and courts.