

APPENDIX B – ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Sections Included In This Standard:

- 1.1 General
- 1.2 Facility Design and Components
- 1.3 Furnishings
- 1.4 Construction and Installation

1.1 GENERAL

All new construction and major renovations shall meet the needs of our community members with disabilities and shall comply with the Florida Building Code (FBC), or more specifically, the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction. Certain design features and equipment aren't specifically addressed in the FBC (e.g., emergency showers and eye wash stations), while in other instances, the information is vague and open to interpretation. As a result, this section is included to assist in the successful design and construction of facilities on the UF campus, with UF Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) making the final determination as to what is and is not acceptable.

1.2 FACILITY DESIGN AND COMPONENTS

A. GENERAL

1. Common use areas, such as study rooms and libraries, shall have areas clearly designated for persons with disabilities.

B. ELEVATORS

1. Vertical access shall be provided to all levels above and below the occupied grade level. All elevators (passenger and freight) shall comply with the FBC.
2. All new elevators and all upgraded elevators shall include vertical (typical size 36"H x 6"W) elevator cab and hall switches (exterior all floors and interior of cab for all floors).
3. The exterior "do not use elevator in case of emergencies" sign shall be ADA-compliant, with raised/tactile pictogram and braille.

C. DOORS

1. All exterior and interior doors shall meet FBC guidelines for opening force. No exterior door shall exceed 8.5-lb force and no interior door shall exceed 5-lb force. For those doors that exceed the opening force requirement, an electrically operated door unit shall be provided if the door cannot be adjusted. Prior to the substantial completion inspection of all new facilities, the Builder shall provide a detailed schedule to UF EH&S listing the actual opening force required for all interior and exterior doors with closer units attached.
2. For new facilities, at least one automatically assisted door shall be installed at all main or primary entrances.
3. All controls and operating mechanisms required to be accessible shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. All doors are to have lever style handles. Those doors that lead to mechanical or

dangerous areas shall have an etched tactile warning system on the door handle.

4. Exterior directional signage is to be included in all new construction and renovation projects. Each door that is not accessible shall have a sign directing traffic to the accessible entrance. Accessible entrances shall have a sign designating that entrance as accessible.
5. New buildings shall include automatic door openers/actuators at all restrooms with entry doors.

D. RESTROOMS AND SHOWERS

1. All toilet stalls and toilet rooms shall comply with the FBC.
2. For all areas (academic, recreation/sport, and other) with showers, a minimum of one shower in each area shall comply with the FBC.

E. SITEWORK AND PARKING

1. Curb Ramps:
 - a. Curb ramps will normally be required to have detectable warning. The design professional(s) shall confirm for each project involving curb ramps with UF EH&S.
 - b. Where detectable warning is required, it shall **comply with the FBC**.
 - c. Curb ramps shall be designed to allow for water to drain away from the ramp and not collect and pool in the path of travel of pedestrians.
2. Any new construction or renovation project that includes parking shall have a minimum number of disabled parking spaces, with the minimum ratio per the FBC. All disabled spaces are to be a minimum of 12' wide with a 5' access aisle. Every two disabled parking spaces can share a 5' wide access aisle.
3. Parking garages – and vertical clearances within those garages – shall comply with the FBC.

F. Stages and other raised areas in classrooms and auditoria shall be accessible. Any surface change of ½ inch or less vertically is to be sloped. Any surface change greater than ½ inch vertically is to be ramped. Access – whether by ramp, lift or elevator – shall be provided for all elevated surfaces.

G. Sound systems in classrooms and auditoria shall meet the FBC. In any auditoria or classroom with amplified sound, assistive listening device equipment shall be provided. Refer to Section 275126.

H. Public-use telephones shall be installed to meet the FBC.

1.3 FURNISHINGS

A. FIXED SEATING IN AUDITORIA, CLASSROOMS AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES

1. General

- (a) Fixed seating plans in classrooms, auditoria, recreation complexes and all sport

stadiums shall accommodate persons with disabilities into all new construction and renovation projects as outlined in the FBC.

- (b) Design details are to be provided as early as possible in the design phase for all fixed seating venues (auditoria, classrooms, recreation complexes, stadiums, etc.). Seating design will depend on the type of facility, as there is no University "pre-approved" design.
- 2. Type: The preference is to have wheelchair accessible convertible seats installed in all facilities. These seats can be folded back and out of the way for a wheelchair user and left in place for companions or disabled without wheelchairs. If convertible seats are not used, then seating shall be set in such a way to allow for different types of seating patterns (1+1, 1+2, 2+1). This will allow disabled users and guests to sit together. Do not limit design to 1+1 only. With the use of convertible chairs this should not be an issue as each chair can be used for wheelchair users and non-wheelchair users.
- 3. Placement of Wheelchair Locations: The placement of wheelchair locations within areas of fixed seating shall comply with the FBC. In general, wheelchair areas shall be in a variety of locations, dispersed and integrated throughout the facility to afford people with physical disabilities access to all seating areas. Optimum sight lines shall be provided, with unobstructed views for wheelchair users and companions.
- 4. Access to Wheelchair Locations: For access to wheelchair areas, the clear floor approach shall be a minimum of 36 inches wide behind the designated wheelchair seating area. The preference is to have a 5-foot wide access aisle behind all disabled seating areas. This will allow traffic in both directions, as people go to the concession areas and restrooms.
- 5. Delineation of Wheelchair Locations: If there are no walls or other fixed barriers to define the space for wheelchair seating, then there must be a painted outline on the floor at the area in question. Both the seating box and path of travel box are to be outlined. On the perimeter of the access aisle the words "No Standing" shall be marked to keep traffic from encroaching on the people within the seating areas.
- B. Moveable tables and desks shall comply with the FBC.
- C. Laboratories shall have counter space, desk areas, and work surfaces that are compliant. In each lab a minimum of one of each amenity in the lab shall be installed to meet the FBC. At least one sink, fume hood, electrical outlet, hose connection (gas and liquid), eye wash station, emergency shower, and any other amenity in the lab. Refer to Section 115300 for more specific requirements regarding the accessibility of laboratory equipment.
- D. Work stations in computer laboratories shall accommodate persons with mobility disabilities. A minimum of one station in each lab shall meet the knee and toe clearances and work surface requirements of the FBC.
- E. All reception desks (counters), whether fixed or modular, shall accommodate both patrons and employees with disabilities. A section of each reception desk shall have an area that is at no higher than 34" high and 36" wide. Each reception desk shall have access for employees with appropriate toe and knee clearance. A minimum of a 5' turning radius within the work space with a path of travel to the work area no less than 36".

1.4 **CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION**

- A. All new construction and renovation projects shall account for egress to and from areas surrounding construction projects. Construction projects impacting pedestrian paths of travel shall install alternate path(s) of travel to and from surrounding areas as needed. UF EH&S and UFPD shall review the option(s) for the alternate path(s), and – prior to changing the existing path of travel – the alternate path(s) shall be completed.
- B. Installation Ranges: When the FBC provides an installation range, use the mid-point. For example, for handrail heights (which shall range from 34"-38"), install at 36".

END OF SECTION