

KROY SIGN SYSTEMS LLC

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The U.S. Access Board published new design guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that provide access for people with disabilities in July 2004. These guidelines cover a wider range of facilities in the public and private sector including Federal facilities, which are covered by the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

These new ADA accessibility guidelines will significantly impact the following specifications:

- Character and Stroke Width**
- Letter Spacing**
- Location of Braille**
- Separation of Visual Letters from Braille**
- Sign Placement Height**

The Board's accessibility guidelines will serve as benchmarks used to enforce the ADA and the ABA standards. Revisions feature a new format, technical specifications and scoping provisions. Technical details can be referenced in the Communication Elements and Features section. The Scoping section identifies elements that need to comply and how compliance is to be achieved.

Kroy Sign Systems outlines the technical specifications, key definitions and scoping provisions that pertain to architectural signs required for existing facilities, new construction and planned alterations. Our Company's intent to provide designers, building owners and facility managers with greater clarity on this evolving topic.

It is also important to note that at the time of this writing, responsible federal agencies are using these finalized guidelines to update ADA and ABA standards. Progress varies by agencies and implementation and enforcement varies as well.

INTRODUCTION

The American with Disabilities Act (**ADA**) was initially signed into law in 1990. It was one of the broadest civil rights laws ever enacted.

ADA provides individuals with disabilities comprehensive civil rights protections in the areas of employment, state and local government services, public accommodation and telecommunications. The purpose of the Act is to prohibit discrimination on the basis of physical disabilities.

In 1991, the Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board (**ATBCB**) issued compliance standards for facility alterations and new building construction. These standards are known as the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (**ADAAG**).

The ADAAG contains specific information to achieve technical design criteria in building codes and other regulations. Uniform standards are required for alterations and new construction and must allow any person with a physical disability to independently find, enter and use a site, facility, building or element.

Changes to these guidelines and, in particular, the sign requirements, have been anticipated for over a decade. After much discussion, the U.S. Access Board published detailed changes and new guidelines in 1994. These new guidelines are comprehensive, covering a wide range of facilities in the public and private sector. Additionally, they include Federal facilities covered by the Architectural Barriers Act (**ABA**), formerly known as the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (**UFAS**).

New guidelines are not enforceable until regulatory agencies adopt and implement the revisions. The Boards guidelines will serve as the baseline for standards used to enforce the ADA and the ABA.

The Department of Justice (**DOJ**) is responsible for enforceable standards under the ADA. Federal government agencies, such as General Services Administration (**GSA**), Department of Defense (**DOD**) and the U.S. Postal Service (**USPO**), hold similar responsibilities for standards under the ABA. Both ADA and ABA will contain more comprehensive technical information than was initially available in 1990. All agencies are working cooperatively to implement the U.S. Access Board guidelines and replace the original ADA standards.

Today, all places of public accommodation, commercial facilities and state and local government facilities must adhere to design and construction standards and be readily accessible to and useable by people with physical disabilities.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

(Specific to the ADA Sign Code)

Accessible.

A site, building, facility or portion thereof that complies with these guidelines.

Accessible Means of Egress

A continuous and unobstructed way of egress travel from any point in a building or facility that provides an accessible route to an area of refuge, a horizontal exit, or a public way.

Assembly Area

A building or facility, or portion thereof, used for the purpose of entertainment, educational or civic gatherings, or similar purposes. These area include, but are not limited to:

Classrooms	Theaters
Lecture Halls	Playhouses
Courtrooms	Dinner Theaters
Auditoria	Public Meeting Rooms
Theaters	Public Hearing Rooms
Concert Halls	Legislative Chambers
Playhouses	Motion Picture Houses
Arenas	Centers for Performing Arts
Amphitheaters	Convention Centers
Stadiums	Grandstands

Assistive Listening System (ALS)

An amplification system utilizing transmitters, receivers, and coupling devices to bypass the acoustical space between a sound source and a listener by mean of induction loop, radio frequency, infrared, or direct wired equipment.

Characters

Letters, numbers, punctuation marks and typographic symbols.

Circulation Path

An exterior or interior way of passage provided for pedestrian travel, including but not limited to, walks, hallways, courtyards, elevators, platform lifts, ramps, stairways and landings.

Common Use

Interior and exterior circulation paths, rooms, spaces or elements that are not for public use and are made available for the shared use of two or more people.

Element

An architectural or mechanical component of a building, facility, space or site.

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 itself, vestibule if provided, the entry door or gate and the hardware of the entry door or gate.

Facility

All or any portion of the buildings, structures, sit improvements, elements, and pedestrian routes or vehicular ways located on a site.

Pictogram

A pictorial symbol that represents activities, facilities or concepts.

Private Building or Facility

A commercial building or facility designated, constructed or altered for the use of a public entity subject to title III of the ADA.

Public Building

A building or facility or any portion thereof, designated, constructed or altered for the use of a public entity subject to title II of the ADA.

Public Entrance

An entrance that is not a service entrance or a restricted entrance.

Public Use

Interior or exterior rooms, spaces or elements that are made available to the public. Public use may be provided at a building or facility that is privately or publicly owned.

Scoping

Identifies accessible features and elements that are required for compliance.

Site

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

Space

A definable area, such as a room, toilet room, hall, assembly area, entrance, storage room, alcove, courtyard, or lobby.

Tactile

An object that can be perceived using the sense of touch.

TTY

TYY is an abbreviation for teletypewriter also known as a text telephone. These may include TDDs (telecommunication display devices) or computers with special modems.

COMMUNICATION ELEMENTS AND FEATURES (Technical Specifications)

703 SIGNS

703.1 General

Where both visual and tactile characters are required, either one (1) sign with both visual and tactile characters, or two (2) separate signs, one with visual, and one with tactile characters, shall be provided.

703.2 Raised Characters

Raised characters shall be duplicated in Braille, raised 1/32" inch minimum above their background and have no sharp or abrasive edges.

Characters shall be sans serif and UPPERCASE.

Character height shall be 5/8" inch minimum and 2" inch maximum based on the height of the uppercase letter "I".

Character stroke thickness based on the uppercase letter "I" shall be 15% maximum based on the height of the character.

Character spacing shall be 1/8" inch minimum.

EXCEPTION: Spacing shall be 1/16" inch minimum for beveled characters (ie Engraved)

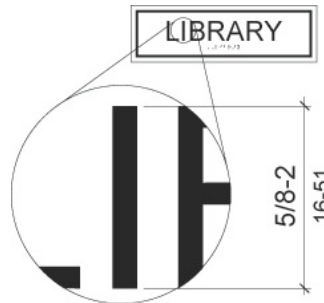


Figure 703.2
Height of Raised Characters

703.3 Braille

Braille shall be contracted Grade II and positioned below the corresponding text.

If text is multi-lined, Braille shall be placed below the entire text.

Braille dots shall have a domed or rounded shape.

The indication of uppercase letters shall only be used before the first word of sentences, with proper nouns and names and as individual letters of the alphabet.

Table 703.3.1 Braille Dimensions

Measurement Range	Minimum in Inches Maximum in Inches
Dot base diameter	0.059 (1.5 mm) to 0.063 (1.6 mm)
Distance between two dots in the same cell	0.090 (2.3 mm) to 0.100 (2.5 mm)
Distance between corresponding Dots in adjacent cells	0.241 (6.1 mm) to 0.300 (7.6 mm)
Dot height	0.025 (0.6 mm) to 0.037 (0.9 mm)
Distance between corresponding dots From one cell directly below	0.395 (10 mm) to 0.400 (10.2 mm)

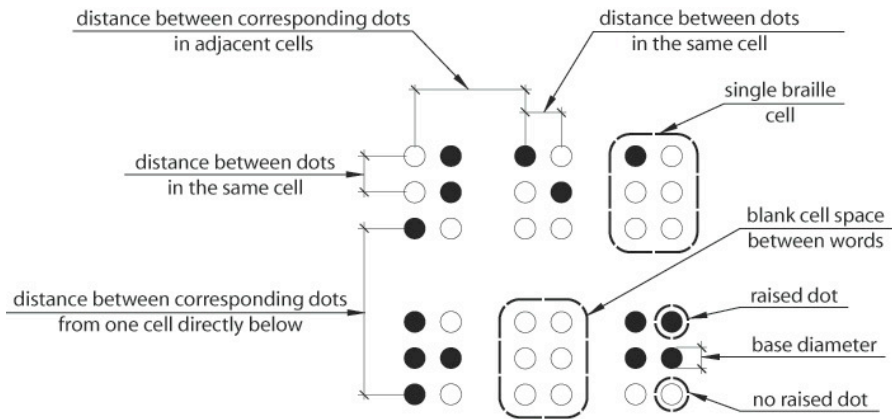


Figure 703.3.1, Braille Measurement

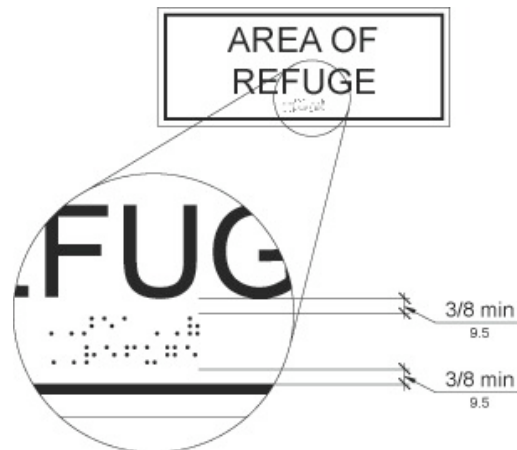


Figure 703.3.2, Position of Braille

703.4 Installation Height and Location

Tactile characters on signs shall be located 48" inches minimum above the finished floor measured to the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" inches maximum measured to the baseline of the highest tactile character.

Tactile signs provided at a door shall be installed along the latch side of a door.

Tactile signs provided at double doors shall be installed along the inactive leaf side of the door or on the right hand side of the door if both leaves are active.

If there is no wall located on the latch side of the door, signs shall be installed on the nearest adjacent wall.

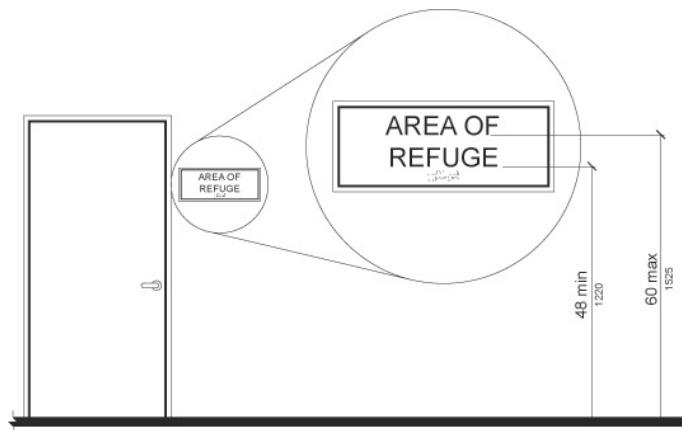


Figure 703.4.1
Height of Tactile Characters Above Finish Floor or Ground

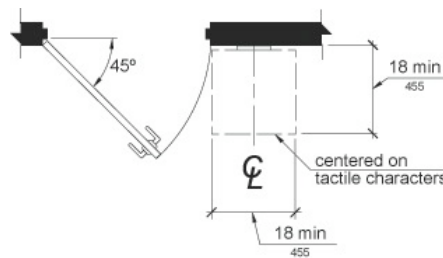


Figure 703.4.2
Location of Tactile Signs at Doors

703.5 Visual Characters

Characters and their backgrounds shall have a non-glare finish.
Characters shall contrast with their background with either light characters on dark backgrounds or dark characters on light backgrounds.
Characters shall be UPPERCASE or lowercase or a combination of both
Minimum character height shall comply with the following:

Table 703.5.5 Visual Character Height

Height to Finish Floor or Ground From Baseline of Character	Horizontal Viewing Distance	Minimum Character Height
40 inches (1015 mm) to less than or equal to 70 inches (1780 mm)	Less than 72 inches (1830 mm)	5/8 inch (16 mm)
	72 inches (1830 mm) and greater	5/8 inch (16 mm), plus 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) per foot (305 mm) of viewing distance above 72 inches (1830 mm)
Greater than 70 inches (1780 mm) to less than or equal to 120 inches (3050 mm)	Less than 180 inches (4570 mm)	2 inches (51 mm)
	180 inches (4570 mm) and greater	2 inches (51 mm), plus 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) per foot (305 mm) of viewing distance above 21 feet (6400 mm)
Greater than 120 inches (3050 mm)	Less than 21 feet (6400 mm)	3 inches (75 mm)
	21 feet (6400 mm) and greater	3 inches (75 mm), plus 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) per foot (305 mm) of viewing distance above 21 feet (6400 mm)

Visual Characters shall be 40” inches minimum above the finished floor.

Character stroke thickness of the uppercase letter “I” shall be 10% minimum and 30 % maximum based on the height of the character.

Character spacing between individual characters shall be 10% minimum and 35% maximum of character height.

Line spacing between separate baselines of characters within a message shall be 135% minimum and 170% maximum of character height.

703.6 Pictogram Field

Pictograms shall have a field height of 6” inches minimum.

Characters and Braille shall be located directly below the pictogram field.

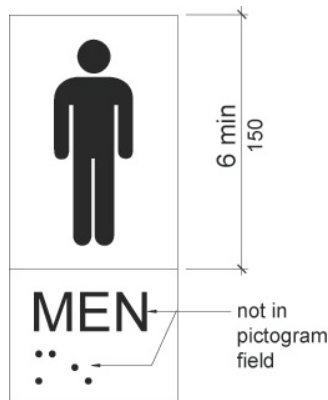


Figure 703.6.1, Pictogram Field

703.7 Symbols of Accessibility

The International Symbol of Accessibility shall be used to identify accessible facilities and elements



The International Symbol of TTY shall be used to identify text telephones



Telephones with a volume control shall be identified by a pictogram of a telephone handset with radiating sound waves on a square field



The International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss shall be used to identify permanently installed assistive listening systems



SCOPING REQUIREMENTS (Sign Accessibility Elements and Features)

216 SIGNS

216.1 General

Signs shall be provided in accordance with 216 and shall comply with 703.

EXCEPTIONS: Signs NOT required to comply with 216 include:
Building directories, Menus, Seat and Row designations in assembly areas
Occupant names, Building addresses, Company names and Logos
Parking signs
Temporary signs less than (7) days
Non-Public signs in detention and correctional facilities

216.2 Designations

Interior and exterior signs identifying permanent rooms and spaces shall comply with 703.1, 703.2 and 703.5

Where pictograms are provided as designations of permanent interior rooms and spaces, both pictograms and text descriptors shall comply with 703.2, and 703.5

EXCEPTIONS: Exterior signs that are not located at the door to the space they serve.

216.3 Directional and Informational Signs

Signs that provide direction to or information about interior spaces and facilities of the site shall comply with 703.5

216.4 Means of Egress

Signs for means of egress shall comply

Exit Doors - Doors at exit passageways, exit discharge and exit stairways shall be identified by tactile sign that comply with 703.1, 703.2 and 703.5

Areas of Refuge – Signs required by the International Building Code (IBC) sections to provide instructions shall comply with 703.5

Directional Signs - Signs required by the International Building Code (IBC) sections to provide directions shall comply with 703.5

216.5 Parking

Parking spaces complying with 502 shall be identified by signs and complying with 502.6.

Where a total of four (4) or fewer parking spaces, including accessible parking spaces, are provided on a site, identification of accessible parking spaces shall not be required.

In residential facilities, where parking spaces are assigned to specific residential dwelling units, identification of accessible parking spaces shall not be required.

216.6 Entrances

Entrances complying with 404 shall be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility (IBC) and complying with 703.7

Directional signs that indicate the location of the nearest entrance shall be located at entrances that do not comply (This to minimize backtracking along the route)

216.7 Elevators

Elevators shall be clearly identified with the International Symbol of Accessibility (IBC) complying with 703.7

216.8 Toilet and Bathing Rooms

Directional signs indicating the location of the nearest toilet or bathing room complying with 603 within the facility shall be provided.

Toilet and bathing rooms shall be identified with the International Symbol of Accessibility (IBC) complying with 703.7

216.9 TTY's

Identification and directional signs for public TTY's shall be provided.

216.10 Assistive Listening Systems

Assistive listening signs shall comply with 703.5 and include the International Symbol of access for Hearing Loss complying with 703.7