Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5896

Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO,** First District, Bohol and
MA. LOURDES T. ARROYO, Fifth District, Negros Occidental

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the World Report on Disability, an estimated 15% of the world's population are persons with disabilities (PWDs). This means that in year 2019, out of 7,725,769,779 people, there are 1.15 billion persons with disabilities. For the Philippines, that means 15% or 16.25 million Filipinos out of the population of 108,336,840[1] as of 2019 census are living with disabilities. These figures keep growing as more children with disabilities are born and more are becoming sick and older, acquiring disabilities. Persons with disabilities are indeed the world's largest minority. And the sad reality is that anyone can become a member of this sector at any time without warning.

Considering that medical advances have lengthened the life spans of Filipinos and people in general, more and more will be expected to live to a ripe old age, but with the aid of mobility devices. Yet mobility devices will not take us very far—and neither will our families—unless we had the ease of movement provided by accessible and barrier-free environments everywhere in our built environment. If we are to ensure that we retain as much as possible the same quality of life we had when we were more able, it is but imperative that we thoroughly build and create accessible environments now.

Unfortunately, several provisions and specifications in the Philippine Accessibility Law of 1983 are not and are no longer adequate to meet the needs of persons with orthopedic disabilities, the elderly, women and children in our time. Not only are there new forms of establishments not yet included in the law, but some of its specifications where heights and elevations are concerned are beyond the reach of Asian statures, short people and children, perhaps because our law is based on American standards. Introducing Universal Design by lowering certain specifications does not prevent or cause any discomfort to tall people like Caucasians from using these lowered features with ease. The position of grab bars in toilets are wrongly placed, male-oriented, and its position at the back of the water closet beyond the reach of anyone seated is ergonomically wrong, utterly useless and difficult to use for those who need grab bars on both sides for support and balance when getting up from the water closet. Furthermore, since statistics revealed by UNESCAP show that there is such a thing as the "feminization of aging", we must re-design the components of our comfort rooms with elderly women or women with disabilities in mind.

[1] Data accessed from www.worldometers.info/world-population/philippines-population.

There is a global trend and a call from three (3) international covenants, namely, the Biwako Millenium Framework in 2007, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008, and the Incheon Strategy of 2012 towards the use of Universal Design in the built environment to enhance the dignity, independence, mobility, safety, and convenience of persons with disabilities, whether apparent or non-apparent, senior citizens, women and children, thus, hastening inclusion and encouraging participation in most ordinary human endeavors, such as education, employment, voting, culture, sports, recreation, tourism, and disaster risk reduction and management. Universal Design thus contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals of (#10) reduced inequalities and (#11) sustainable cities and communities.

The application of Universal Design, which is "design for all"—if properly done according to the specifications stated herein—naturally lends itself to Accessible, Barrier-free and Inclusive Tourism, which allows persons with disabilities and older persons to travel to whatever place, attraction or event without fear of barriers and unfriendly and unsafe accommodations.

In fact, thirty percent (30%) of the population would travel more when the environment would be better accessible. To achieve the objective of accessible tourism, the whole service chain must be accessible, from information about offers, events, destinations and transport to get there. Barrier-free Tourism also gives financial incentive to the business sector to create more accessible and friendly built environments and employment opportunities allowing for inclusion of people with special needs. It is thus a strategy in the creation of more accessible environments that is useful for all and, therefore, enhances the Philippines' competitiveness in the tourism industry in the Asia-Pacific region[2].

Indeed, the correct and strict application of Universal Design in the built environment elevates not only the quality of life for everyone--young and old, locals and tourists, persons with and without mobility impairments alike--it also elevates our country to world-class standards. As the Land Transportation Guidelines for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia says:

"Universal accessibility is essential for 10%,
supportive to 40%, and
comfortable to 100% of the population."

Admittedly, existing laws, particularly Batas Pambansa Blg. 344, or the Accessibility Law, Republic Act 7277 or An Act Providing For The Rehabilitation, Self-Development And Self-Reliance Of Disabled Person And Their Integration Into The Mainstream Of Society And For Other Purposes are still insufficient in providing barrier-free environments with the appropriate architectural or structural features specific for the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the elderly.

In 2008, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), where the Philippines is a signatory, called for the implementation of universal and inclusive design in the built environment in both urban and rural areas and the promotion of Barrier-Free Tourism (BFT).

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[2] Leidner, Rudiger. The Rolling Rains Report, ETHICAL: Barrier-free Tourism

BP 344 was passed in the early 1980s. The environment today has changed significantly. There is an unquestionable need to update the existing accessibility law and policy framework to promote and uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, the elderly, and persons with special needs concerning mobility, independence, safety, and convenience. Thus, the approval of this bill is strongly recommended.

EDGAR M. CHATTO

MA. LOURDES T. ARROYO

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Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO,** First District, Bohol and **MA. LOURDES T. ARROYO,** Fifth District, Negros Occidental

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AN ACT
MANDATING UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES, STANDARDS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND POLICIES FOR THE CREATION OF BARRIER-FREE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM FACILITIES TO ENHANCE THE DIGNITY, INDEPENDENCE, MOBILITY, SAFETY, AND CONVENIENCE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, SENIOR CITIZENS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND OTHER SECTORS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FOR THEIR FULL INCLUSION, PARTICIPATION, NON-DISCRIMINATION, PROVIDING FOR FUNDING, INCENTIVES AND PENALTIES THEREOF, AND REPEALING BATAS PAMBANSA 344

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. - This Act shall be known and referred to as the "***Universal Accessibility Act of 2019***".

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the full inclusion, participation, and non-discrimination of all persons, especially persons with disabilities, in various aspects and processes of society.

It is further declared that the State shall endeavor to apply and mainstream Universal Design principles, standards, and policies to ensure and enhance the dignity, independence, mobility, safety, and convenience of persons with apparent or non-apparent disabilities, senior citizens, women, children, and other sectors, thereby creating in the process an environment conducive to accessible, barrier-free and inclusive tourism.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. -

1. ACCESSIBLE: refers to an independent approach, entry, evacuation and/or use of a building and its services and facilities, by all of the building's potential users with an assurance of individual health, safety and welfare during the course of those activities[1]. Accessibility is a precondition for

[1] Definition adopted from ISO 21542

persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully and equally in society[2].

2. AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM): refers to an electronic telecommunications device that enables customers of financial institutions to perform financial transactions, such as cash withdrawals, deposits, transfer funds, or obtaining account information, at any time and without the need for direct interaction with bank staff.

3. BARRIER-FREE: refers to a design for those with physical or other disabilities, involving the provision of alternative means of access to steps (e.g. ramps and lifts [elevators] for those with mobility problems). It is also a design or plan so that people with disabilities are not prevented from using something.

4. BARRIER-FREE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM: refers to an ongoing endeavor to ensure tourist destinations, products and services are accessible to all people, regardless of their physical limitations, disabilities or age. It enables people with access requirements, including mobility, vision, hearing and cognitive dimensions of access, to function independently and with equity and dignity through the delivery of universally designed tourism products, services and environments. This definition is inclusive of all people including those travelling with children in prams, people with disabilities and seniors. This is used interchangeably with "Accessible Tourism", "Inclusive Tourism", "Adapted Tourism", "Tourism for All", "Easy Access Tourism", and "Universal Tourism"[3].

5. BIDET WATER SPRAY: refers to a hand-held triggered nozzle that is placed near the toilet and delivers a spray of water used for anal cleansing and cleaning of the genitals after using the toilet for defecation and urination.

6. ERGONOMIC: refers to an applied science concerned with designing and arranging things people use so that people and things interact most efficiently and safely.

7. FLIP-UP BAR: a flip-up grab bar that is designed usually like a tight U-bar anchored to the wall behind the water closet and positioned opposite the L-bar next to a water closet to provide balance and safety on both sides for persons with mobility impairments. It is designed to flip up to give way to a wheelchair-user who may want to position his wheelchair right beside the toilet so he can slide from his wheelchair to the toilet and back. It is designed to drop down to a horizontal position once the transfer has been done. It should never be permanently anchored to the floor as it can become an obstruction[4].

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[2] Definition adopted from "The Inclusion Imperative Towards Disability-inclusive Development and Accessible Urban Development"

[3] Definition adopted from United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Manual on Accessible Tourism for All; and Darcy and Dickson (2009, p34): A Whole-of-Life Approach to Tourism: The Case for Accessible Tourism Experiences. Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management, 16 (1), 32-44

[4] Definition provided by Adela Kono, Accessibility Advocate

8. GRAB BARS: are safety devices, most commonly installed next to a toilet or in a shower or bath enclosure, designed to enable people with a variety of disabilities or mobility impairments to maintain balance, lessen fatigue while standing, hold some of their weight while maneuvering, or have something to grab onto in case of a slip or fall. Generally mounted to masonry walls, grab bars must bear high loads and sudden impacts. They are most commonly seen in public handicapped toilet stalls, but are also used in private homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and nursing homes. When measuring for height, it always refers to the top of the bar.

9. HANDRAILS: a long piece of metal or wood which is fixed near stairs or places where people could slip and fall, and which people can hold on to for support.

10. INCLUSION: means that all people, regardless of their abilities, disabilities, or health care needs have the right to be respected and appreciated as valuable members of their communities, participate in recreational activities in neighborhood settings, work at jobs in the community that pay a competitive wage and have careers that use their capacities to the fullest, and attend general education classes with peers from preschool through college and continuing education.[5]

11. INTER-CONNECTIVITY: involves the interfaces between buildings and from building to infrastructures, street work/public footpaths and public open spaces/parks[6].

12. INVISIBLE OR NON-APPARENT DISABILITIES: also known as hidden disability and is defined as disabilities that are not immediately apparent. Invisible disabilities can include chronic illnesses such as: renal failure, diabetes, sleep disorders if those diseases significantly impair normal activities of daily living, visual or auditory impairments of those who do not wear hearing aids or eye glasses, joint conditions or problems who suffer chronic pain but may not use any type of mobility aids, chronic pain from Fibromyalgia, the most common cause of chronic musculoskeletal pain, back problems, bone disease, physical injuries, debilitating chronic fatigue, mental illnesses such as phobias, and chronic dizziness can lead to impairment when walking, driving, working, sleeping, and other common tasks. It can be used interchangeably with non-apparent disabilities[7].

13. ISO: the popular name for International Organization for Standardization. ISO International Standards ensure that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality. For business, they are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors and increasing productivity. They help companies to access new markets, level the playing field for developing countries and facilitate free and fair global trade.[8]

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[5] Definition adopted from www.communityinclusion.org
[6] Definition adopted from the Accessibility Code of Singapore, 2017
[7] Definition adapted from www.disabled-world.com/disability/types/invisible
[8] Definition adopted from www.iso.org/about-us

14. LAVATORY: a British term referring to a building, room or cubicle containing a toilet or toilets and washbasin. It is synonymous with sink or washbasin.

15. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE: also known as a footbridge, it provides a safe mode of passage for cyclists, wheelchair-users and walkers, and often enriches the area. A successful design must be a safe mode of transit for pedestrians that does not interfere with other traffic on roads or waterways. In the Philippines, it is more commonly called a "skywalk" or "overpass"[9].

16. REST AREA: is a public facility, located next to a large thoroughfare such as a highway, expressway, or freeway, at which drivers and passengers can rest, eat, or refuel without exiting onto secondary roads. Other names include: motorway service area (UK), Services (UK), travel plaza, rest stop, service area, service station, rest and service area (RSA), resto, service plaza, lay-by, and service centers. Facilities may include park-like areas, fuel stations, public toilets, water fountains, restaurants, and dump and fill stations for recreational vehicles.

17. SEMI-AMBULATORY: a person who needs and uses the assistance of objects such as a wheelchair, crutches, walker, or other appliance or the support of another person on a regular and continuing basis to move about[10].

18. SENSORY GARDEN: an environment that is designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses. This stimulation occurs courtesy of plants and the use of materials that engage one's senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound. While anyone can enjoy a sensory garden, it is especially beneficial to the blind and visually impaired.

19. SENSORY ROOM: a new trend in aviation, a sensory room is a quiet space for individuals with autism and other sensory-processing issues that offer a calming respite for travelers with neurodevelopmental challenges and for people who get stressed when flying...[or] are nervous about flying. It is a room where people with or without disabilities can go to and relax before their flight, [get] a sense of relief and calm their nerves [through] adjustable lighting, various calming activities, private spaces, and comfortable seating for individuals and their families[11].

20. SITE LINE: a line extending from an observer's eye to a viewed object or area (such as a stage[12]).

21. TEMPORARY REFUGE: refers to a designated area that is to provide adequate facilities to protect people from fire, explosion and associated hazards during the period for which they may need to remain on a unit following an uncontrolled incident, and for enabling their evacuation, escape and rescue.[13]

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[9] Definition adopted from www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/worlds-best-pedestrian-bridges
[10] Definition adopted from http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title.pdf
[11] Definition adopted from blueskypit.com/2019/05/13/sensory-rooms-aviations-latest-trend
[12] Definition adopted from www.merriam-webster.com
[13] Definition adopted and modified from www.iadclexicon.org/temporary-refuge/

22. TOURISM ENTERPRISES: refers to facilities, services and attractions involved in tourism, such as, but not limited to: travel and tour services; tourist transport services, whether for land, sea or air transportation; tour guides; adventure sports services involving such sports as mountaineering, spelunking, scuba diving and other sports activities of significant tourism potential; convention organizers; accommodation establishments, including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts, apartelles, tourist inns, motels, pension houses and home stay operators: tourism estate management services, restaurants, shops and department stores, sports and recreational centers, spas, museums and galleries, theme parks, convention centers and zoos[14].

23. TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES: refers to airports, seaports, terminals, train stations, and bus depots.

24. UNIVERSAL DESIGN: refers to a design process that enables and empowers a diverse population by improving human performance, health and wellness, and social participation. It creates products, systems, and environments to be as usable as possible by as many people as possible regardless of age, ability or situation. It is governed by seven (7) principles[15], namely:

    a) Equitable Use
    b) Flexibility in Use
    c) Simple and Intuitive Use
    d) Perceptible Information
    e) Tolerance for Error
    f) Low Physical Effort
    g) Size and Space for Approach and Use

25. WATER CLOSET: A flush toilet.

SEC. 4. SCOPE. - As a general rule, no permit for the construction, repair or renovation of public and private buildings and related structures for public use, whether owned or leased, shall be granted or issued, unless the owner thereof shall have provided the universal barrier-free facilities and accessibility features mandated under this Act.

This Act shall apply to the following:

1. Public and private buildings and related structures for or open to public use or the general public, irrespective of type, use, and purpose, including all government buildings, whether owned or leased by the government, and public facilities such as roads, curb ramps, sidewalks, pedestrian bridges;

2. Places of accommodation and retirement homes;

[14] Definition adapted from RA 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009
[15] www.udll.com/media-room/articles/the-seven-principles-of-universal-design

3. Public housing projects, which shall be required to be readily convertible for compliance specifically for toilets, lavatories, and showers;

4. Passenger transportation & travel facilities;

5. Tourism sites and facilities;

6. Private buildings with certain portions open to the public including condominium units, which shall be required to be have its facilities be readily convertible for compliance specifically toilets, lavatories and showers;

7. Building and related structures to be repaired or renovated including those proposed for a change of occupancy;

SEC. 5. APPLICATION. - The Universal Design principles, standards, specifications and policies mandated under this Act shall apply to the construction, repair, or renovation, of the following:

1. PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY-OWNED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES FOR PUBLIC USE:

   a) Any building owned, controlled, or leased by the government such as, but not limited to:
      1) National government offices;
      2) Provincial, city, municipal, and barangay hall;
      3) Courts or halls of justice;
      4) Health centers and public hospitals;
      5) Gymnasiums; and
      6) Voting centers.

   b) Educational and training institutions and schools from nursery to post-graduate schools, colleges and universities, libraries;
   c) Business parks, commercial districts, economic zones, workplaces, and offices of professionals, including insurance offices, banks, factories;
   d) Mixed use buildings;
   e) Convention centers or halls, places of exhibition or entertainment, such as cinemas, theaters, auditoria, convention centers, lecture halls, concert halls, stadium, parks or other place of public gathering;
   f) Hardware stores;
   g) Pharmacies;
   h) Beauty and wellness establishments, such as gyms, health spas, beauty clinics and salons, massage parlors, barber shops, and the like;
   i) Travel agencies and services;
   j) Hospitals, medical centers, clinics, diagnostic centers, rehabilitation and health centers, offices of health care providers;
   k) Places of worship, such as churches, church offices, chapels, temples, social halls, funeral homes, memorial parks and cemeteries;
   l) Tourist attractions, nature attractions, structures and related facilities, such as: viewing towers and decks, ferris wheels, cable cars, gardens, swimming pools, amusement parks, zoos, aquaria, casinos, adventure parks and facilities, historic buildings, museums, galleries, videoke and karaoke bars, malls, strip malls and shopping centers, grocery stores,

"pasalubong" outlets, restaurants, clubhouses, sports and recreation centers;
m) Gas stations, rest areas;
n) Transport terminals: airports, seaports, terminals, train stations;
o) Any other establishment that house new and current forms of businesses, services and entertainment; and
p) Automated teller machines, dispensing machines.

2. PLACES OF ACCOMMODATION

In addition to providing universal and disabled-friendly toilets, lavatories or wash basins, and a reachable place for bathing articles, the following places of accommodation to be constructed, repaired or renovated shall further be equipped with accessible roll-in showers with grab bars correctly configured in Universal Design. A waterproof chair with back rest must also be provided for the person with a disability to transfer to from his wheelchair.

a) resorts, hotels, motels, apartelles, inns, pension houses, retirement homes;
b) hospitals, clinics, orphanages, homes for the aged, nursing homes, sanitaria;
c) retreat houses;
d) student dormitories;
e) jails, prison, reformatories, correctional institutions;
f) evacuation centers and shelters; and
g) funeral homes.

3. PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS

Public housing projects, which are funded and/or constructed by the government, which includes but are not limited to the following, shall be required to be readily convertible for compliance specifically for toilets, lavatories, and showers;

a) apartment homes;
b) condominium units;
c) townhouses;
d) tenement housing; and
e) socialized housing units.

4. PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL FACILITIES

The criteria and accessibility requirements provided for public and private buildings and related structures for public use shall apply to public transport terminals, depots, stations, ports and airports for the following:

a) Electric shuttle cars (for malls, parks, gardens, zoos and big sprawling areas);
b) Modified tricycles, if feasible;
c) Modernized jeepneys;
d) Wheelchair-accessible buses;

e) Passenger Trains;
f) Domestic inter-island ships and vessels; and
g) Aircraft of domestic air carriers;

SEC. 6. EXEMPTIONS. - For reasons of safety, risk and health, the provisions of this Law shall not apply to the following, provided it is certified by the Building Official or the Structural Engineer of the Office of the Building Official:

1. Construction sites and related structures;

2. Repair or renovation work which consists only of heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, including those which may be required only with respect to fire panic and explosion safety for existing spaces;

3. Areas used for purposes of life safety, fire safety, including but not limited to observation of lookout galleries, prison guard towers, fire towers or lifeguard stands, and loading docks[16];

4. Equipment rooms and machinery spaces in plant and factories;

5. When the capacity or strength of any major structural component, such as slabs, beams, girders, columns, bearing walls and footing of the building or structure will be diminished during a renovation;

6. Where the requirements for accessibility in the Rules will create an unreasonable hardship in design or construction; and

7. When there is a legal constraint which would not allow compliance with these regulations.

SEC. 7. CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES[17]. - The categories of disability dictate the varied measures to be adopted to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities, who may be classified into those who have:

1. Impairments requiring confinement to wheelchairs; or

2. Impairments causing difficulty or insecurity in walking or climbing stairs or requiring the use of braces, crutches or other artificial supports; or impairments caused by amputation, arthritis, spastic conditions or pulmonary, cardiac or other ills rendering individuals semi-ambulatory; or

3. Total or partial impairments of hearing or sight causing insecurity or likelihood of exposure to danger in public places; or

4. Impairments due to conditions of aging and incoordination; and may not be immediately apparent; and

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[16] Adopted from Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment issued by the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore. 2013.
[17] Adopted from Rule II: Minimum Requirements for Accessibility in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of BP 344

5. Mental impairments whether acquired or congenital in nature.

SEC. 8. ANTHROPOMETRICS AND DIMENSIONAL DATA AS GUIDES FOR DESIGN[18]. - The minimum and maximum dimensions for spaces in the built environment should consider the following criteria:

1. The varying sizes and statures of persons of both sexes, their reaches and their lines of sight at both the standing and sitting positions;

2. The dimensional data of the technical aids of persons with disabilities. Included in the second consideration are the dimensions of wheelchairs; the minimum spaces needed for locking and unlocking leg braces plus the range of the distance of crutches and other walking aids from persons using such devices. By applying at this very early stage dimensional criteria which take into account wheelchair usage, the physical environment will ultimately encourage and enable wheelchair users to make full use of their physical surroundings;

3. The provision of adequate space for wheelchair maneuvering generally insures adequate space for persons with disabilities equipped with other technical aids or accompanied by assistants;

4. In determining the minimum dimensions for furniture and fixtures accessible to persons with disabilities, the following anthropometrics data shall serve as guides for design:

   a) The length of wheelchairs varies from 1100 mm to 1300 mm;
   b) The width of wheelchairs is from 600 mm to 750 mm;

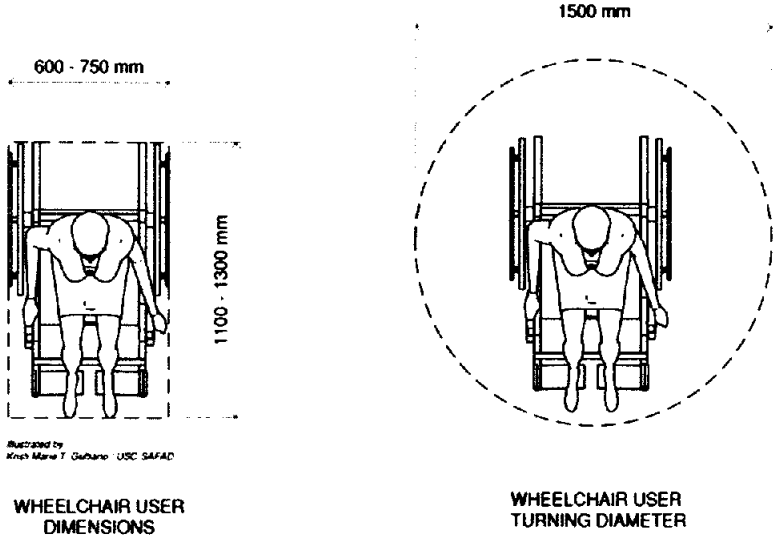


Figure 1. Illustration of wheelchair dimensions & turning diameter

   c) A circle of 1500 mm in diameter is a suitable guide in the planning of wheelchair turning spaces;

[18] Adopted from Rule II: Minimum Requirements for Accessibility in the IRR of BP344 with modifications

d) The comfortable reach of persons confined to wheelchairs is from 700 mm to 1200 mm above the floor and not less than 400 mm from room corners;

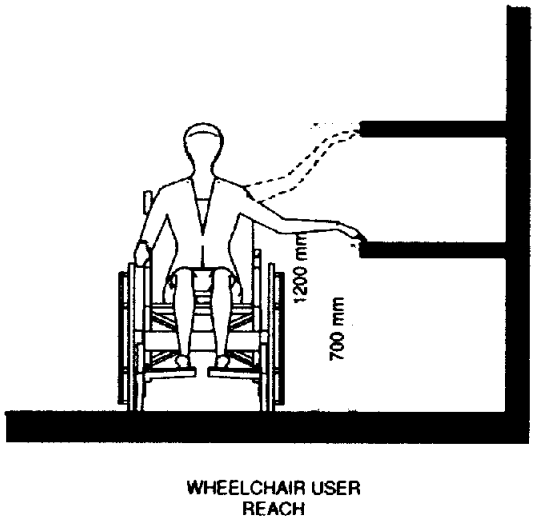


Figure 2. Illustration of the maximum area that can be reached by a person in a wheelchair.

e) The comfortable clearance for knee and leg space under tables for wheelchair users is 700 mm.

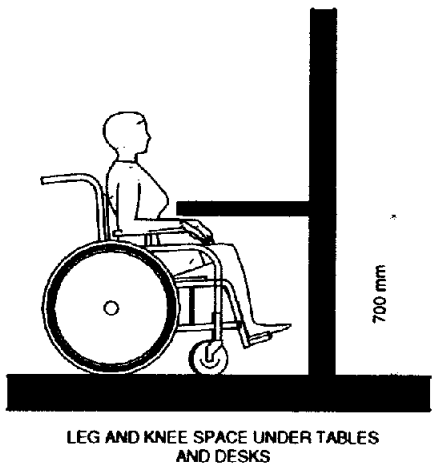


Figure 3. Illustration of clearance for knee and leg space under tables for wheelchair users

f) Wherever applicable and where space allows, counter heights shall be split-level and cater to both standing and seated users to be within reach of persons with disabilities.

SEC. 9. BASIC PHYSICAL PLANNING REQUIREMENTS[19]. - No group of people shall be deprived of full participation and enjoyment of the environment or be made unequal with the rest due to any disability. To achieve this goal adopted by the United Nations, certain Universal Design principles shall be applied:

[19] Adopted from Item 1.3 of the IRR of BP 344 with some modifications

1. ACCESSIBILITY: The built environment shall be designed so that it shall be accessible to all people. This means that no criteria shall impede the use of facilities by either person with or without a disability.

2. REACHABILITY: Provisions shall be adapted and introduced to the physical environment so that as many infrastructure, places, buildings, facilities, amenities, controls, switches and outlets as possible can be reached by all.

3. USABILITY: The built environment shall be designed so that all persons with or without disabilities, apparent or non-apparent, may use and enjoy it.

4. ORIENTATION: Finding a person's way inside and outside of a building or open space shall be made easy for everyone.

5. SAFETY: Designing for safety insures that people shall be able to move about and use facilities as independently as possible or with less need for assistance and with less hazards to life and health.

6. WORK ABILITY AND EFFICIENCY: The built environment shall be designed to allow persons with disabilities to participate and contribute to developmental goals.

CHAPTER 1
UNIVERSAL DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR BUILDINGS

In addition to the provisions mandated under Republic Act 6541 or An Act to Ordain and Institute a National Building Code of The Philippines, the following universal design specifications shall be mandatory for all establishments covered under Section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 10. ACCESSIBILITY SIGNAGE. - It is hereby declared, as a policy, that signages shall be used at all times to provide proper guidance to all persons with disability, promote the presence of barrier-free environments, ensure the PWD's access and use of designated facilities, and reduce stigma and discrimination connected to disability.

1. For easy wayfinding, the graphic symbol of accessibility featuring a person in a wheelchair shall be bold and conspicuously installed in every access from point of entry to connecting destination.

Figure 4. International Symbol of Access (ISA) or (International) Wheelchair Symbol

2. The new "Accessible Icon" may be used in place of the "static" International Symbol of Access. The Accessible Icon depicts a "dynamic character leaning forward and with a sense of movement." The forward position of the head, arms pointing backward, and appearance of a wheelchair in motion "broadcast" an important message that the emphasis should be on the person rather than the disability."[20]

Figure 5. The new Accessible Icon

3. The use of the term "handicapped" on accessible signage shall now be strictly prohibited as the term is used in relation to handicapping, not enabling, environments.

4. There shall be signages in jeepneys, buses, public utility vehicles, trains, ships, and other common carrier indicating the designated seats or areas for persons with disability, elderly, pregnant women, persons with infants or small children, or other persons with special needs.

Figure 6. Signage for priority seats for persons with special needs

5. Designated parking spaces for persons with disability shall made easily identifiable by making the accessible icon visible at all times. In this regard, the icon for PWD parking shall have the following specifications:

   a) The accessible icon shall be installed or drawn on the floor of each parking slot for PWD;
   b) If the PWD parking slot is within a building, in addition to the immediately preceding paragraph, the accessible icon shall also be drawn or installed on the wall nearest the PWD parking slot (See Figure 6). The accessible icon shall be 1000 mm x 1000 mm in size and painted on the walls of each slot with its center at eye level or at 1500 mm;

[20] Source: www.adatitleiii.com/2015/04/new-york-law-creates-quandary-for-businesses-with-new-accessible-icon

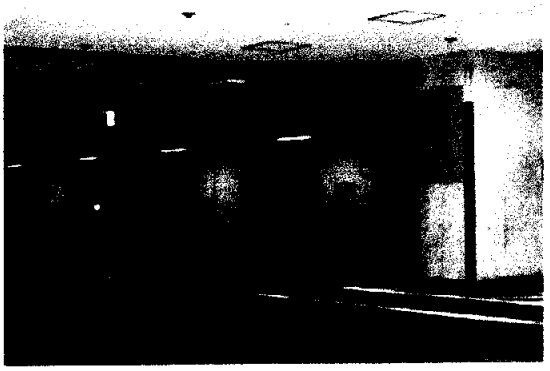


Figure 7. Actual photo of a parking slot with the accessible icon drawn on the wall

c) A blue light shall also be installed on each PWD parking slot nearest the entrance or elevator bay;
d) If the PWD parking slot is in an open parking space, the accessible icon shall be 600 mm x 600 mm in size and mounted on a pole at a minimum clear height of 2000 mm from the parking floor;
e) If it is an open parking space, the accessible icon or signage shall also be mounted conspicuously on a high light post as a cube visible from various directions and under a light for night visibility;

Figure 8. Actual photo of a parking slot with the accessible icon mounted on a light post in cube form just under the light

6. PWD parking slots for vans shall be properly indicated with a van parking signage.

Figure 9. Actual photo of van parking signage

7. All ramps for wheelchair access shall have the following signage:

Figure 10. Signage for wheelchair ramps

8. In places with long corridors such as malls, the directional and sectoral signages shall be bigger and the colors in clear contrast with its immediate environment for easy identification.

9. Elevators shall always include signage showing priority for PWD, elderly, pregnant women, persons with infants or small children, and other persons with special needs.

10. Comfort rooms originally designated for PWDs shall now include signage indicating that the said rooms may also be used by the elderly, pregnant women, persons with infants and small children, and members of the LGBTQ sector (lesbians, gay, bisexuals, transgender, and queer). The said comfort rooms shall also comply with the specified universal design standards under this Act. The said comfort rooms shall use similar signage:

Figure 11. Signage bearing the icons of the wheelchair-user, the elderly, pregnant women and children, and LGBTQ.

11. PWD signage shall also be installed or applied in viewing decks in aquaria, zoos, arenas, and other entertainment areas to clearly designate the spaces allowed for persons in wheelchairs and to ensure that their view is not blocked by others.

Figure 12. Actual photos of a signage for a designated PWD space in a viewing deck

12. In no instance shall an accessibility signage be used in areas where there are no actual accessible features to be found.

SEC. 11. RECEPTION COUNTERS. -

1. Reception areas and counters in malls, banks, public accommodation sites, such as hotels and pension houses, hospitals, airline, ship and land transport ticketing offices, shall provide low and recessed or split-level counters that would accommodate both standing persons and those seated on wheelchairs or persons of short stature, including children, where the lower counter is hereby recommended to have a height not exceeding 750 mm from the floor to the counter top and a clearance under the counter at 650 mm from the floor.

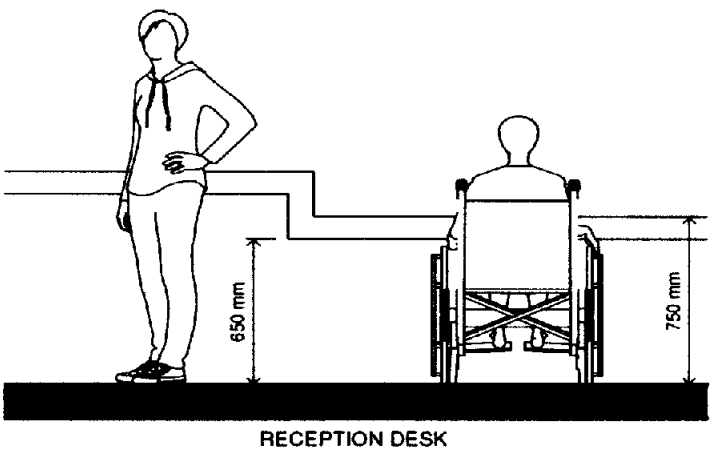


Figure 13. Illustration of a split-level recessed counter[21]

[21] Adopted from Japan Barrier-Free Development Guidelines

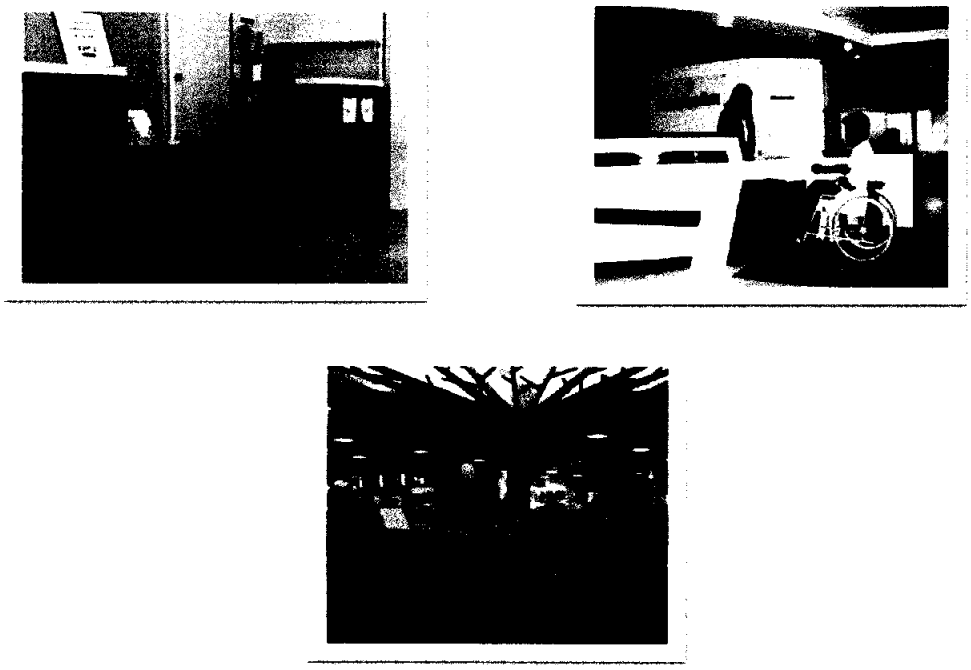


Figure 14. Actual photos of split level counters.

SEC. 12. CORRIDORS[22]. -

1. Corridors shall have minimum clear width of 1200 mm to allow for both a wheelchair user and a non-disabled person to pass. Where space is required for two (2) wheelchairs to pass, the minimum width shall be 1800 mm.

2. Turnabout spaces should be provided for wheelchairs to turn around; these spaces shall have a minimum dimension of 1500 mm x 1500 mm and shall be spaced at a maximum of 12000 mm.

3. Turnabout spaces should also be provided at or within 3500 mm of every dead-end corridor.

4. Corridors should be maintained level and provided with a slip resistant surface.

5. Walkways and corridors shall follow a route that does not require the use of stairs.

6. If the route of travel must be interrupted by stairs, an alternative route on level ground or a ramp shall be added. (Refer to Ramps.)

7. The route of travel shall be free of landscaping, furnishings, features or protruding objects that could possibly narrow the route of travel.

8. At driveways, entrances to parking, at drop-offs, a curb ramp shall be installed.

[22] Adopted from ISO

9. All objects protruding into the circulation paths shall be detectable by a person with a visual disability using a cane.

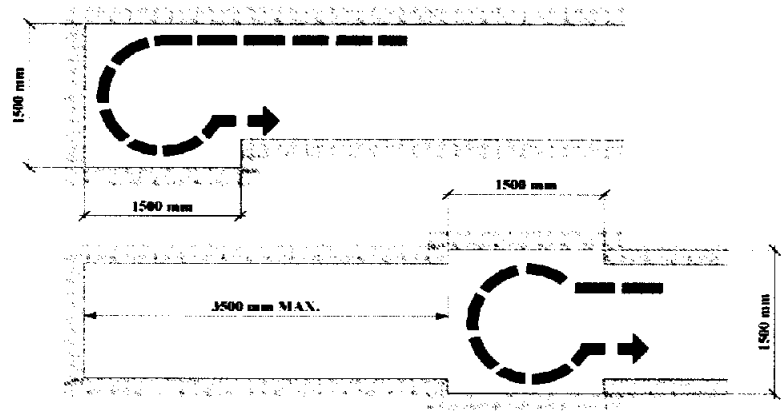


Figure 15. Illustration of the standards for turnabout spaces at corridors.

SEC. 13. STAIRS & ESCALATORS[23]. -

1. Staircases.
   Shall be designed according to the following principles and constructed in such a way that they are relatively easy and safe to use by the elderly, those using crutches, and the visually impaired.
   a) Stairs shall not be steep.
   b) All steps shall be uniform.
   c) Tread surfaces shall be of slip-resistant material.
   d) Open risers are not recommended.
   e) Differences in level shall be illuminated or minimized as much as possible.
   f) Circular stairs and stepped landings shall be avoided.
   g) A complementary ramped route, elevator or lift shall be provided where there are steps in an otherwise accessible path.
   h) If feasible, especially in important tourist sites, attractions, historical places, places of assembly, terminals and stations, a stair-lift shall be provided.

Figure 16: Actual photos of wheelchair user on a stair-lift in a museum and station

[23] Standards adopted from www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/designm/AD2-04.htm & BP344

i) When constructing accessibility for a home, ensure that the width of the stairway allows ample space for the installation of a folding and unfolding chair lift.

Figure 17: Actual photo of a chairlift for elderly, cane- and crutch-users

2. Stair Width
   The width of a stair shall comply with the following standards:
   a) The minimum width of a stairway shall be 900 mm for one-way traffic and 1500 mm for two-way traffic.
   b) For indoor stairs, the riser shall be between 120 mm and 180 mm, and the tread between 280 mm and 350 mm.
   c) For outdoor stairs, the maximum riser shall be 150 mm and the minimum tread shall be 300 mm.

3. Landings
   a) An intermediate landing shall be provided when the stairs cover a difference in level of more than 2500 mm.
   b) The length of the landing shall be at least 1200 mm extending along the full width of the stairs.

4. Nosings
   a) Sharp edges and overhanging nosing shall not be used for treads.
   b) Slanted nosings are preferred to protruding nosings so as not to impose difficulty for people using crutches or braces whose feet have a tendency to get caught in the recessed space of protruding nosings. For the same reason, open risers shall be avoided.
   c) Nosings shall be provided with slip-resistant strips to further minimize slipping.
   d) Nosing shall be flush or rounded and shall not project more than 40 mm.

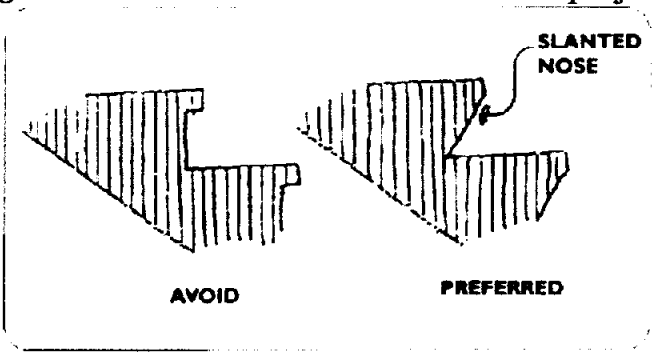


Figure 18. Illustration of the standards for the nosing of a stair[24].

[24] Adopted from www.oldagesolutions.org/design-environment/barrier-free-environment

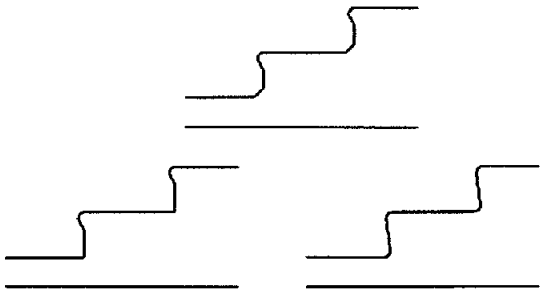


Figure 19. Illustration of the recommended nosing types for stairs

5. Handrails for Stairs
   a) Handrails shall be installed on both sides of the stairs and around the landing for gripping.
   b) For stairs more than 3000 mm wide, one or more intermediate handrails shall be provided.
   c) The distance between the handrails when both sides are used for gripping shall be between 900 mm and 1400 mm
   d) Handrails shall be rounded and easy-to-grasp.
   e) Handrails shall run all throughout the length of the staircase and extend a distance between 300 mm and 450 mm at the top and bottom of the stairs.

6. Tactile Marking
   a) A textural marking strip shall be placed at the top and bottom of the stairs and at intermediate landings to alert sightless people as to the location of the stairs.
   b) The tactile marking strip shall be at least 600 mm wide and shall extend over the full width of the stairs.
   c) To guide users with poor vision, the color of the strip shall contrast with the surrounding surface.

7. Surfaces
   a) Landings, treads and nosing shall be slip-resistant and free of projections.
   b) Exterior stairs shall be pitched forward at 10 mm per meter to drain surface water.
   c) Slip-resistant stair nosing shall be used to fix carpets on stairs.

8. Escalators
   a) As an option for places with heavy foot traffic and where there is no space for an elevator, the establishment shall provide an escalator which can be provided with an adaptable tread at least 1200 mm long for wheelchair users.
   b) The edges of the escalator steps shall be painted in a contrasting color for the benefit of poor-sighted users.

Figure 20. Actual photo of an escalator adapted wheelchair

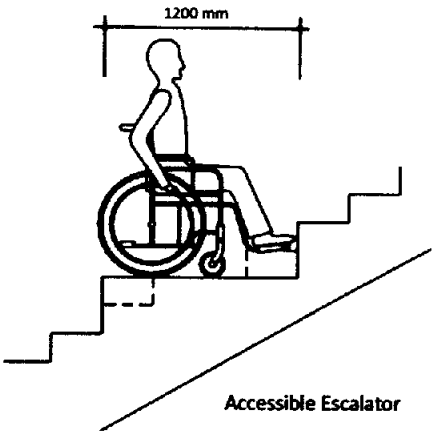


Figure 21. Illustration of a wheelchair user on an adapted escalator[25]

9. Emergency Stairs
   a) Emergency stairs shall be identified by tactile markings.

10. Existing Constructions
    a) When the configuration of the nosing cannot be modified, slip-resistant strip shall be applied to the nosing as an alternative solution.
    b) Slip-resistant strips shall be 40 mm wide and shall not extend more than 1 mm above the tread surface.
    c) To guide people with sight problems, the color of the strips shall contrast with that of the stairs.

SEC. 14. ELEVATORS.

1. Elevators provide the best method of vertical travel for most people, but especially so for persons with disabilities, elderly, pregnant women and those with baby strollers.

[25] Adopted from Japan Accessible Tourism Center website: www.japan-accessible.com/transport/train/escalator

2. Elevators shall be provided where ramps are not feasible. An elevator is accessible upon compliance with the following standards:

   a) To be accessible for a wheelchair user and an accompanying person, an elevator shall have a minimum inner car dimension size of 1100 mm x 1400 mm and a minimum door width of 900 mm.

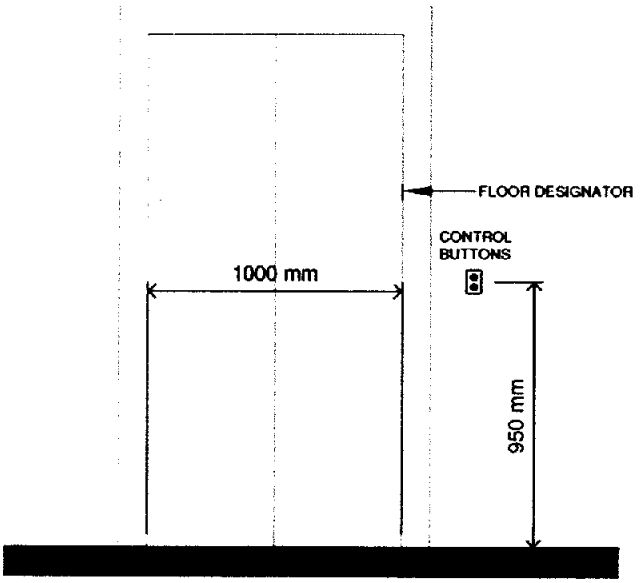


Figure 22. Illustration of the universal design specification for an accessible elevator

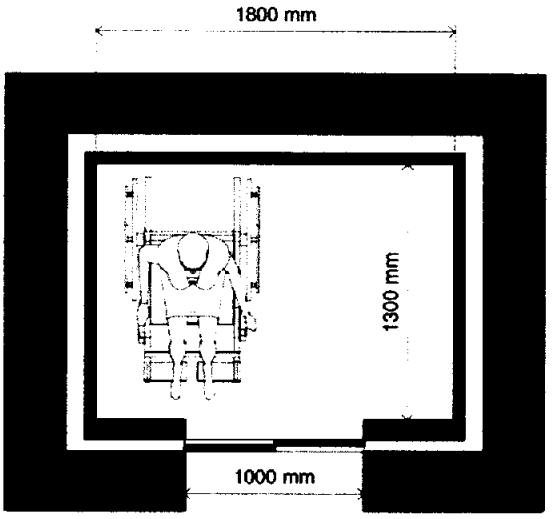


Figure 23. Illustration of minimum dimensions of an accessible elevator, particularly in heavy usage areas.

   b) For elevators in airports, ports and terminals, the minimum size of an elevator shall be determined by considering the wheelchair-user, the companion, and the ground staff giving assistance, as well as one set of luggage trolley.

c) Elevators shall not be placed below or above steps.
d) Elevators designated for persons with mobility impairments must open at every floor.
e) At least one (1) elevator shall be designated for universal use and must have time settings that give ample time for persons with disabilities, elderly and baby strollers to slowly enter or exit the elevator without being clipped by the closing door.
f) The highest buttons in an elevator control panel shall be reachable by short and seated users at a range of 900 – 1000 mm.
g) Elevators designated for persons with mobility impairments shall have horizontal control panels to be installed above the left or right grab bars.

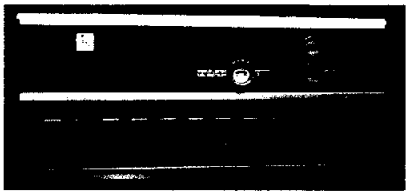


Figure 24. Actual photo of an elevator with horizontal control panels.

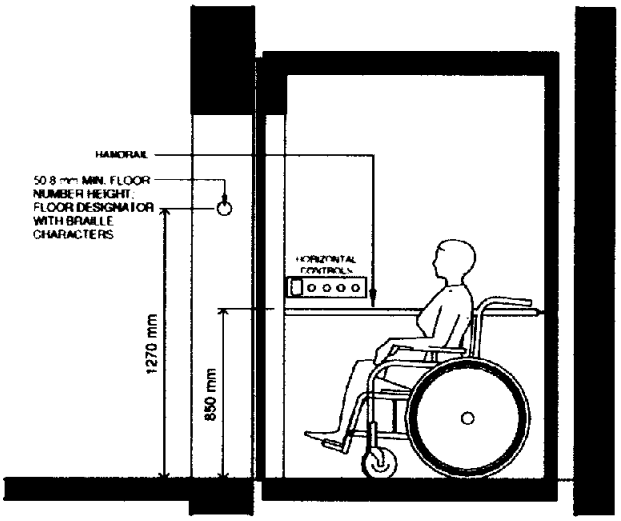


Figure 25. Illustrations of accessible elevator

h) In elevators where there is no intention to provide an elevator operator, there must be installed buttons embossed or in Braille with contrasting illumination on the control panel for maximum visibility and a corresponding voice annunciator for the visually impaired.
i) Floor designators shall be placed on both jambs of all elevator doors on all floors. Typically a white number on a dark background, the floor designators always have raised numbers and Braille characters for tactile reading. The numbers shall be a minimum of 50.8 mm tall. Floor designators are mounted 1270 mm above the finished floor[26].
j) Tactile tiles with raised dots 900 mm long shall be positioned at 300 mm from the wall with one end in front of the elevator call button and the other end just slightly in front of the side of the elevator door as a guide

[26] Adopted from https://www.archtoolbox.com/materials-systems/vertical-circulation/elevcontrols.

for a Blind or visually impaired person to stand on the dots while waiting where he will not be bumped into by the people exiting the elevator.

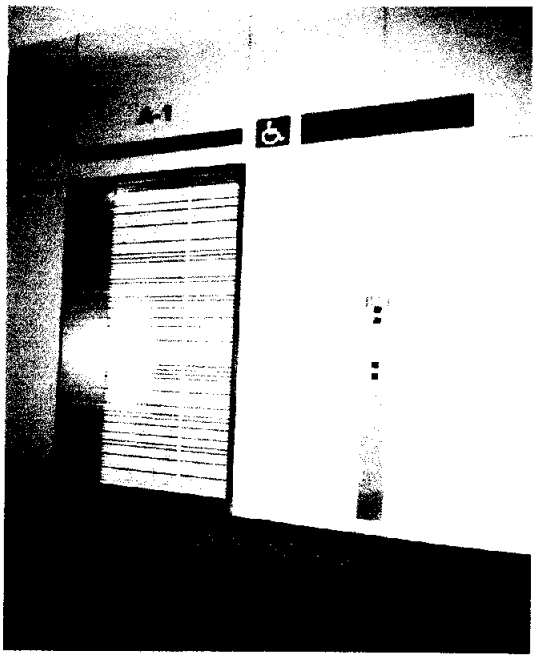


Figure 26. Actual photo of an elevator with tactile tiles.

3. Elevator Handrails[27] shall have the following specifications or standards:

   a) Elevators shall have the top of the handrails at a height of 850 mm from the floor.
   b) They shall not obstruct buttons on the control panel.
   c) The projecting ends of the handrails shall be closed and turned towards the wall to minimize the risk of injury.

4. An establishment shall consider installing "Touchless Call"[28] elevators that can not only be fully voice-controlled but also automatically detects people sitting in wheelchairs. It allows users of wheelchairs or the visually impaired to use elevators without having to push buttons. Sensors detect a wheelchair user approaching the elevator, and all that he or she needs to do is to wait for the elevator to arrive, enter it and speak out to which floor they want to go.

SEC. 15. OPEN PLATFORM LIFTS[29]. -

1. Where there are short differences in floor elevation, open platform lifts that provide internal or external vertical travel up to 3000 mm shall be installed.

2. The minimum dimension of the platform shall be 1100 mm x 1400 mm for the use of manual and powered wheelchairs with assistance.

[2727] Ibid
[28] Adopted from Mitsubishi Electric/https://techcrunch.com
[29] Adopted from ISO-FDIS 21542(E)

3. If driving, guiding or lifting mechanisms present hazards at the sides of a platform, the mechanisms shall be guarded to protect the users. The guarding shall be smooth, hard and continuous.

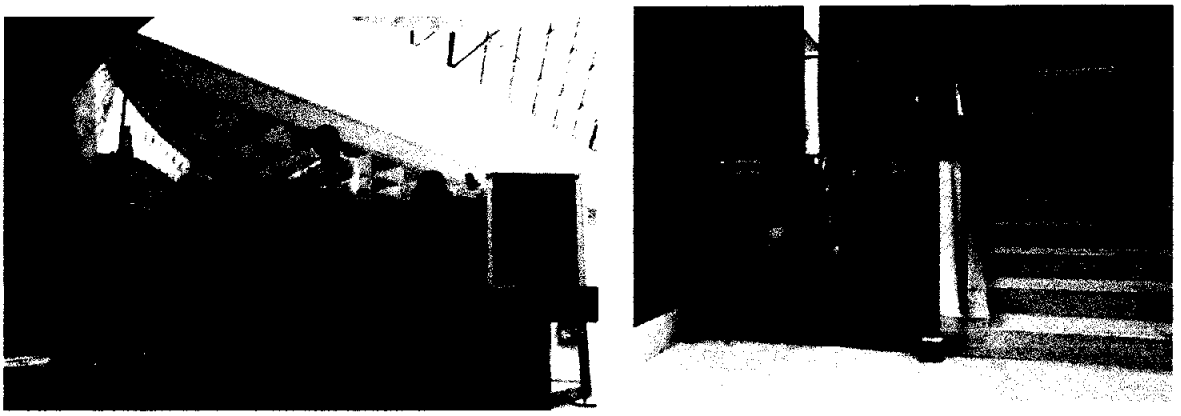


Figure 27. Actual photos of an open platform lift

SEC. 16. INCLINED MOVING WALKWAYS[30]. -

1. Wherever feasible or as an alternative, an establishment shall provide an inclined moving walkway for the benefit of slow walkers, such as those using canes, crutches and walkers.

2. For reasons of safety, especially in the event of a fire emergency and the operation of moving walks are shut down, inclined moving walks should comply with the requirements for ramps in buildings.

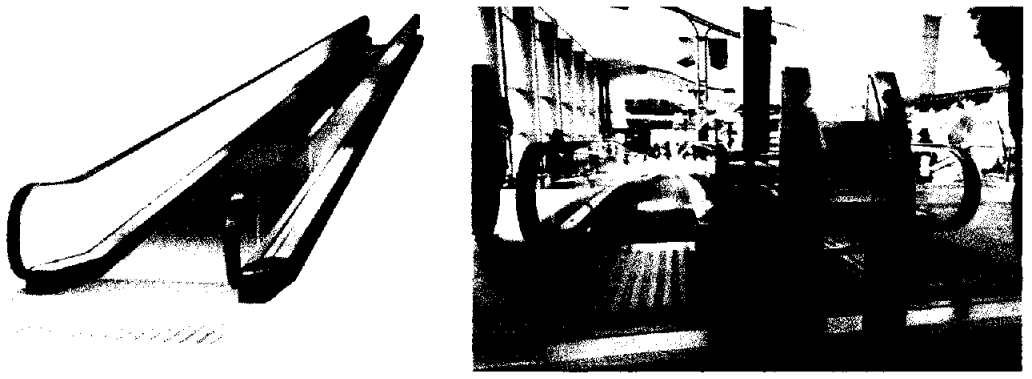


Figure 8. Illustration & actual photo of an inclined moving walkway.

SEC. 17. DOORS, THRESHOLDS & PEEPHOLES. -

1. All interior doors and emergency exits shall have a minimum clear width of 900 mm to accommodate big and motorized wheelchairs. This specification provides adequate space for the PWD to rest his/her hands on the wheel rings, create elbow-room while propelling the wheelchair, and for the operating mechanism of electric wheelchairs.

[30] Ibid

2. Doors and entrances used as entry points at entrance lobbies as local points of congregation shall be designed to open easily or be made accessible from floor or to any point of destination.

3. Thresholds at doors must be beveled or ramped at a slope of 1:15.

4. For hotels, the doors for rooms for persons with disabilities shall have two (2) peepholes, the lower one of which shall be installed at 1000 mm from the floor.

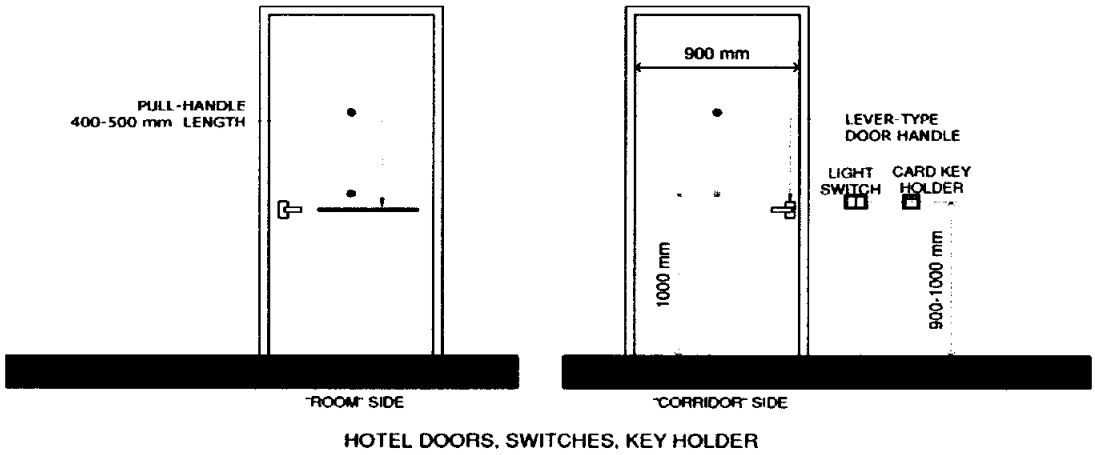


Figure 29. Illustration of the universal standards for hotel doors for rooms for PWDs

5. Hotel room doors in rooms designated for persons with disabilities shall have no door-closers for easy and unobstructed access for the mobility impaired with their mobility aids;

6. Emergency door exits shall easily open outward.

7. For doors in universal comfort rooms, the following standards shall be complied with:

   a) visibly bear the signage of the universal icons of persons with disabilities, elderly, pregnant women, children and LGBTQ (or the word "unisex").
   b) Have a clear width of 900 mm;
   c) Open outward, if not automatically driven sideways, so the wheelchair does not obstruct the door from closing.
   d) Have a cabinet pull-handle bar 400-500 mm long installed horizontally at the level of the door lever handle or at 900 mm above the floor to enable a wheelchair-user to pull the door shut.
   e) The comfort room door shall have a lever-type door handle for persons with no hand or grip function.

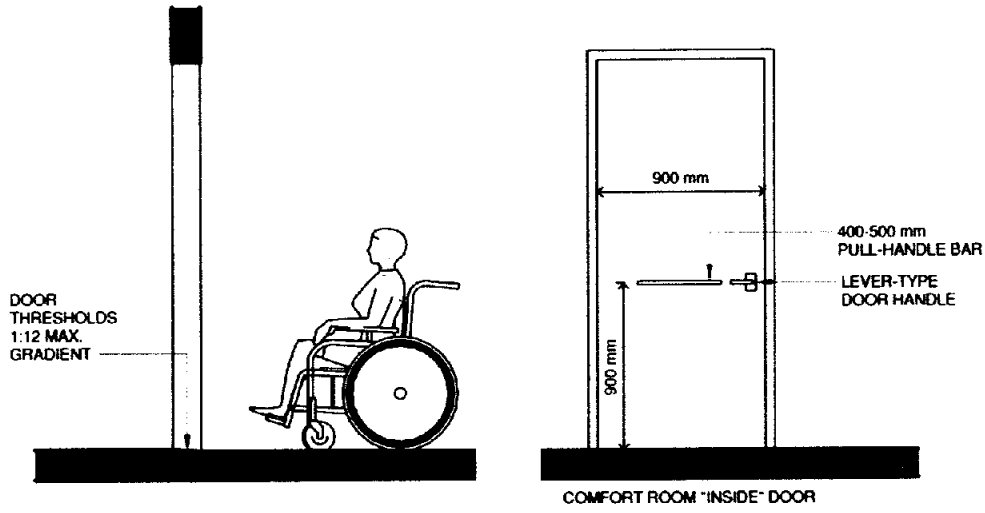


Figure 30. Illustration of the design specifications for doors of a designated comfort room for PWDs

SEC. 18. SAFETY, EMERGENCY & RESCUE. -

1. Hotel rooms designated for persons with disabilities shall be within the first 4 floors of a building to facilitate easier and swifter rescue in case of emergency.
2. Emergency signage shall be placed visibly above the doors on all exits from interior spaces, such as hotel corridors, conference rooms, function rooms, meeting rooms and offices.
3. The accessibility icon shall face the appropriate direction that leads to the exit. Emergency signage shall bear the accessibility icon only if there are no stairs leading to the said exit.

Figure 31. Emergency exit signage bearing the accessibility icon.

4. Emergency stairs shall be identified by tactile markings.
5. Visible and audible alarms shall be installed in hotel rooms designated for persons with disabilities and in function rooms. For the Deaf, there shall be installed a visible alarm, such as a fire alarm device labeled "FIRE".

Figure 32. Actual photo of a fire alarm device overhead a hotel bed

6. If a temporary refuge area such as open spaces on the foyer of a building, hotel or ship is provided for, the architect and the establishment shall ensure that persons with mobility impairments shall have easy access to this place, which shall bear visible and tactile signage.

Figure 33. Actual photo of a signage for temporary refuge.

CHAPTER 2
ROOMS AND FACILITIES

SEC. 19. BANQUET HALLS AND FUNCTION ROOMS. -

1. There shall be a slip resistant ramp access to the stage with a gradient of 1:15.

2. The height of the buffet table shall not exceed 800 mm from the floor.

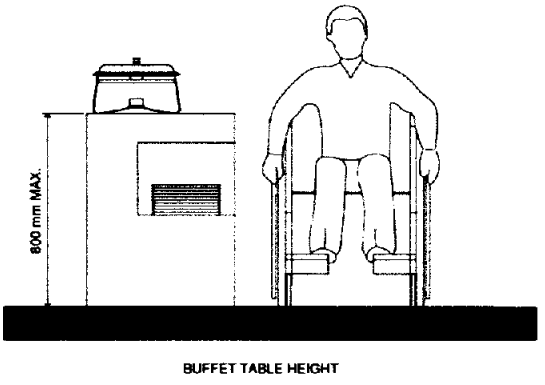


Figure 34. Illustration of the design specification for buffet tables

3. All tables shall have knee space in accordance with the specifications for Tables and Desks under Section 26 of this Act.

4. Restaurants with buffet services shall provide at least one (1) universal comfort room that is fully compliant with the design specifications under the next section.

SEC. 20. UNIVERSAL OR FAMILY COMFORT ROOMS. -

1. Universal toilets are hereby declared as open for persons with disabilities with apparent or non-apparent disabilities, elderly, pregnant women,

persons with infants and small children. Thus, it shall be prohibited to lock universal toilets from the outside.

2. Universal toilets or comfort rooms shall have the following design specifications:

   a) In all places for public use, depending on the building's size and use, there shall be at least one UNISEX or family-type restroom on every floor that enable either spouse or parent to assist persons with disabilities, elderly, pregnant women and young children.
   b) Where space is limited that only one toilet and washroom can be accommodated, that toilet must be made universal, and therefore, unisex.
   c) It shall have minimal or no threshold or step to the lavatory or bathroom. If not, the step must be ramped or beveled.
   d) If there is no automatic lighting, manual light switches should be installed inside all accessible toilet cubicles at within 900 mm to 1100 mm above the floor.
   e) For one who might fall on the toilet floor, there shall be an emergency call button that shall be installed between 300-400 mm from the floor.
   f) Accessible toilets and lavatories shall be provided with adequate turning space of 1500 mm.
   g) Comfort room doors shall comply with the specifications stated in Section 16 of this Act.
      1) Signage shall be posted visibly at the door featuring icons of persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant women, children, and other users, indicating universality.
      2) The comfort room shall have a lever-type door handle for persons with no hand or grip function.

   h) Wheelchair accessible comfort rooms shall always contain a washbasin.
   i) Wheelchair accessible comfort rooms shall always have a floor drain and a bidet water spray beside the water closet next to the horizontal bar for hygiene.
   j) A small shelf space for bags and articles must be provided. If a hook is to be installed, mount it at not more than 1100 mm in height.
   k) Slip-resistant floor tiles, whether on wet or dry conditions, shall be installed.
   l) In places that do not provide accommodation yet where people spend more than a few hours, such as malls, clubhouses, amusement parks, retreat houses, convention centers, and such, provide an adult diaper-changing short bed for the incontinent made of a leatherette surface for easy cleaning and sanitation.

Figure 35. Actual photo of adult diaper changing bed

m) Breast-feeding and baby diaper-changing facilities and amenities shall also be provided in family restrooms.
n) The flush toilet or water closet shall have the following specifications which be strictly implemented for the safety and convenience of persons with disabilities:

1) The flush toilet shall be positioned at one corner where L- or reverse L-configured bars can be installed.
2) Particularly in hotels, ensure that the flush toilet does not block access to the shower. If the toilet could not be installed at a corner, ensure that the distance from the tip or side of the water closet to the wall must be a minimum of 800 mm.
3) The height of the flush toilet seat shall be not less than 450 mm from the floor to help persons with weak legs get back on their feet without straining and to minimize knee or hip joint pain when sitting on it.
4) Flush controls shall not require much strength to operate. They shall function automatically or be of lever type or push button type that may be installed on the floor or on the wall beside the flush toilet just above the horizontal grab bar at 800-900 mm from the floor.
5) Where the population of child-users is high, a small flush toilet for children may be provided next to the water closet for parents and adults, but not next to the wall where L-bars for adult PWDs and the elderly are to be installed.

SEC. 21. LAVATORIES OR SINKS. -

1. Where space allows, an establishment shall provide a split-level type of lavatory convenient for standing, as well as for children, short and seated users. The top of the higher lavatory shall be constructed at a maximum of 800 mm from the floor, while the lower top shall be at 700 mm from the floor.

2. There must be no cabinetry or protruding pipes under lavatories so wheelchair-users can have knee- and foot-space underneath of 450-500 mm depth.

3. The maximum height of table-top washbasins shall have their topmost be at 750-800 mm.

4. Taps should be mixer, lever or sensor operated to aid operation. The tap controls should be set no more than 300 mm from the front of the washbasin.

5. For support, "tight U-shaped" bars shall be installed at the same height and on the left and on the right side of the wash basin. Support bars under the "tight U-bar" shall be set back less than 50% of the length of the U-bar towards the wall to prevent it from obstructing turning space.

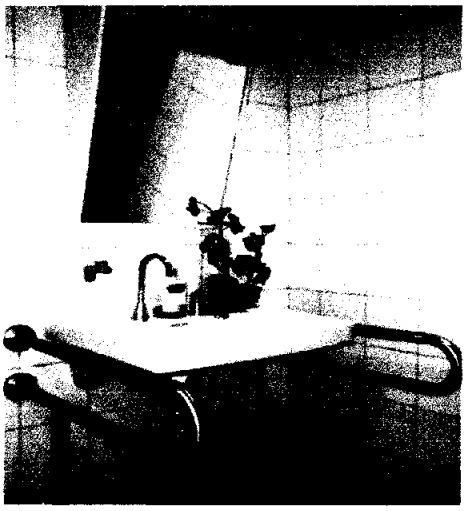


Figure 36. Actual photo of a sink with U-bars, with turning space underneath, slanted mirror, and a reachable faucet in Iloilo Airport built by JICA

6. There shall be no grab bar between the left and right bars that could possibly prevent the wheelchair-user from reaching the faucet.

7. Faucets shall be of lever-type so that amputees or weakened hands may still be able to open the tap.

8. Mirrors shall be lowered, slanted or swiveled for wheelchair-users, children and short people.

9. All other lavatory amenities, such as soap and tissue dispensers, hand dryers, etc., shall have their dispensing outlet be within reach of a person in a sitting position at a maximum height of 1000 mm.

10. Open-type trash bins shall be provided as persons with disabilities cannot open the closed-type trash bins with their feet.

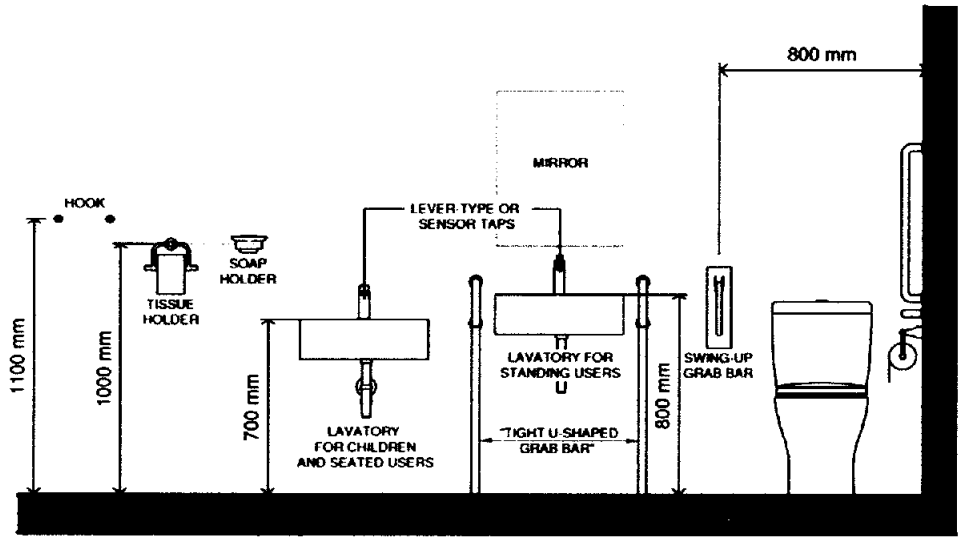


Figure 37. Illustration showing the maximum elevation standards in a comfort room

Sec. 22. GRAB BARS. - The following specifications for grab bars shall be strictly implemented for the usability, safety and convenience of persons with disabilities:

1. Two separate grab bars at 600 mm long shall be mounted firmly on the wall in an L or reversed L configuration, depending on which side of the wall is the water closet, for standing or climbing support. The vertical climbing bar shall be mounted at an alignment of 300 mm forward from the tip of the water closet so it is reachable when getting up and comfortably aligned with the forearm when getting to a standing position. The horizontal bar shall be mounted at a height of 700-750 mm from the floor.

Figure 38. Actual photos of PWDs using the vertical bar as essential in transfers to and from the water closet to and from the wheelchair.

2. Grab bars shall have a circular profile of not less than 35 mm and not more than 50 mm in diameter.

3. Grab bars with a satin finish that is slippery to grasp is not allowed.

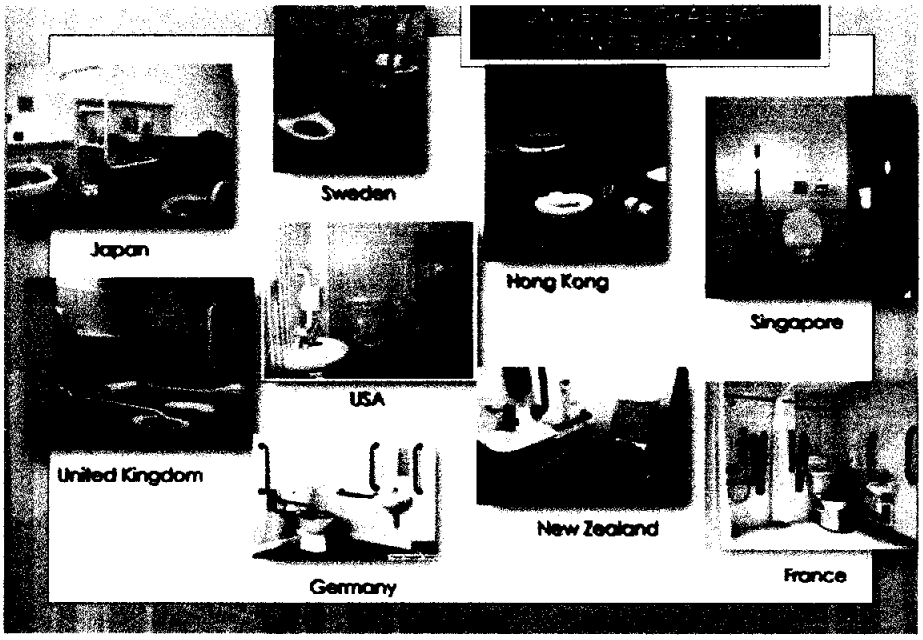


Figure 39. Actual photos of toilets with L-shaped grab bars around the world.

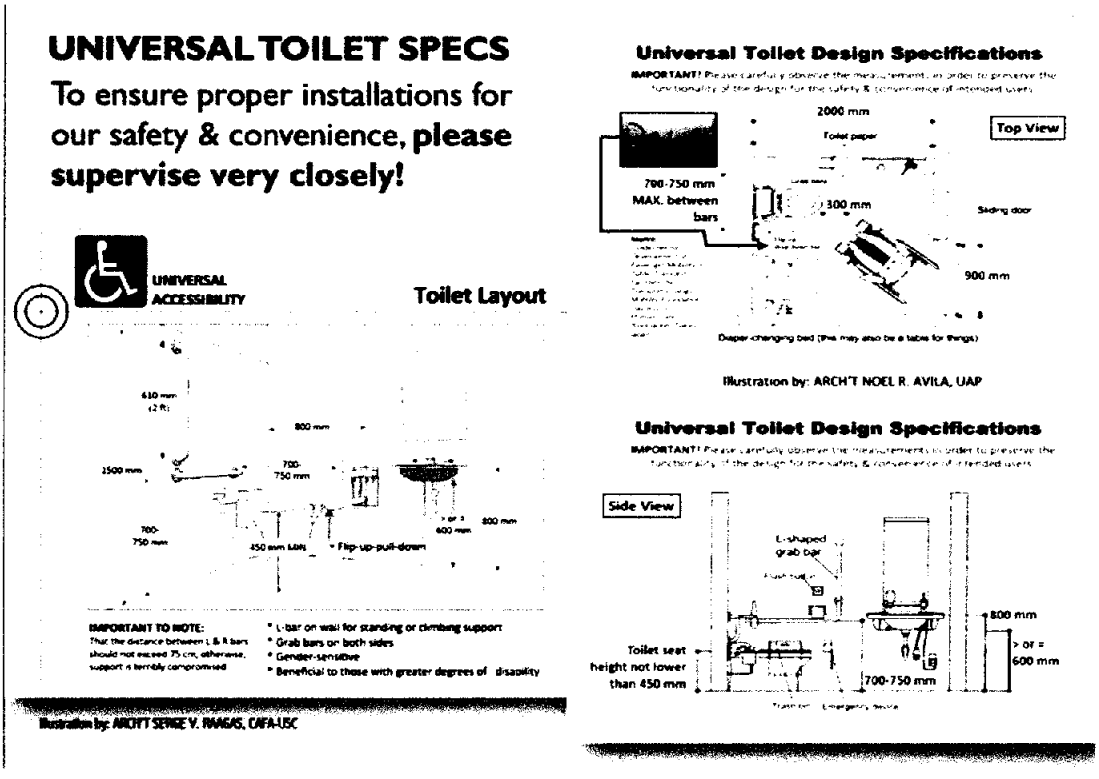


Figure 40. Illustration of the design specifications for a universal toilet that must be followed closely for the users' safety, convenience and independence.

4. FLIP-UP BAR: There shall be installed a flip-up bar on the opposite side of the L-bar for balance. The tip of the flip-up bar shall exceed the alignment of the front tip of the water closet by 200-300 mm.

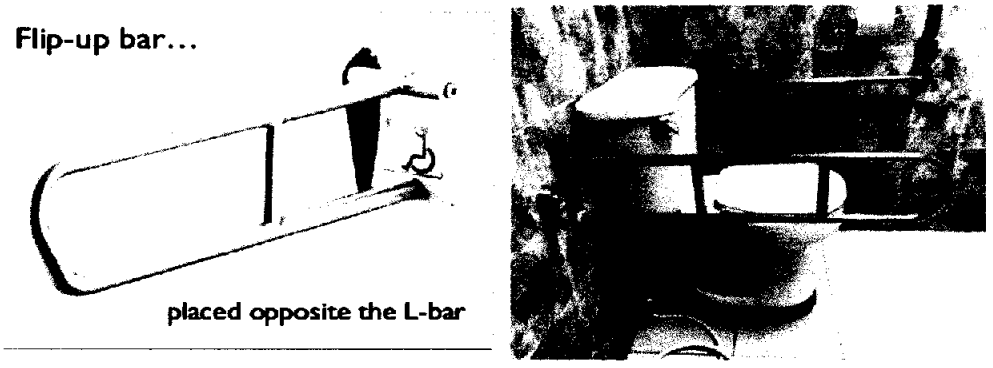


Figure 41. Actual photo of a toilet with a flip-up bar.

5. The distance between the left and right grab bars shall be at 700-750 mm maximum so that support when getting up is not compromised.

6. Grab bars shall have a circular profile of not less than 35 mm and not more than 50 mm diameter.

7. Slanted grab bars and grab bars at the back of the toilet shall not be allowed.

8. When the water closet is not beside a wall, create an L-configured bar that is anchored to the back wall and to the floor with the bottom leg set back 400-500 mm to allow for more turning space of the wheelchair.

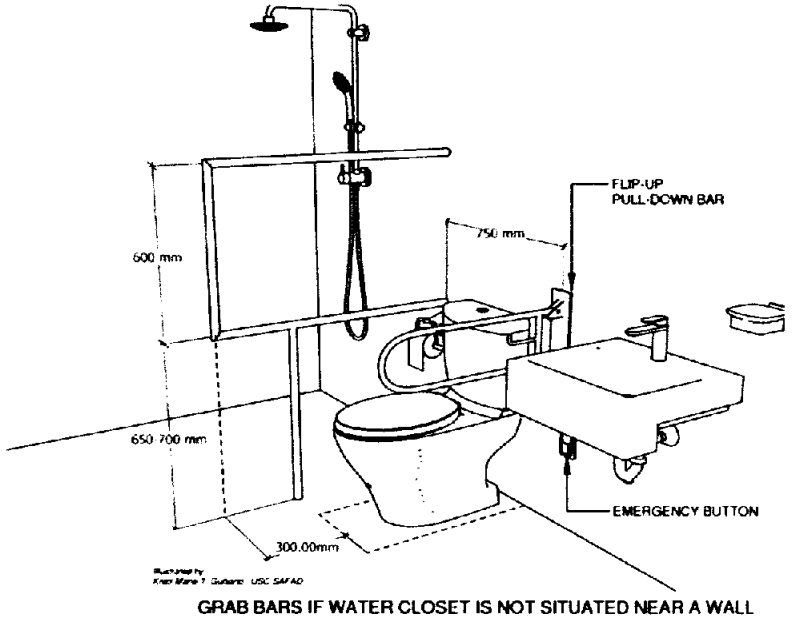


Figure 42. Illustration of design standards for grab bars if the toilet is far from a wall

SEC. 23. TOILET PAPER DISPENSERS. - The toilet paper dispenser shall be installed within reach for a person sitting on the flush toilet, but its position shall not hamper the use of the horizontal and vertical grab bars.

1. Smaller toilet paper holders shall be placed below the horizontal grab bar.

2. Jumbo toilet paper dispensers shall have their dispenser opening placed at a maximum of 100 mm beside the vertical bar and 1000 mm from the floor, or above the horizontal bar at 1150-1120 mm from the floor.

SEC. 24. URINALS. -

1. For standing users, at least one of the wall-hung urinals fitted in the washroom shall be mounted on center within the vertical range of 600 mm and 750 mm. There shall be vertical grab bars installed on both sides of the urinal within the maximum horizontal range of 750 mm.

2. For seated users and children, at least one of the wall-hung urinals fitted in the washroom shall be mounted on center within the vertical range of 380-400 mm. There shall be vertical grab bars installed on both sides of the urinal within the maximum horizontal range of 750 mm.

3. This wall hung urinal should be set clear above the floor level, without any raised access platform and with an unobstructed clearance in front of the urinal of at least 750 mm wide by 1200 mm.

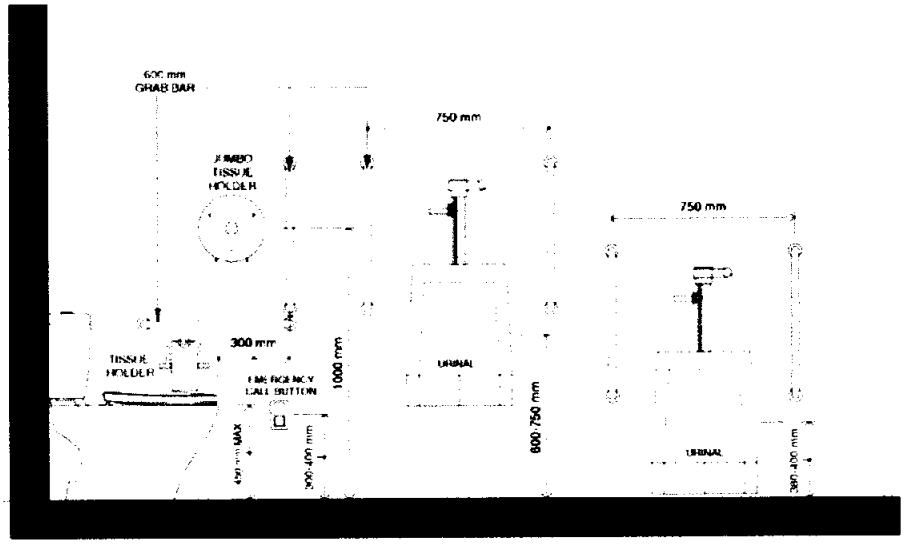


Figure 43. Illustration of toilet paper dispenser and urinals.

SEC. 25. CHILD-FRIENDLY FACILITIES. -

1. Public places that cater to a predominant number of children like amusement parks, beach resorts, kiddie restaurants, kindergarten schools, pediatric clinics and family-oriented tourist sites shall have child-friendly facilities with the following features:

   a) Low drinking fountains at 700 mm;
   b) Should restaurants wish offer a children's buffet, the tables shall have a maximum height of 600 mm from the floor;

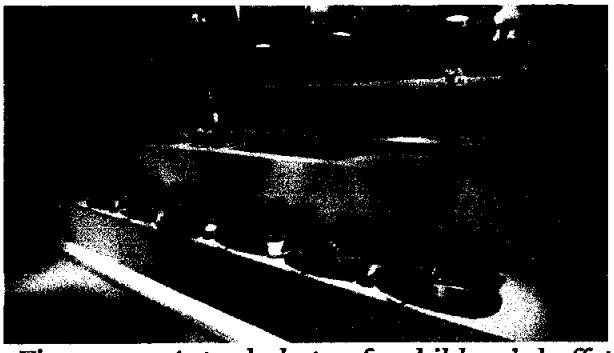


Figure 44. Actual photo of a children's buffet

c) Family comfort rooms shall have:

1) Children's signage at the door.
2) A sturdy child-holder that shall not pose a barrier for a wheelchair-user to hold on to the grab bar and approach the water closet.

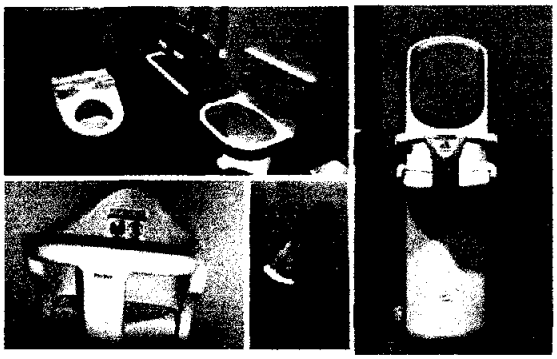


Figure 45. Actual photos of baby holders in toilets

3) Big and small water closets for parent and child, provided that the bigger water closet is positioned next to the wall where the L-configured bar is installed.
4) Split-level lavatory heights with knee space at 800 mm and 700 mm. In places for really young children like some attractions in amusement parks, nursery schools, and children's favorite restaurants, a few lavatories as low as 600 mm may also be installed.

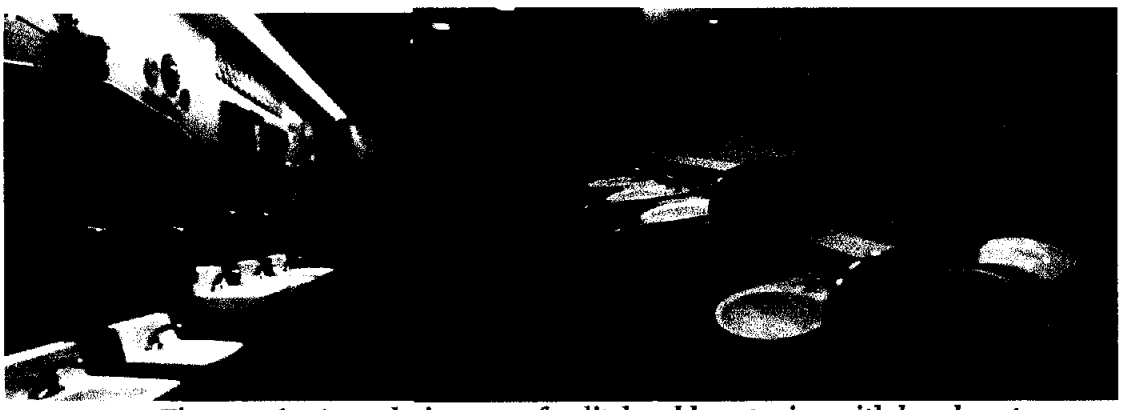


Figure 46: Actual pictures of split-level lavatories with low lavatory for young children

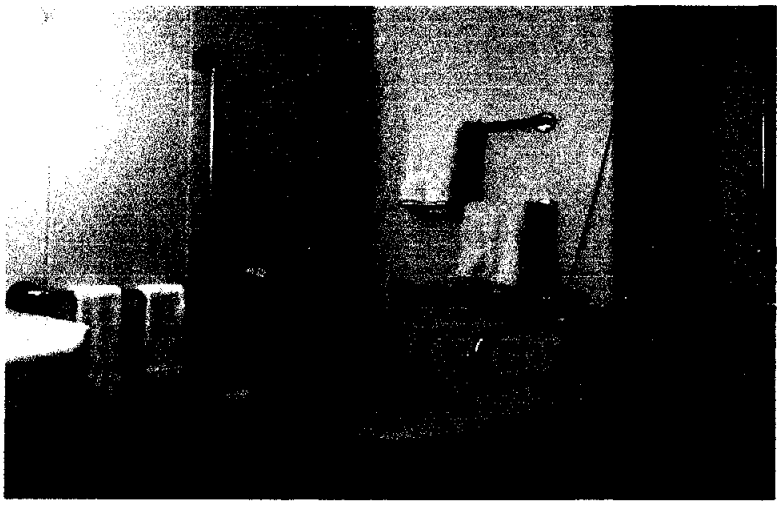
5) Dispenser outlets shall be at a maximum of 1000 mm from the floor.

6) Tilted, swivel or lowered mirrors.

7) A diaper-changing station or short bed that can also be used by a breast-feeding mother.

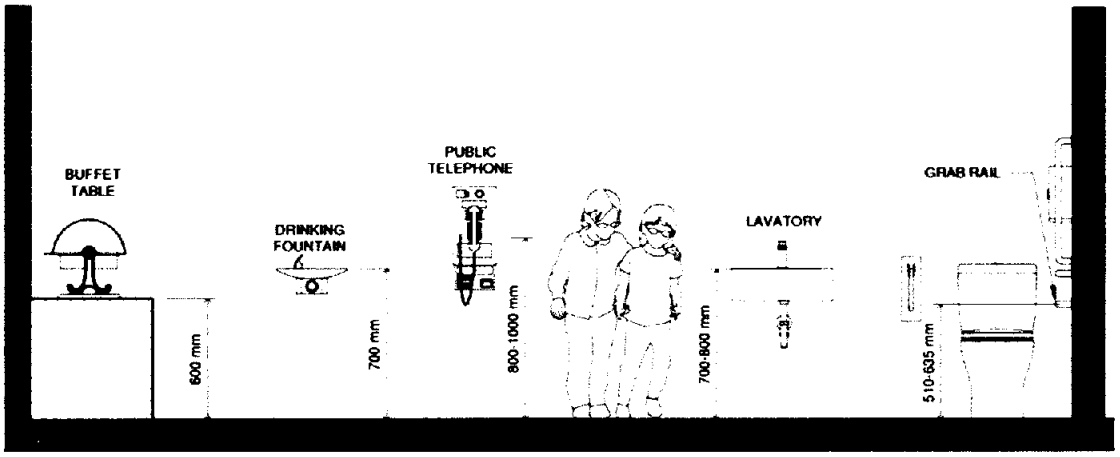
8) The grab bar height for toilets for children shall be between 510 mm to 635 mm which is placed parallel and under the horizontal bar.

9) Grab bars shall have a circular profile of not less than 35 mm and not more than 50 mm in diameter.



Grab bar height & diameter for children with disabilities in Universal toilets

Figure 47. Actual photo of a universal toilet with an added child-friendly grab bar encircled in red.

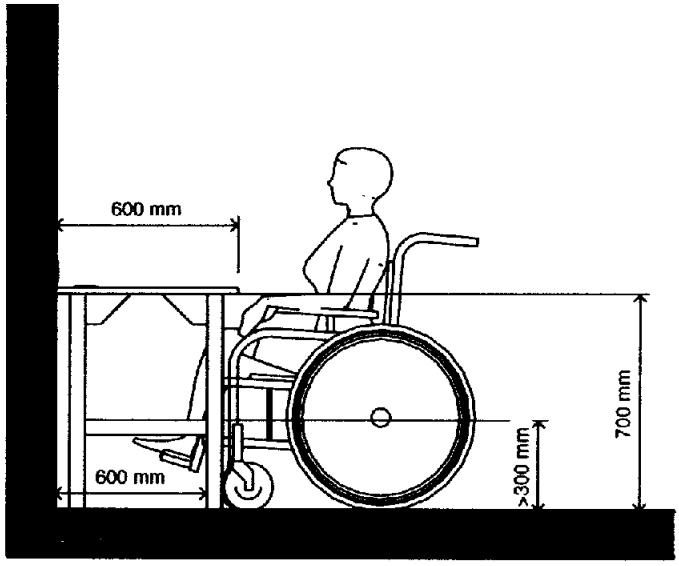


CHILD-FRIENDLY FACILITIES

Figure 48. Illustration of universal specifications for child-friendly facilities

SEC. 26. TABLE and DESK HEIGHTS[31]. -

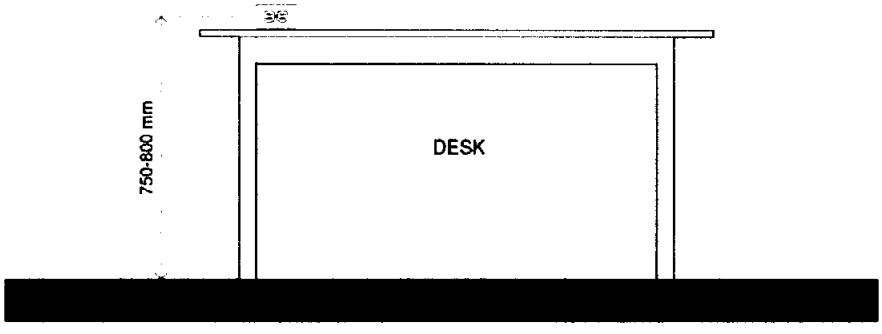
1. For a frontal approach with a wheelchair to a table, desk, counter, telephone, etc., an unobstructed space shall be provided with a minimum height of 700 mm, a minimum depth of 600 mm and a minimum width of 900 mm for knee space underneath. For footrests, a minimum height of 300 mm is required.



DESK AND TABLES

Figure 49. Illustration of the design specifications for tables and desks that can accommodate PWD in wheelchairs.

2. For the convenience and independence of persons with disabilities, electrical outlets shall be installed either on the desk or on the wall above the table or desk at 750-800 mm from the floor for easy charging of various devices.



OUTLET HEIGHT

Figure 50. Illustration of height of electrical outlet on top of the desk or table.

[31] Adopted from Japan Barrier-Free Development Guidelines

CHAPTER 3
ACCESSIBILITY IN THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

SEC. 27. UNIVERSAL POLICIES PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY IN THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT. -

1. Every street, highway, and transport related structures to be constructed shall comply with barrier-free facilities and accessibility features.

2. Every pedestrian crossing, ramp, transportation terminal, and passenger waiting areas for use of persons with disabilities shall comply with the universal design specifications under this Act.

3. There shall be inter-connectivity in the interfaces between buildings and from building to infrastructures, street work/public footpaths and public open spaces/parks[32]. Where interfaces between buildings and from building to infrastructures are involved, the applicant for the building works shall ensure that accessibility right up to the interface is considered.

4. Existing streets and highways shall be repaired and renovated to comply with the universal design specifications under this Act. Barrier-free pedestrian crossings shall be the priority for all repairs and renovations.

5. The access route plan shall be accompanied with the application for building plan approval or application for Temporary Occupation permit / Certificates of Statutory Completion if it has not been submitted earlier or there is an amendment to the access route.

SEC. 28. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES /SKYWALK/OVERPASS. -

1. Accessible pedestrian bridges shall be provided for everyone.

2. Pedestrian bridges shall have ramps made accessible by a gradient of 1:15. Ramps in pedestrian bridges shall comply with the universal design standards for ramps under this Act. If the 1:15 gradient is not feasible, the pedestrian ramp shall be at 1:12 gradient.

3. A switch-back design may be applied so as not to make the ramp too long.

4. The surface of the pedestrian bridges shall be of slip-resistant material even on wet or rainy conditions.

5. Whenever feasible, the bridge shall have a roof over the entire structure.

6. The pedestrian bridges shall connect to the sidewalks and streets seamlessly.

[32] Adopted from the Code of Accessibility in the Built Environment. 2013. Singapore.

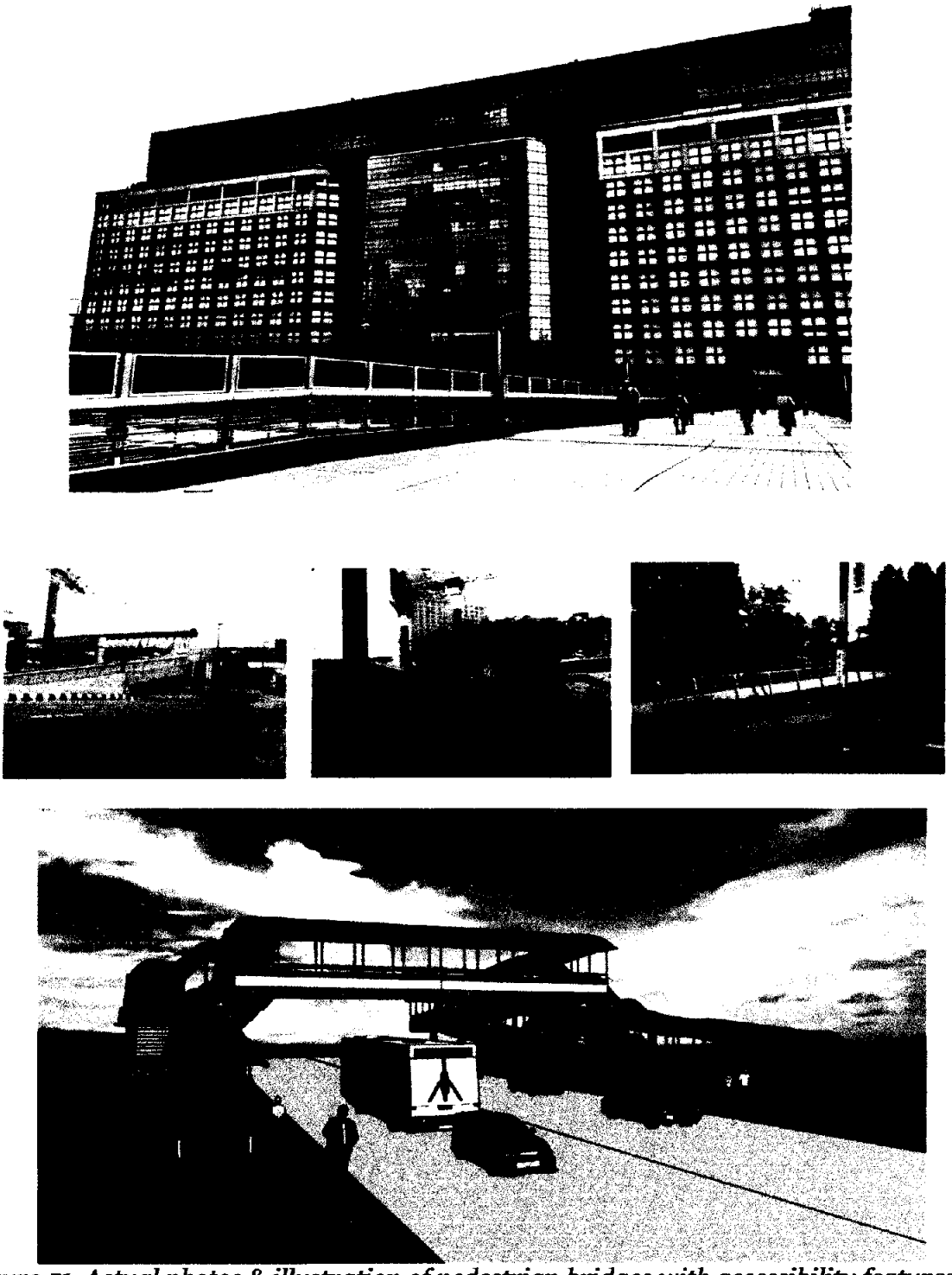


Figure 51. Actual photos & illustration of pedestrian bridges with accessibility features

SEC. 29. SIDEWALKS AND WALKWAYS. - Sidewalks and walkways shall:

1. Be situated at the nearest path from public parking places to the accessible entrance.

2. Be kept as level as possible and provided with slip-resistant material.

3. Have a gradient not steeper than 1:15.

4. Have a maximum cross gradient of 1:100.

5. Have a minimum width of 1200 mm[33].

6. If possible, there shall be no gratings located there. When occurring along walkways, grating openings should have a maximum dimension of 13 mm x 13 mm and shall not project more than 6.5 mm above the level of the walkway.

7. Have a continuing surface without abrupt pitches in angle or interruptions by cracks or breaks creating edges above 6.50 mm.

8. In lengthy or busy walkways, spaces should be provided at some point along the route so that a wheelchair may pass another or turn around. These spaces should have a minimum dimension of 1500 mm and should be spaced at a maximum distance of 12000 mm between stops.

9. As much as possible, follow straightforward routes with right angle turns to guide the blind.

10. Not be obstructed by street furniture, bollards, sign posts or columns along the defined route, as they can be hazardous.

11. Walkway headroom should not be less than 2000 mm and preferably be higher.

12. Where planting is provided adjacent to the walkway, regular maintenance is essential to ensure branches of trees or shrubs do not overhang walkways or paths, as not only do these present a particular danger to the blind, but they also reduce the effective footways width available to pedestrians.

SEC. 30. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS[34]. -

1. The common problems faced by pedestrians with disabilities are uneven road surfaces, lack of directional guide strips, lack of warning marking for crossings and gratings on the road surface.

2. Therefore, it is hereby declared as a policy that the primary consideration in planning a pedestrian crossing shall be to ensure the safe and independent crossing of persons with mobility impairments.

3. The following are general design considerations:

    a) Pedestrian crossings should be equipped with traffic control signals.
    b) Low-traffic crossings frequently used by disabled people can be controlled by a pedestrian push-button system.
    c) Constructing traffic islands to reduce the length of the crossing is recommended for the safety of all road users.
    d) Guide strips shall be installed to provide directional tactile strips in the immediate vicinity of crossings as an aid to persons with visual

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[33] Source: ISO

[34] Adopted from www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/designm/AD1-06.htm

impairment. A guide strip should lead to pedestrian light poles with push buttons for the benefit of the visually impaired.

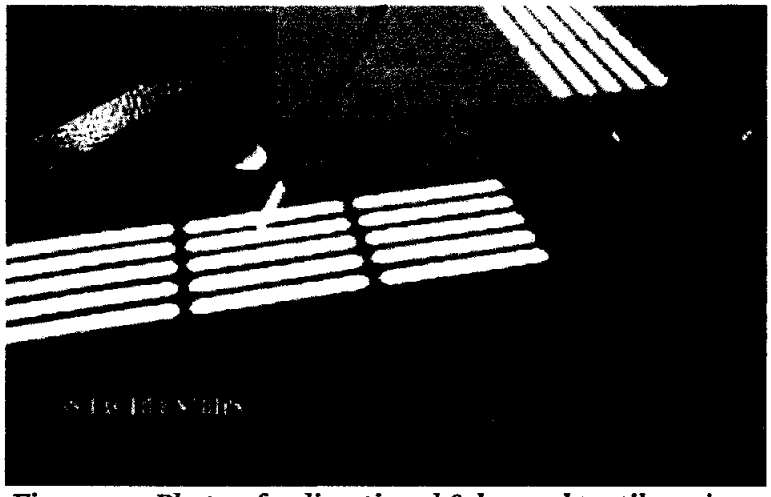


Figure 52. Photo of a directional & hazard tactile strips[35]

e) Traffic Signals:

1) Main thoroughfares, national, and local roads with pedestrian crossings shall have light controlled pedestrian crossing signals with synchronized and clearly audible pedestrian traffic signals for the benefit of sightless pedestrians.
2) Acoustic devices should be installed on a pole at the point of origin of crossing and not at the point of destination.
3) The audible signal used for crossings should be easily distinguishable from other sounds in the environment to prevent confusion to persons with visual impairment. A prolonged sound should be audible to warn persons with visual impairment that the lights are about to change.
4) The time interval allowed for crossing should be programmed according to the slowest crossing persons. The flashing green period required for the person with disability should be determined on the basis of a walking speed of 0.90 m/sec. rather than 1.20 m/sec. which is what is normally used. The minimum period for the steady green (for pedestrians) should not be less than six (6) seconds or the crossing distance times 0.90 m/sec., whichever is the greatest.[36]

f) Push Buttons

1) Push buttons should be easy to locate and operate and should be placed between 0.90 m and 1.20 m off the ground for the benefit of wheelchair users.

g) Traffic Islands

1) The traffic island depth shall not be less than 1500 mm.

[35] Adopted from bcrltduk.com/products-range-detail/bcr-tactile-indicators-for-visually-impaired
[36] Adopted from the Traffic Engineering Center guidelines for pedestrians with disabilities

2) The traffic island depth shall preferably be at 2000 mm provided as a pedestrian refuge where the width of carriageway to be crossed exceeds 10000 mm.

3) The width of a traffic island shall not be less than 1500 mm.

4) A colored tactile marking strip at least 600 mm wide should mark the beginning and the end of a traffic island, to guide pedestrians with impaired vision to its location.

h) Road Humps

1) The road surface at pedestrian crossings can be raised to the same level as the pathway so that wheelchair users do not have to overcome differences in height.

i) Road Surfaces and Pathways

1) Road surfaces and accessible pathways should be firm, well-drained, non-slip, smooth, continuous and free of construction joints and even.
2) Pathways which are level and even with adjacent surfaces shall be given a different texture and color finish for differentiation.
3) Intersecting pathways should blend at one common level.

j) Drains and Gratings

1) Gratings can be hazardous to wheelchair users, cane and crutch users, parents with prams and women with high heels.
2) Manholes, drains and gratings should generally be placed outside the pedestrian pathway.
3) Gratings should be flush with the pathway surface and should have narrow patterns of not more than 13 mm.
4) Elongated grating openings should be perpendicular to the pedestrian travel path.

SEC. 31. DROPPED CURBS. -

1. Dropped curbs shall be sloped with a maximum gradient of 1:15 from the street level to the ground level of any building or structure.

2. Dropped curbs shall have a slip-resistant surface.

3. Dropped curbs should be provided at pedestrian crossings and at the end of walkways of a private street or access road.

4. Dropped curbs at crossings have a width corresponding to the width of the crossing; otherwise, the minimum width is 900 mm.

5. Dropped curbs shall be ramped towards adjoining curbs with a gradient not more than 1:15.

6. Dropped curbs shall be sloped towards the road with a maximum cross gradient of 1:20 to prevent water from collecting at the walkway.

7. The lowest point of a dropped curb should not exceed 5 mm from the road or gutter.

8. Dropped curbs shall only be allowed when it will not obstruct a walkway or in any way lessen the width of a walkway.

9. Where applicable, dropped curbs shall connect to shared transfer areas in between parking slots for PWDs[37].

10. Handrails may be provided at dropped curbs but should not be installed beyond the width of any crossing so as not to obstruct pedestrian traffic.

    a) Handrails on both sides shall be installed for changes in elevation of more than 170 mm or if steeper than 1:12.
    b) Any ramp with a rise greater than 170 mm and leads down towards an area of vehicular traffic shall have a railing across the full width of its lower end, not less than 1.80 meters from the foot of the ramp.

SEC. 32. DISEMBARKATION AREAS IN BUILDINGS. -

1. There shall be a designated space marked with the international symbol of access at the ingress of the building where persons with disabilities may disembark with the help of their personal assistants. The length of this space shall be 6000 mm and the width shall be 3900 mm to accommodate unfolding ramps and lifts for wheelchair users and their assistants.

Figure 53. Actual photo of disembarkation area for persons with disabilities at airport

2. In large establishments, such as malls, amusement parks and international airports, an open booth with an intercom shall be installed at the vicinity of the disembarkation area to enable drivers or persons with disabilities to call the building administration for assistance services.

[37] Source: ISO

Figure 54. Actual photo of an intercom booth to assist PWDs

SEC. 33. PARKING. -

1. There shall be designated parking slots for vans for persons with disabilities, which shall be at least 6 meters long and situated nearest the ingress of the building. This shall be indicated by a van parking signage.

Figure 55. Actual photos of a designated parking for vans for PWDs

2. Parking ticket machines shall be reachable from the car driver's seat and located at a height of between 450 mm to 1200 mm from the floor level.

3. The number of accessible parking slots for vehicles driven by persons with disabilities or vehicles with passengers with disabilities shall be indicated as follows:

ACCESSIBLE PARKING SLOT REQUIREMENT	
Total Number of Parking Slots	Required Number of Accessible Parking Slots
1 – 25	1
26 – 50	2
51 – 75	3
76 – 100	4
101 – 150	5
151 – 200	6
201 – 300	7
301 – 400	8
401 – 500	9

501 – 1000	2% of total spaces
1001 –above	20+ (1 for each 100 or a fraction thereof over 1000)

4. In parking areas of any institution, structure, building, establishment, or public utility, the owner or operator shall reserve a few spaces or a minimum of one (1) slot with wider and longer specifications to give ample space for van parking and devices used by persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and their assistants.

5. Accessible parking slots in parking areas shall be located nearest to accessible main entrances of the building or structure.

   a) For multi-storey indoor parking structures, accessible parking slots shall be located right next to accessible elevators, or as close as possible to accessible pedestrian entrances.
   b) In buildings with multiple accessible entrances with adjacent parking, accessible parking slots shall be dispersed and located closest to the accessible entrances.
   c) In parking facilities that do not serve a particular building, accessible parking shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel to an accessible pedestrian entrance of the parking facility.

6. Parking slots for persons with disabilities should allow enough space for a person to transfer from a vehicle to a wheelchair. The minimum width of the parking space for a regular car shall be 3900 mm and the minimum length shall be 5400 mm. This minimum width includes the transfer area beside the car with a minimum of 1500 mm.

7. Two accessible parking spaces with one shared transfer area shall have a minimum width of 6300 mm[38].

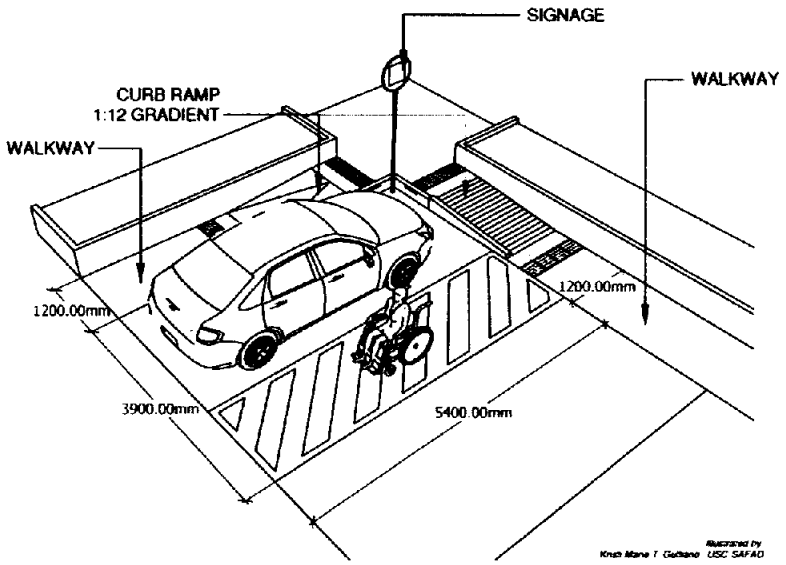


Figure 56. Illustration of a PWD parking slot compliant with universal design standards

[38] Source: ISO

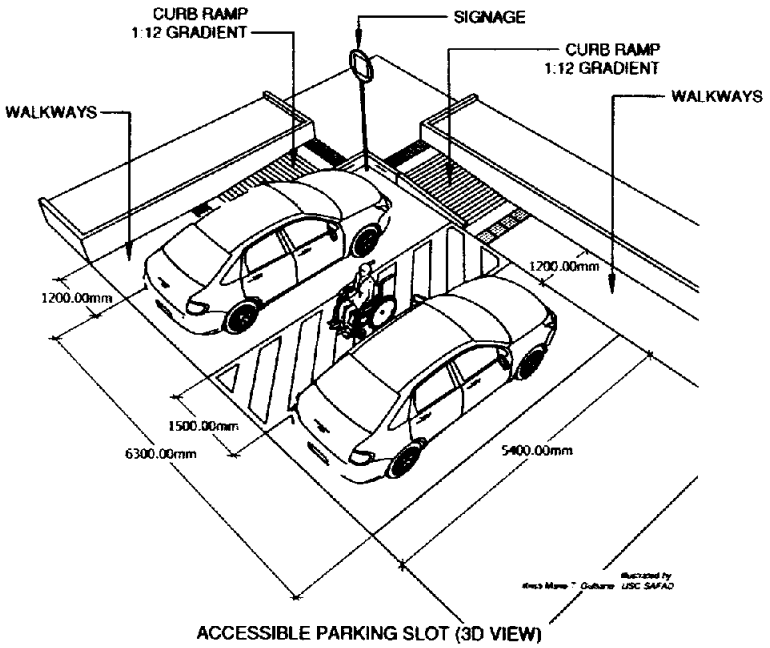


Figure 57. Illustration of a shared transfer area parking for PWD

8. Whenever and wherever possible, accessible parking slots shall be perpendicular or to an angle to the road or circulation aisles. Parallel parking is discouraged unless it can be situated so that persons entering and exiting vehicles will be out of the flow of traffic.

9. Accessible parking slots shall have a walkway with a minimum clear width of 1200 mm provided between the front ends of parked cars.

10. Accessible parking slots shall have dropped sidewalks or curb ramps leading to the parking level where access walkways are raised.

11. Accessible parking slots shall have a firm, level surface without aeration slabs.

12. Accessible parking slots shall never be located at ramped or sloping areas.

13. Parking signage shall comply with the standards provided in Section 10.

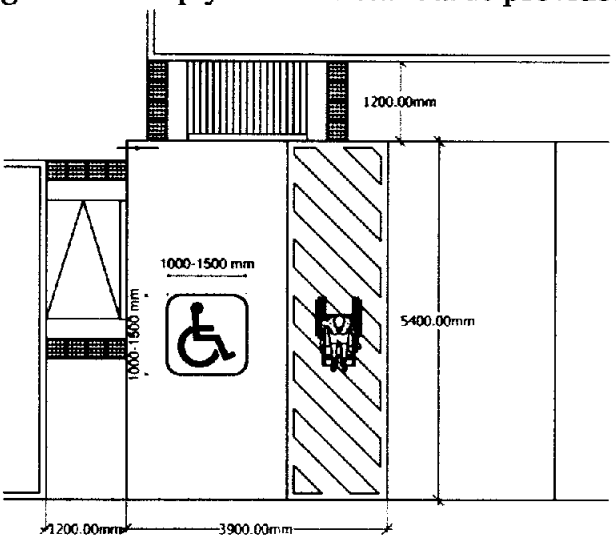


Figure 58. Illustration of an accessible parking slot (plan)

14. Parking signage shall further be made visible to incoming vehicles with persons with disabilities in four (4) ways:

a) With a blue light installed above each accessible parking slot nearest the entrance or elevator bay;
b) If in an open parking space, a signage of 600 mm x 600 mm in size and mounted on a pole at a minimum clear height of 2000 mm from the parking floor.

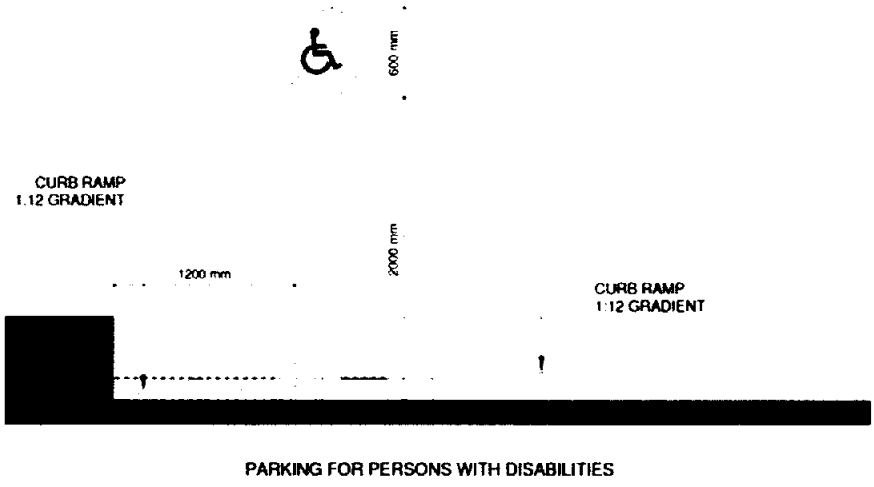


Figure 59. Illustration of an accessible parking slot with an accessible icon mounted on a pole

c) If in a large open parking space, signage being mounted conspicuously on a high light post as a cube visible from various directions and under a light for night visibility;

Figure 60. Actual photo of an accessible parking slot with an accessible icon mounted on a pole

d) If within a building, a signage of 1000 mm x 1000 mm in size painted on the walls of each slot with its center at eye level or at 1500 mm.

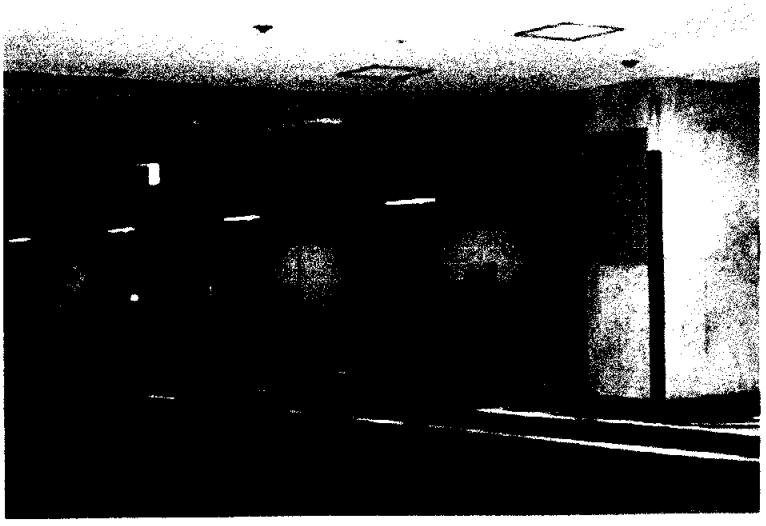


Figure 61. Actual photo of an accessible parking slot with an accessible icon mounted on a pole

SEC. 34. PARKING POLICIES.

1. Persons with walking difficulties and mobility devices, including those with non-apparent disabilities, may park in designated parking slots, provided proof or identification can be presented.

2. For control purposes, persons with disabilities shall be on board the vehicle to be able to use their designated parking space. In addition, an access parking sticker/card may be required with a control number.

3. The building management shall create a policy to check periodically for violators and report them to proper authorities. Appropriate sanctions shall be imposed for the unauthorized use of the reserved parking slots for vehicles of persons with disabilities.

SEC. 35. RAMPS AND HANDRAILS.

1. A ramp shall be considered accessible upon compliance with the following standards:

    a) It shall be free of any obstruction at all times;
    b) It shall have a gradient of 1:15[39], except for curb ramps, which may be at 1:12. A gradient of 1:12 shall be allowed only when 1:15 is not technically feasible.

[39] According to the ISO, ramps with a gradient higher than 1:12 is difficult to use and can create a risk of an accident; it is therefore not suitable for independent use.

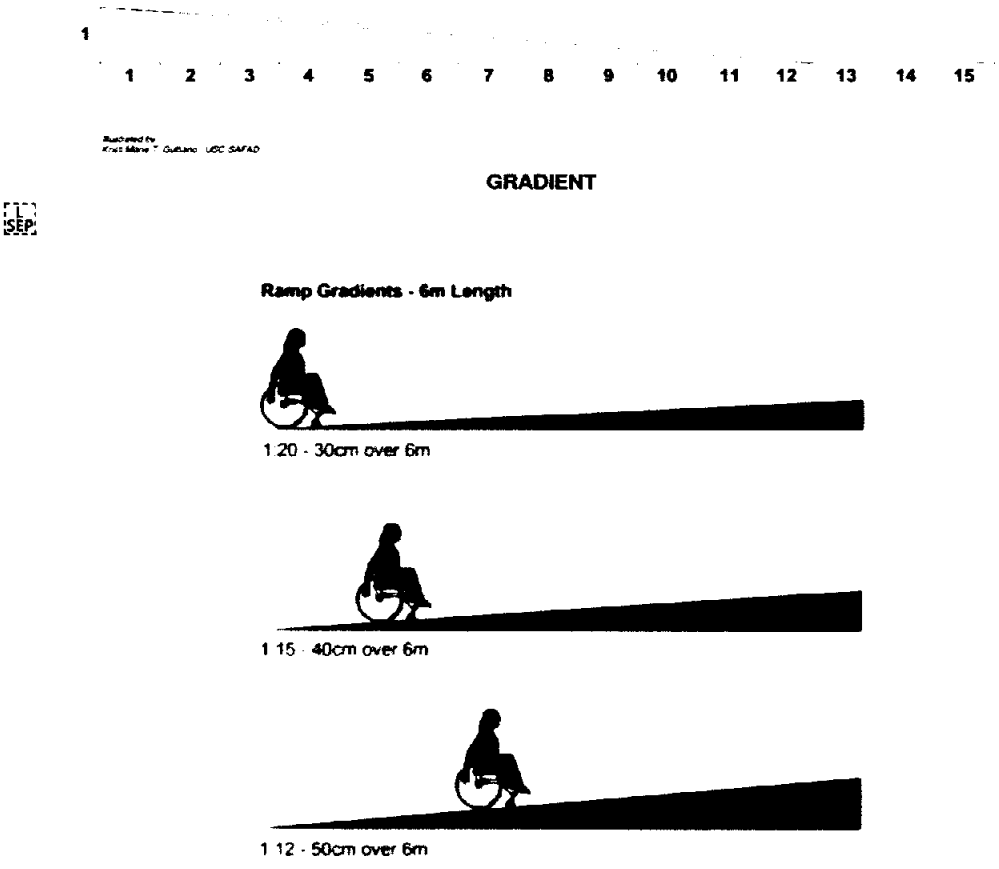


Figure 62. Illustrations of a ramp's gradients at 1:12, 1:15 and 1:20.

c) At a gradient of 1:15, the maximum length of the ramp shall be 4725 mm.
d) After every 4725 mm of ramp, there shall be a landing of not be less than 1800 mm at the top and bottom of any ramp.
e) A ramp shall have a minimum clear width of 1200 mm.
f) To prevent semi-ambulant people using crutches and canes from unnecessarily exerting more effort in accessing a ramp, the lower ramp entry shall be accessed from the front entrance of the building and not at the back of a building, unless accessible parking and an accessible entrance is situated there.
g) It shall not be hidden by other structures; otherwise, signage must be provided.
h) A ramp shall have handrails which shall have the following specifications:

    1) Handrails shall be required for accessible ramps for changes in grade higher than 170 mm.
    2) Handrails shall be installed on both sides of the ramp or stairs at 700 mm and 900 mm from the floor.
    3) Handrails shall be installed in a "double J" to allow hands to move forward without hitting the bracket.
    4) A 300 mm long extension of the handrail shall be provided at the top and bottom of ramps and stairs.

5) For accessible ramps 3000 mm or more in width, intermediate handrails shall be provided at the center.
6) Railings for protection should be installed at a height of 1100 mm minimum, measured from the top of the rail to the finished floor for ramps, balconies, landings or porches which are more than 750 mm above adjacent grade. These shall be installed in addition to the handrails required for accessible ramps[40].
7) Handrails and grab bars that require full grip should have an outside diameter of 38 mm (minimum) to 45 mm (maximum).
8) Handrails attached to walls should have a minimum clear distance of 50 mm from the wall.
9) Handrails on ledges should have a minimum clear distance of 40 mm.
10) Stair handrails shall be continuous throughout the entire length and around landings less than 2100 mm in length, except where it is intersected by an alternative path of travel or has an entry door leading into it.

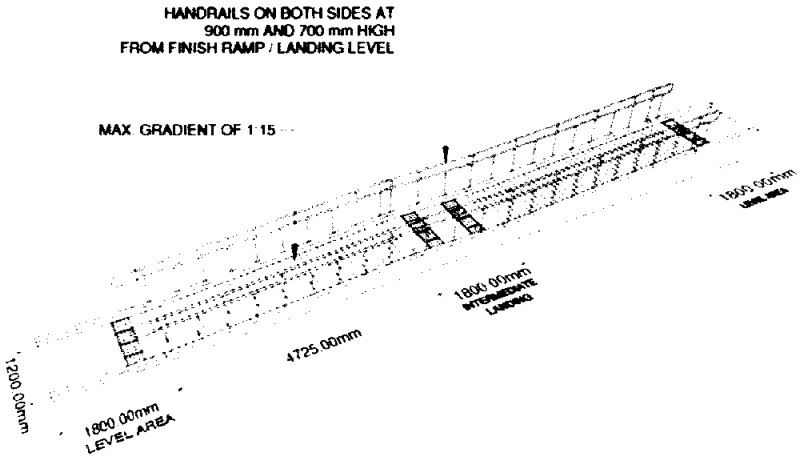


Figure 63. Illustration of a ramp with a gradient of 1:15 with landings after every 4725 mm of ramp

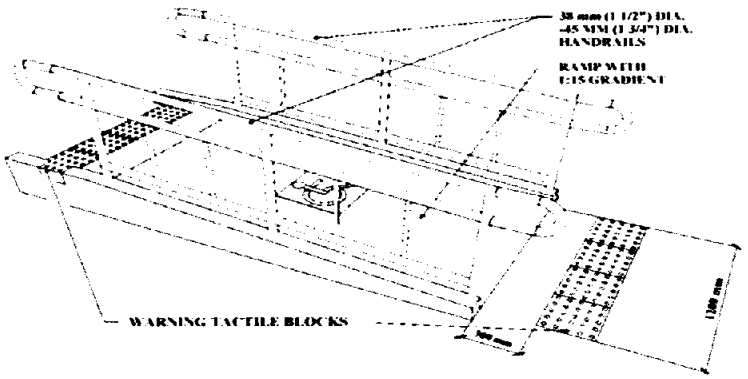


Figure 64. Illustration of a ramp with a gradient of 1:15 with handrails

[40] Adopted from Section C, Item 2, Rule XII. Guard Rails under the Philippine National Building Code

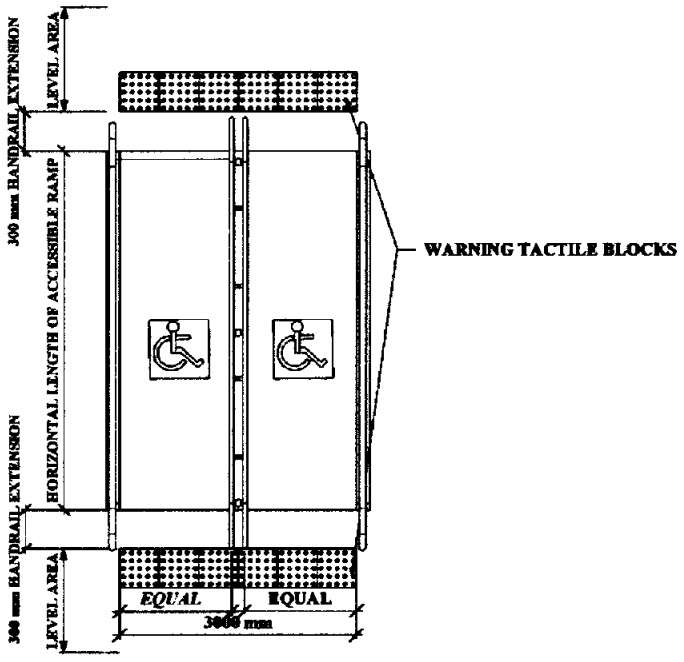


Figure 65. Illustration of a ramp wider than 1200 but less than 3000 mm and which require intermediate handrails.

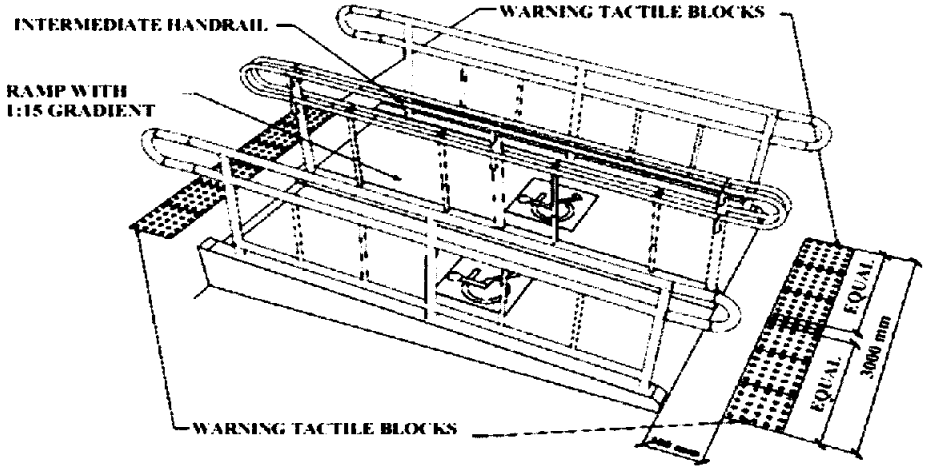


Figure 66. Illustration of a ramp wider than 1200 but less than 3000 mm and which require intermediate handrails.

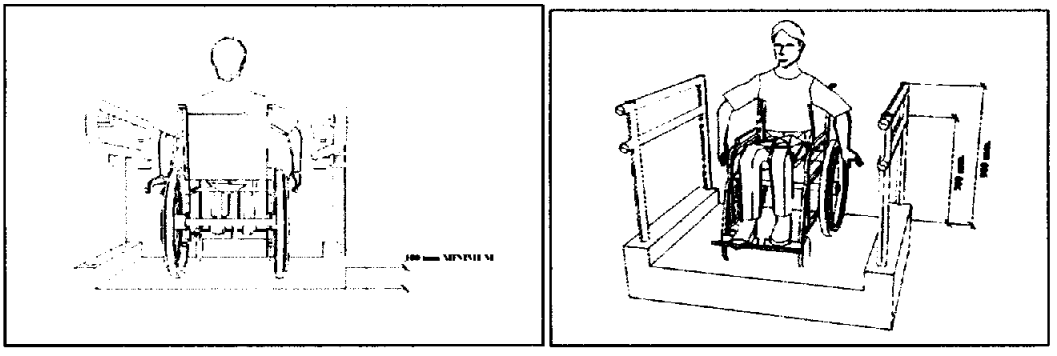


Figure 67. Illustration of a curb height at a ramp.

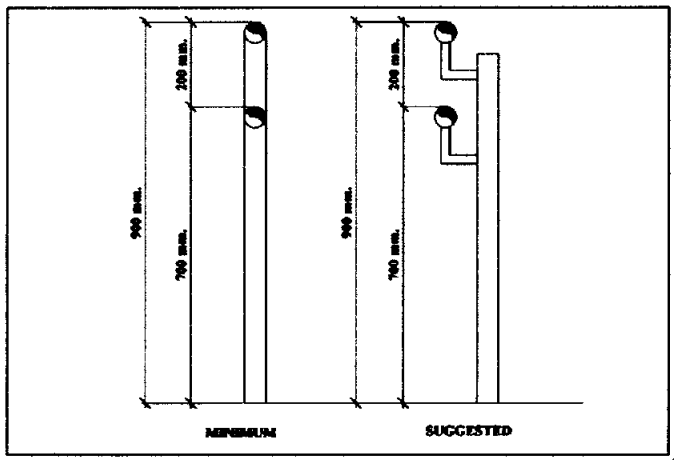


Figure 68. Illustration of a Double "J" Design

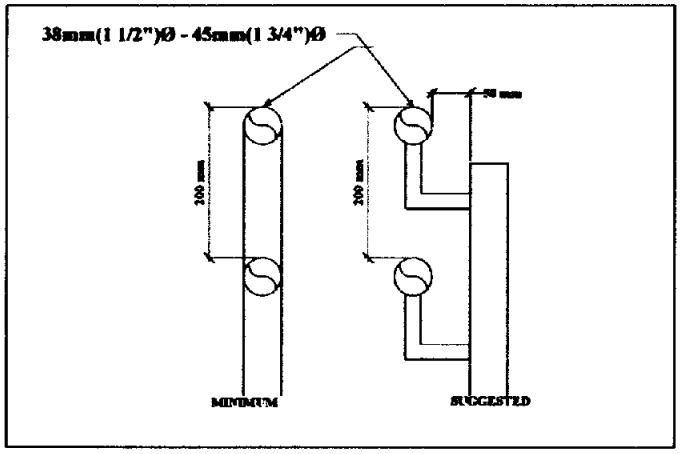


Figure 69. Illustration of an easy to grasp design in handrails.

CHAPTER 4

TOURISM FACILITIES

In addition to the standards mandated in Chapters 1 to 3 of this Act, tourism establishments shall also comply with the following additional standards to provide a barrier-free tourism experience.

All hotels and places of accommodation shall ensure that there is smooth vertical and horizontal access for persons with disabilities into other parts and service areas of the resort, such as the convention area, banquet and function rooms, restaurants, snack bars, pools, spas, souvenir shops, entertainment rooms, chapel, beachfront and water recreation docks.

SEC. 36. HOTELS AND PLACES OF ACCOMODATION.

1. Resorts and hotels with convention centers shall have at least ten (10) twin-bedded rooms which shall be specially designated for persons with disabilities.

2. Without prejudice to the preceding paragraph, Five percent (5%) of all hotel rooms, but not less than two (2) rooms shall be designated for persons with disabilities, elderly and children, sometimes referred to as "family-type rooms".

3. Hotel rooms designated for persons with disabilities shall be at the lower levels of the establishment and, as much as possible, only until the 4th floor to facilitate easier rescue operations.

4. Hotel rooms designated for persons with disabilities shall be near emergency exits.

5. Hotel rooms designated for persons with disabilities shall have all of the following features as applicable:

    a) Bathroom doors shall:

        1) Have a clear width of 900 mm;
        2) Be easy to open and close; therefore, there shall be no door-closer.
        3) Open outward so the wheelchair does not block the door from closing in cases where there is no automatic or sliding doors.
        4) Have a cabinet pull-handle bar 400-500 mm long installed horizontally at the level of the door lever handle or at 900mm above the floor to enable a wheelchair-user to pull the door shut.

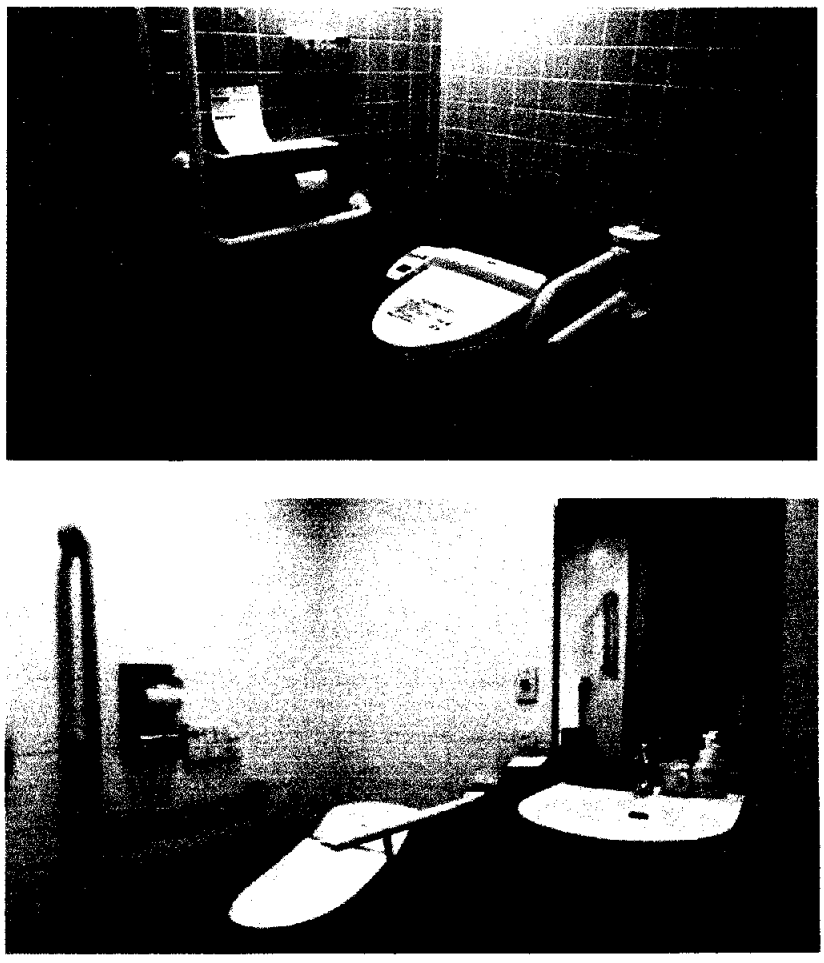
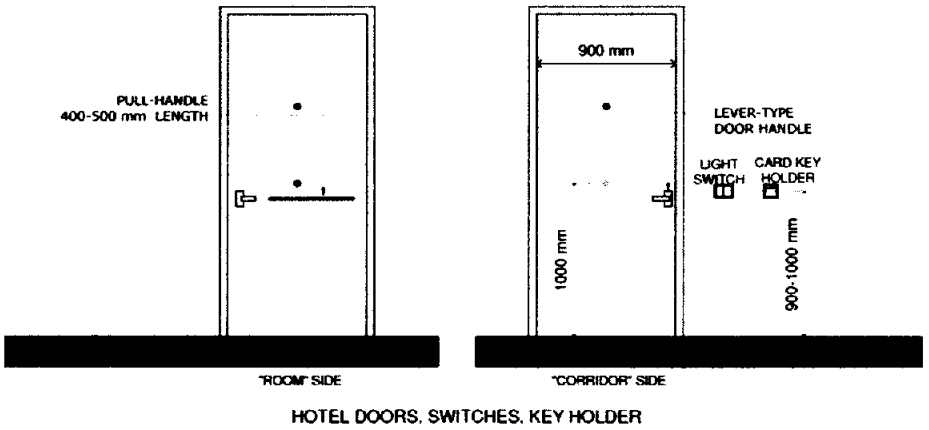
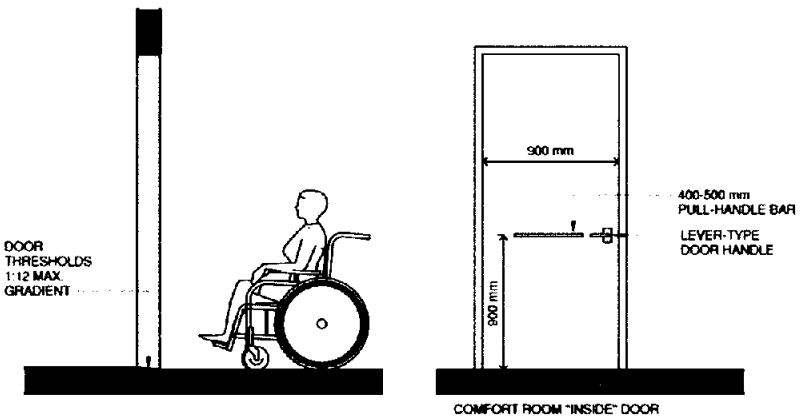


Figure 70. Actual photos of barrier-free toilet and lavatory in a hotel

b) Wheelchair access to the balcony, veranda or terraces;
c) A clear space of 800 mm between the bed and the walls or any fixed furniture in the room;
d) Lever-type door handles for easy opening for those without hands or hand strength;
e) Dual-height peepholes, with the lower peephole at 900-1000 mm from the floor;



HOTEL DOORS, SWITCHES, KEY HOLDER



DOORS (THRESHOLD AND COMFORT ROOM)

Figure 71. Illustration of the standards for hotel doors, switches, key holders.

f) Light switches and key card holders between 900-1100 mm;
g) Electrical outlets at 750-800 mm, just above tables or desks;
h) Shall have low-pile carpeting securely attached or no carpeting at all; no loose rugs that can cause tripping;
i) Easy-to-open, or easy-sliding closet doors, if applicable;
j) Dual-height hanger racks or coat hooks, with the lower hanger rack or coat hook at a range of 1100-1200 mm from the floor.

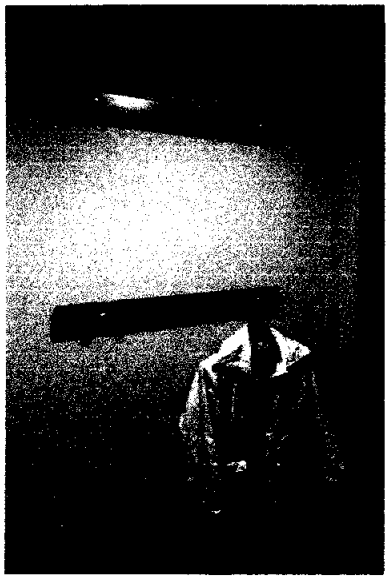


Figure 72. Actual photo of dual height hanger racks.

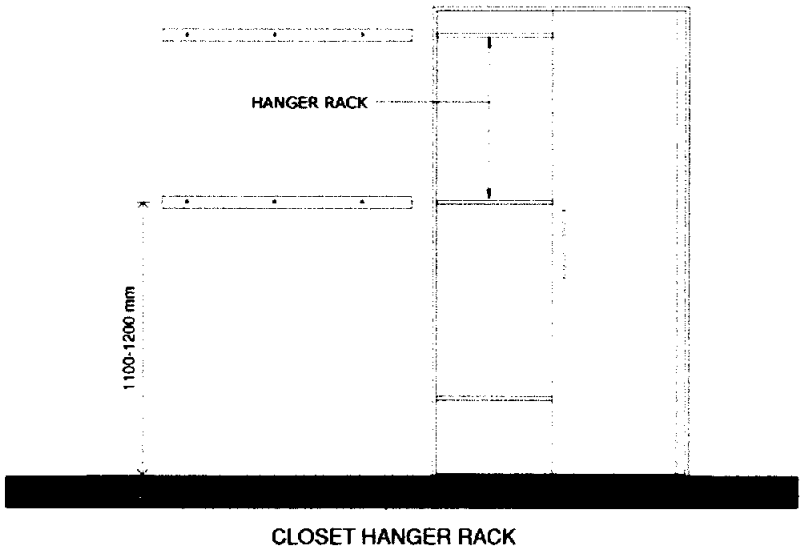


Figure 73. Illustration of the standards for a dual height hanger rack.

k) Bed height at a range of 450-500 mm from the floor;
l) Bedside supports are welcome, but an optional amenity to be made available by housekeeping upon the guest's request;
m) Emergency call button must be provided at 300-400 mm above the floor in the toilet area.
n) For the benefit and safety of the Deaf and Hard-of-hearing:

    1) A doorbell switch shall be installed at the door connected to two lights strategically placed in the toilet and inside the room where it is most visible and marked graphically to indicate that someone is at the door.

2) A flashing smoke alarm strategically placed in the toilet and inside the room where it is most visible and marked graphically to indicate "Fire" in case of one.

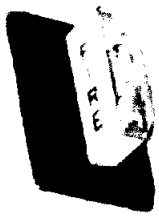
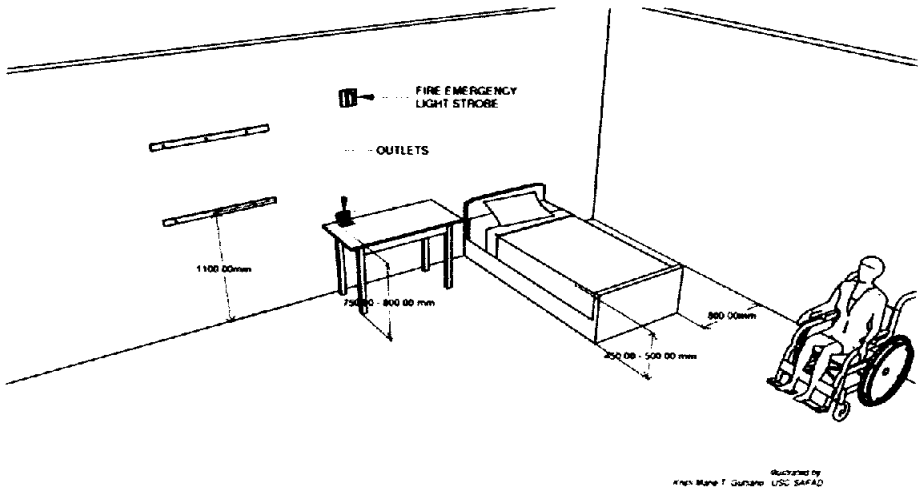


Figure 74. Actual photo of a flashing fire alarm

o) All desks shall comply with the specifications set forth in Section 18.



ACCOMMODATION

Figure 75. Illustration of the universal standards for hotel rooms.

SECTION 37. BATHING FACILITIES. -

1. ROLL-IN SHOWERS:

a) All accommodation sites, including sports facilities, hospitals, dormitories, shall provide a "roll-in" shower, which shall not be obstructed by a water closet or a door opening towards the inside of the bathroom.
b) It shall have the following universal standards:

1. The roll-in shower area shall have a minimum dimension of 1200 mm x 1200 mm.
2. The roll-in shower area shall be set lower with a maximum threshold of 12.7 mm, preferably ramped or beveled, separating the shower area from the lavatory area in order to prevent excess water from spilling over onto the lavatory floor and yet to make it easy for the wheelchair-user to get out of the shower area.

3. There shall be a distance from the tip of the water closet to the wall at a minimum of 900 mm to prevent the water closet from blocking the route to the shower.
4. There shall be slip-resistant tiles, even when wet.
5. There shall be L-configured bars for support on one wall.
6. On the opposite wall, there shall be a flip-up bar.
7. Said shower shall be fitted with a low-mounted hand-held shower between 900 mm to 1100 mm.
8. The drain shall be positioned to the front edge or the corner of the shower area, away from the feet of the user.
9. In hotel rooms, towel racks, hooks, laundry line shall be reachable by seated users and children at 1000-1100 mm.
10. Higher coat hooks for standing users shall be set at heights of 1050 mm and 1400 mm.
11. Curtain partition for flexibility is preferred for easy wheelchair maneuvering.
12. A strong and stable water-resistant chair or bench with backrest must be made available by housekeeping for roll-in showers.

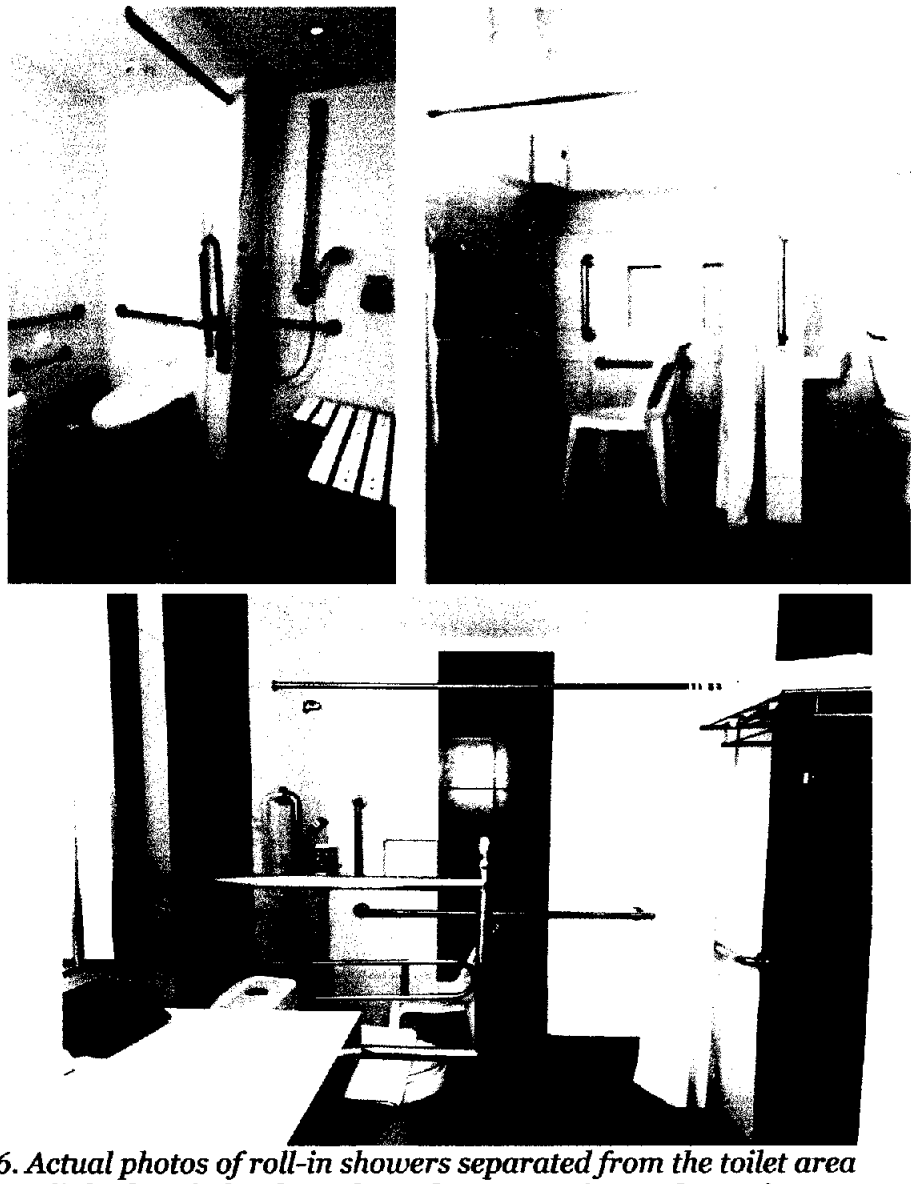


Figure 76. Actual photos of roll-in showers separated from the toilet area with a slight drop in level or a long shower grating and curtain.

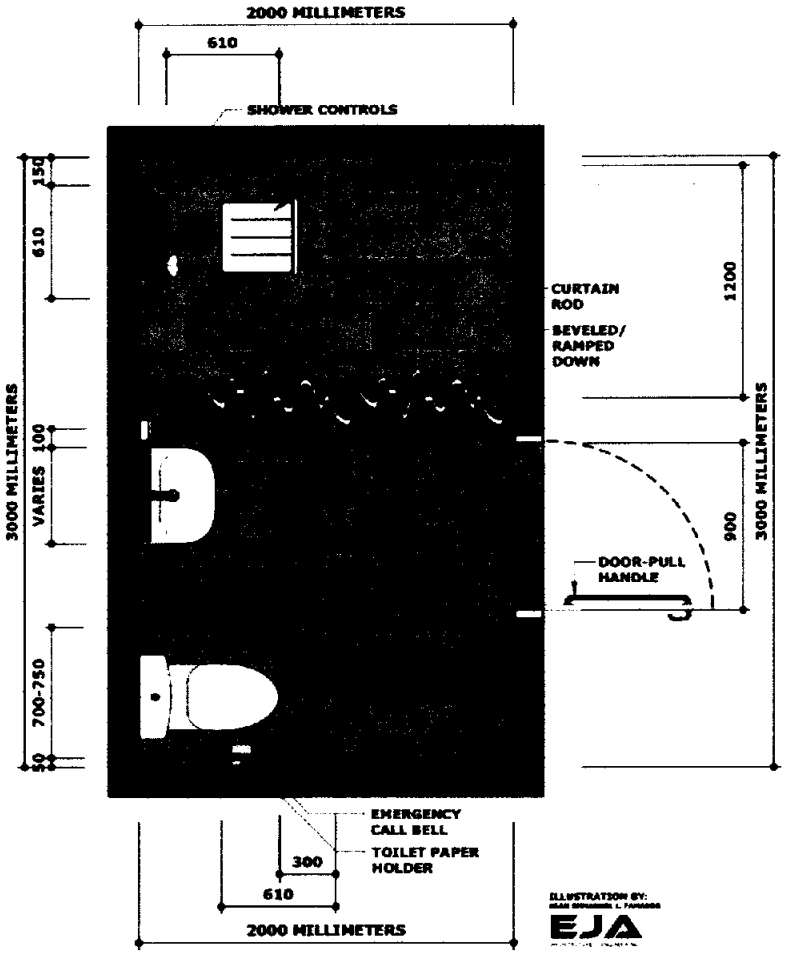


Figure 77. Illustration of toilet and roll-in shower for hotels as Option 1.

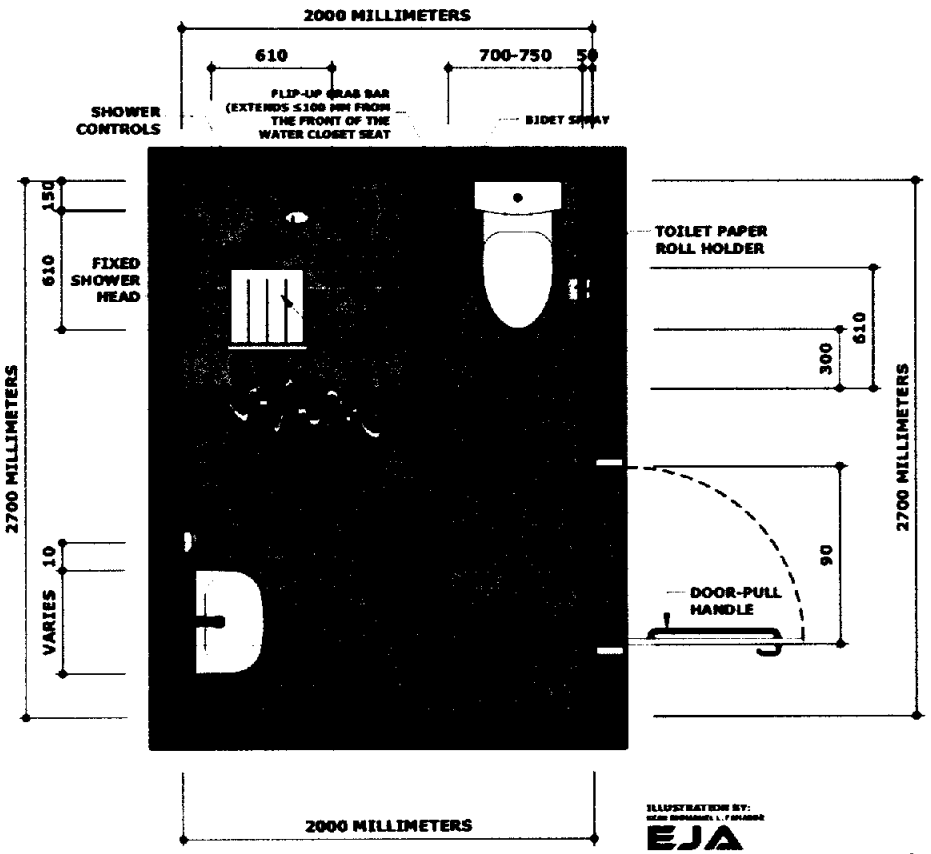
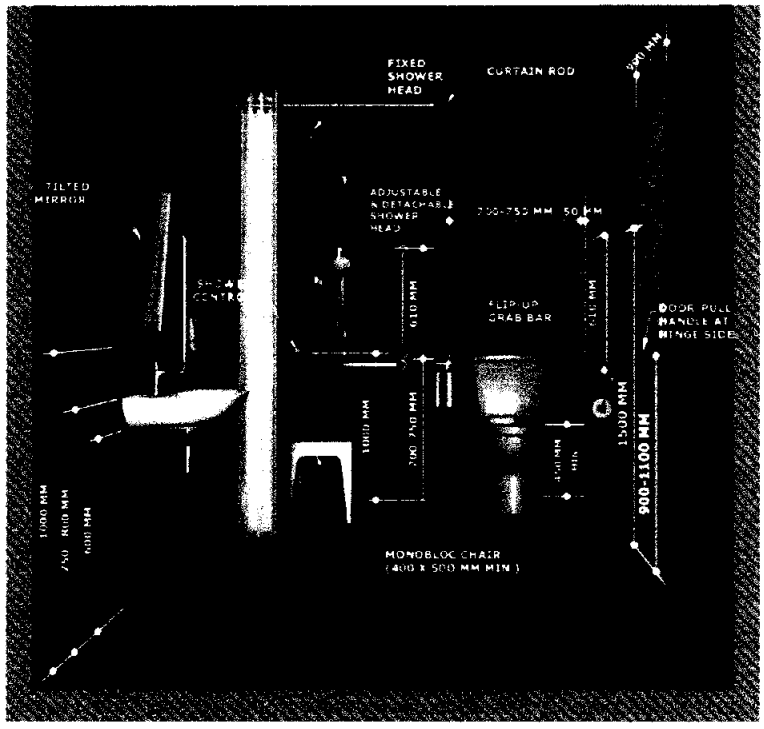


Figure 78. Illustration of toilet and roll-in shower for hotels as Option 2.



IMPORTANT NOTE:
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT BARS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 750 MILLIMETERS; OTHERWISE, SUPPORT IS TERRIBLY COMPROMISED.

Figure 79. Perspective of toilet and roll-in shower for hotels of Option 2. Please refer to Figure 40 for universal toilet specifications.

2. BATHTUBS

a) If a bathtub is provided, it must have a stable slip-resistant bench placed across the tub. This shall measure as close as possible to a width of 370 mm and a length of 780 mm. This bench shall be made available by housekeeping upon request.

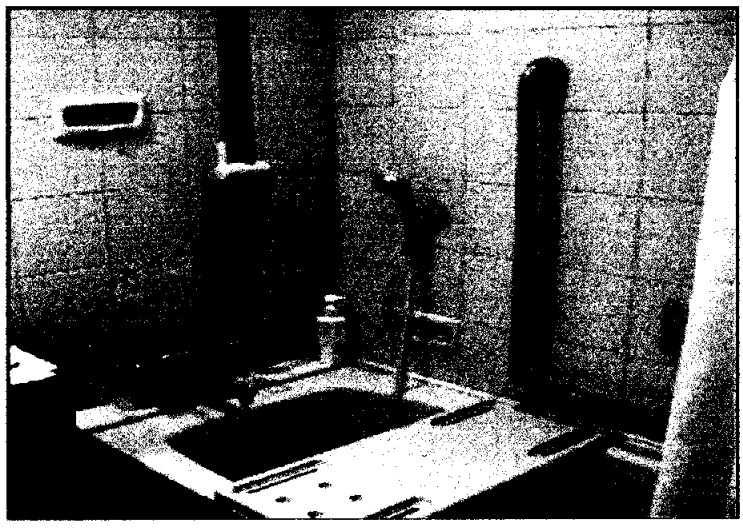


Figure 80. Actual photo of an accessible bath tub with bench provided by hotel housekeeping

b) There shall be no step next to a bathtub as it becomes a barrier for wheelchair-users to have access into the tub. It also poses a hazard for non-disabed people, especially when wet.

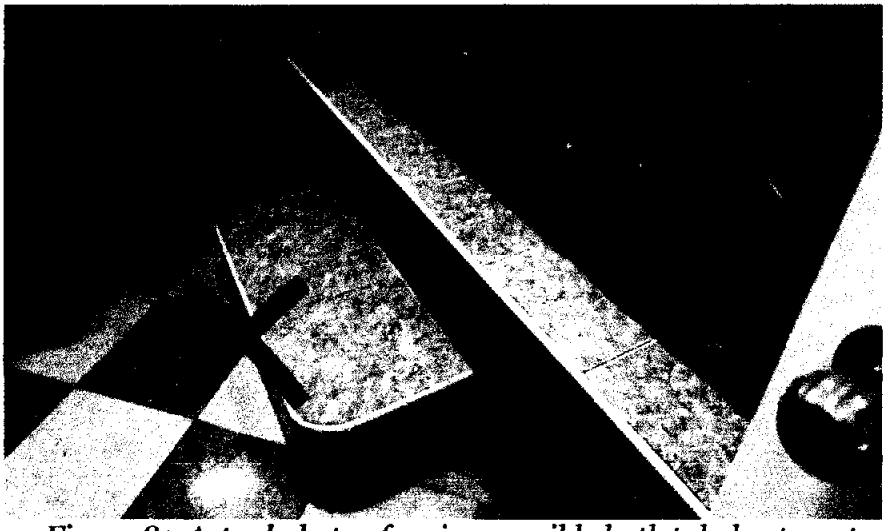


Figure 81. Actual photo of an inaccessible bath tub due to a step

3. SWIMMING POOLS

a) If and where applicable and feasible, swimming pools shall also be made accessible and then advertised in websites along with pictures of other barrier-free facilities and amenities in the tourism establishment or recreation area.
b) As a general rule, building a ramp into the pool is discouraged. A tourism establishment with a swimming pool can implement any of the following design options to make these pools accessible to persons with disabilities. Accessible pools shall contribute to the star ratings of a hotel.
c) The following swimming pool designs shall be considered as accessible and safe for person with disabilities:

1) SUNKEN POOLS[41]: For existing sunken pools on the ground, it can be made accessible by creating a short ramp alongside the edge of the pool leading up to a flat area at the pool's shallow entrance such that the height of the pool edge is around 400 mm, which is at least the height of the wheelchair seat, so that the wheelchair-user may transfer quite easily to the raised portion of the pool without or minimal assistance required, as well as to make it easier for personal assistants to avoid the risk of having slipped spinal discs.

[41] Technical advice of Yokohama Rapport Sports & Cultural Center For The Disabled to Adela Kono, accessibility advocate

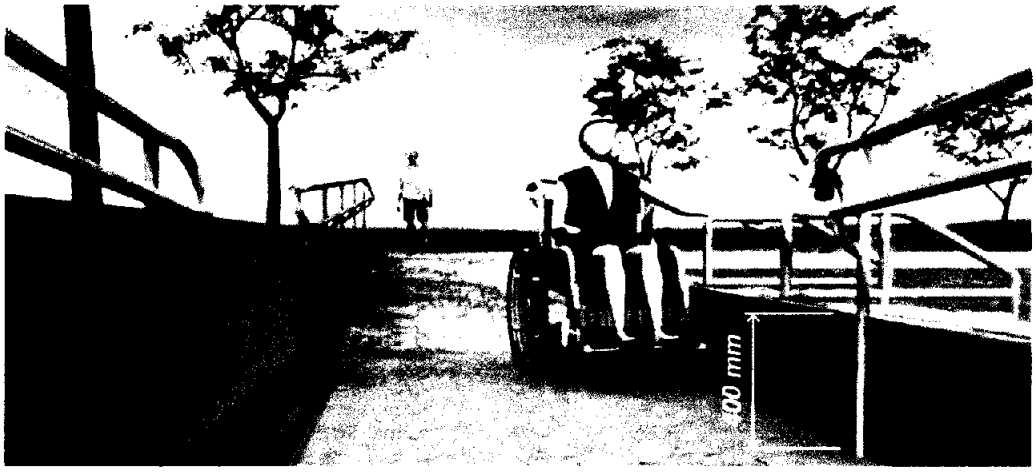


Figure 82. Illustration of an accessible sunken pool[42]

2) RAISED POOLS[43]

i. An alternative accessible design would be to build a raised pool to at least 400 mm from the floor to level with the seat of the wheelchair.
ii. Provide grab bars at the entrance of the pool where there are steps (not the ladder type).
iii. Entry/transfer area shall have neither a rough nor a very smooth surface.
iv. This design is mother-and-child-friendly as it offers safety for running children who could be prevented from falling into the pool.


Figure 83. Actual photos of raised pools

3) POOL LIFTS[44]: Pool lifts shall be provided by hotels as an option to help persons with disabilities and their caregivers or personal assistants enter the pool, and special devices for floating or swimming.

[42] Illustration by Archt. Serge V. Raagas, University of San Carlos, SAFAD, Cebu City
[43] Technical advice of Yokohama Rapport Sports & Cultural Center For The Disabled to Adela Kono, accessibility advocate
[44] Adopted from www.jacksonsleisure.com/swimming-pools/lifts

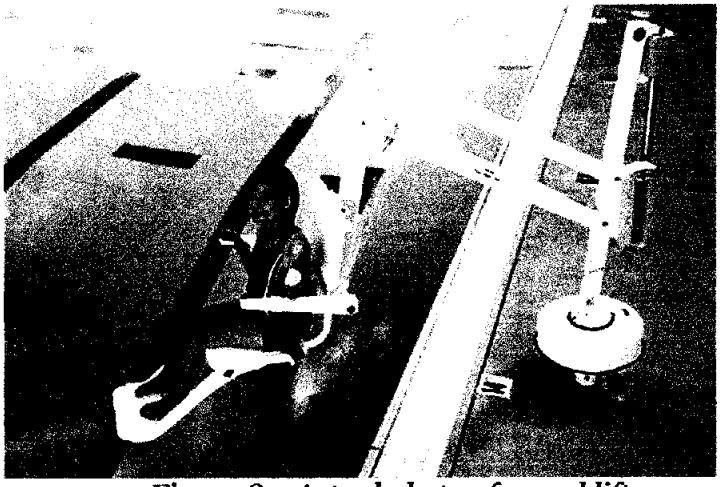


Figure 84. Actual photo of a pool lift.

4) BEACH ACCESS: Beach resorts shall provide a pathway to enable wheel-chair users to roll on sand smoothly from their rooms to beach kiosks, snack bars, and the beach front. A cemented pathway, path mat, pathway made of bamboo slats, or even handwoven mats (banig) along the path to the desired spot may be used to provide accessibility.

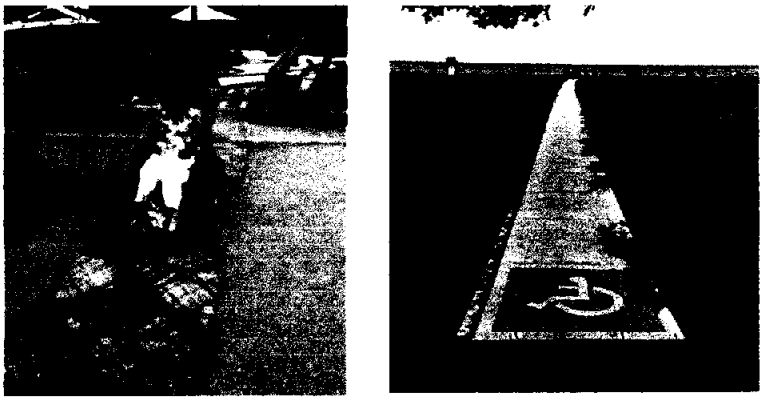


Figure 85. Actual photos of PWD facilities for access to and from the beach.

SEC. 38. RESTAURANTS. -

1. Restaurants shall have adequate space for wheelchairs to pass through between chairs when occupied.

2. Tables shall have open spaces underneath for knee and foot space for wheelchair-users.

3. If a table has fixed seats, there shall be a space made for at least one person in a wheelchair at the table.

Figure 86. Actual photo of a table with a space for a wheelchair-user

4. As an option, crutch or cane hooks cut into the table or back of the chair shall also serve as bag or umbrella holders.

Figure 87. Actual photo of a table with a space for crutches or cane hooks.

5. Buffet tables in restaurants shall comply with Section 19 of this Act.

SEC. 39. AUDITORIUMS, CINEMAS, CONCERT HALLS, SPORTS ARENAS AND SIMILAR SETTING. -

1. Lighting for sign language interpretation
   a) Adequate provision shall be made to facilitate sign language and lip reading. Lighting on the faces and hands of presenters and people signing should be provided at an angle of 45° to 50° from horizontal at ceiling level for people with a hearing impairment to be able to read the presenter's lips and the signer's lips and hands.
   b) A suitable contrasting backdrop should be provided, to assist in reading the presenter's lips and hands.

2. Designated seating areas for wheelchair users
   a) At least 1% of seats shall be designated as seating areas for wheelchairs users but in no case shall it be less than 2 seats.
   b) The following shall be the mandatory allocation of PWD designated seats:

Total No. of Seats	PWD Designated Seats
0-50 seats	2 seats
51-100	3 seats
101-200	4 seats
More than 200 seats	5 seats & 1 additional seat for every 200 seats thereafter

c) PWD designated seats shall be adjacent to each other to allow 2 wheel chair users to stay beside each other.
d) The armrest on the seats at the end of the row lift up to allow people to transfer from the wheelchair onto a seat.
e) To accommodate groups of wheelchair users, in an auditorium with fixed seats, a minimum of 15 seats shall be foldable or removable to increase the number of designated areas for wheelchair users when necessary.
f) The floor of spaces for wheelchair-users shall be leveled.

3. Access to stage and backstage

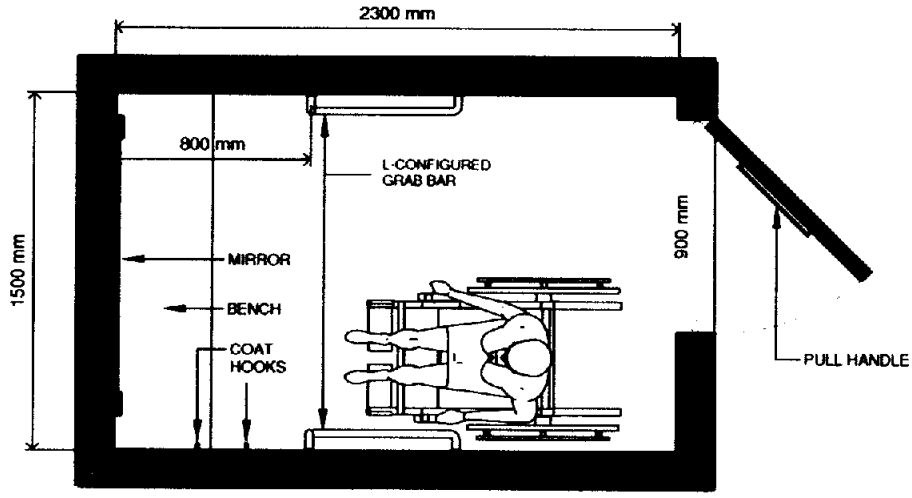
a) Access to the stage and to the backstage area shall be provided in new buildings. Adequate provision should be made to direct the user to the designated spaces.

4. Row and seat numbers

a) The row and seat numbers should be legible to people who have impaired vision. They should be tactile, of adequate size and have enough visual contrast to the background on which they are mounted.

5. Accessible changing or fitting rooms

a) A fixed bench should be set at a height of 400 mm to 480 mm above floor level. The bench should be no less than 500 mm wide by 2000 mm in length, and be provided with a grab rail at a height of 750 mm with a clearance of between 45 mm and 65 mm from the wall.
b) A clear space of 1500 mm by 1500 mm shall be beside the bench.
c) Coat hooks should be set at different heights: 850 mm to 1100 mm, and additionally at least one hook at 1800 mm.
d) Coat hooks, benches, locker handles and other furnishings should offer good color and tonal contrast to their backgrounds. Non-slip floor surfaces should be used, and good lighting as well as matte finished surfaces and furnishings should be provided.
e) Changing rooms shall have the same features as a fitting room with a minimum area of $4m^2$.



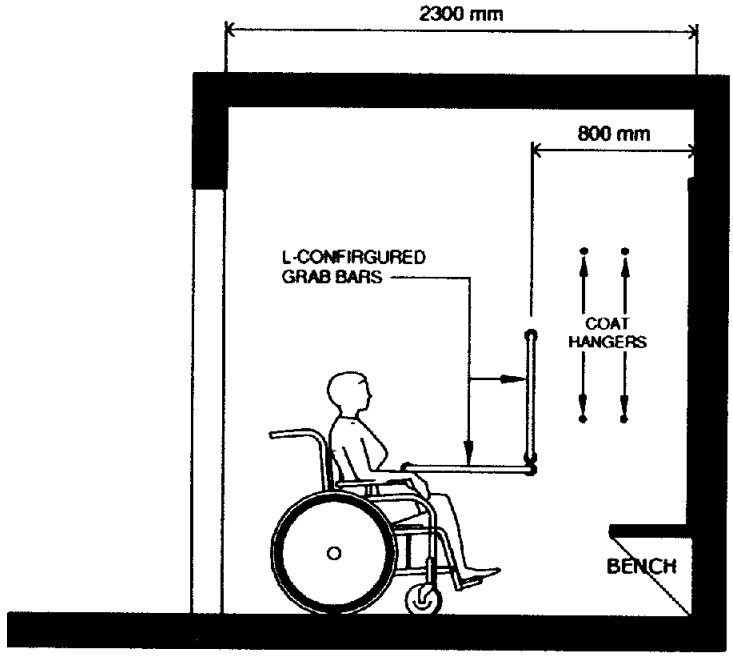


Figure 88. Illustration of the minimum design specification of an accessible changing room.

6. Viewing spaces in assembly areas

   a) Floor area[45]. The floor area for a wheelchair viewing space shall be connected to an accessible path of travel and shall meet the following requirements:

      1) It shall be at least 900mm x 1400mm;
      2) The depth of the row shall be minimum 2400 mm;
      3) The surface shall be clear and level;
      4) There must be a sufficient maneuvering space of 1500mm x 1500

[45] Adopted from ISO

mm;

5) Spaces for several wheelchair users shall be provided. They shall be located beside regular seating rows, for the wheelchair user to be able to stay by his/her accompanying person, if relevant;
6) It is recommended that the armrest on the seats at the end of the row lift up to allow wheelchair users to transfer from the wheelchair onto a seat. Some seats should be provided with foldable armrests, considering transferences;
7) Some other seats should be wider, considering larger size people.

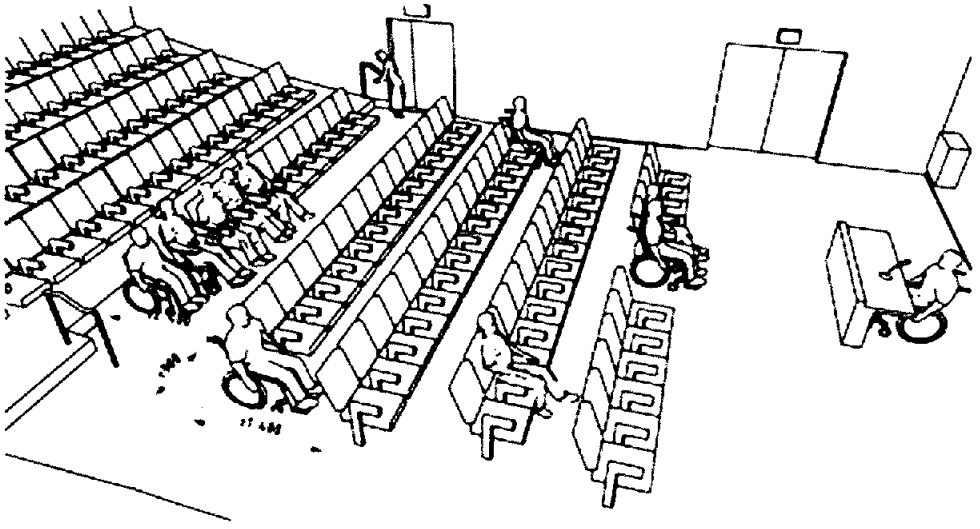


Figure 89. Illustration of an assembly area with designated spaces for PWD

7. Sight lines[46]

a) Wheelchair user viewing spaces shall provide viewing spaces that are:

1) comparable to those for all viewing positions with a minimum unobstructed eye level up to 1200 mm;
2) not reduced or obstructed by standing members of the audience. Row and seat number identification signs shall be legible to persons who are visually impaired.

SEC. 40. AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES AND TICKET VENDING MACHINES[47]. -

1. These machines shall be provided with Braille or embossed keys instead of touch-screen in order to be accessible to people with impaired vision.

2. Glare from the sun or any artificial lighting on the screen should be avoided.

3. Machines for dispensing money, tickets or small goods should be accessible and should be located on an accessible level.

[46] Adopted from ISO/FDIS 21542:2011(E)
[47] Adopted from ISO, 2011.

4. The approach to dispensers should be clear and unobstructed, at least 900 mm wide.

5. A knee space a minimum of 700 mm in height and a minimum 600 mm in depth and 900 mm in width should be provided to ease access for wheelchair users.

6. The clear area immediately in front of the machine should be at least 1500 mm by 1500 mm, to allow a wheelchair user to approach the controls sideways, and to turn around after use and to provide some privacy.

7. The operation of the machine should be easy to understand.

8. Card access shall:
   a) have a slot located at a height of between 800 mm to 1100 mm above the floor, preferably between 800 mm and 900 mm;
   b) include tactile graphic symbols on the surrounding surface that:
      1) represent the card; and
      2) identify the orientation of the card insertion;
   c) have both audible (beep) and visual (light) signals to indicate that access has been granted.

9. The keypad[48] shall:
   a) be located at a height between 800 mm to 1100 mm from the floor;
   b) be color-contrasted with the background;
   c) have characters that are color-contrasted with the keys;
   d) if numeric, be of a type whose buttons have a raised dot on number five which is 0.7 ± 0.1 mm high, and has a base 1.5 mm in diameter;
   e) have both audible (beep) and visual (light) signals to indicate that access has been granted; and
   f) the keys should be readable from both a standing and a seated position.

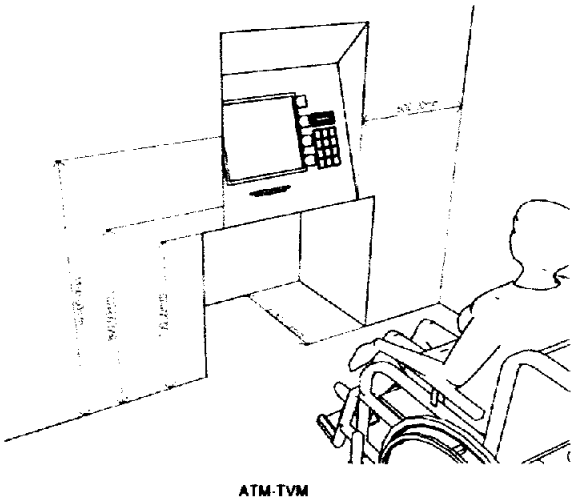


Figure 90. Illustration of a PWD accessible automated teller machines (ATM) or ticket vending machines

[48] Adopted from (ISO/FDIS-21542: 2011)(E)

SEC. 41. DRINKING FOUNTAINS. -

1. Drinking fountains shall be provided in educational and training institutions, parks and amusement parks, tourism sites away from restaurants such as historical places, terminals and railway stations, health centers, stadiums, sports centers and memorial parks.

2. Where a drinking fountain is appropriate, provide a split-level type design that caters to standing and seated users, short people and children.

3. The lower drinking fountain for wheelchair-users, short people and children must have the spout located at a range of 700 – 800 mm from the floor.

4. Where a split-level type design is not available, and only one drinking spout can be provided, its spout shall be located at a range of 700 – 800 mm from the floor.

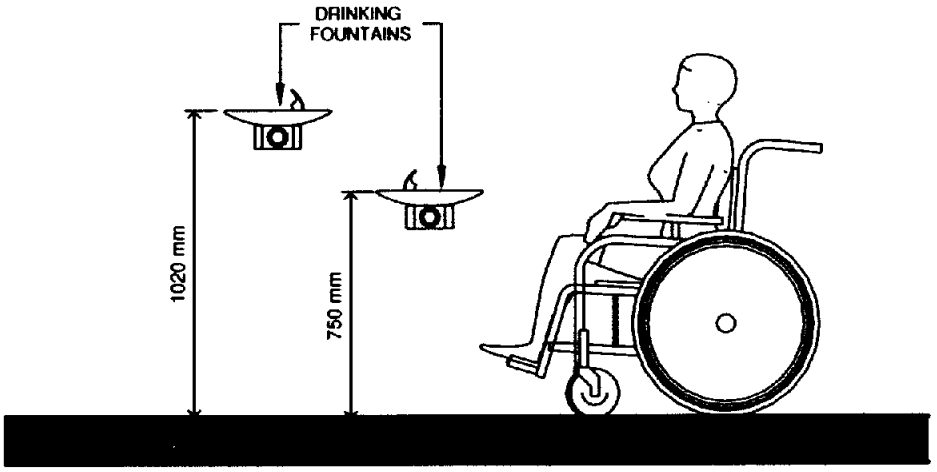


Figure 91. Illustration of an accessible drinking fountain

SEC. 42. FITTING ROOMS. -

1. At least one (1) fitting room shall be made accessible for wheelchair-users per retail clothing store and for every floor that sells clothing in a department store.

2. An accessible fitting room shall have signage of the international symbol of accessibility with the words "Fitting Room". Text and graphic shall be embossed or raised and in Braille.

Figure 92. Fitting room signage containing the universal accessibility symbol.

3. An accessible fitting room shall have a minimum area of 1000 mm x 1200 mm.

4. Its door shall open outward and have a horizontal door pull handle to close. However, curtains are preferred to doors for easier maneuverability.

5. With L-configured grab bars on both sides (refer to toilet grab bar configuration) where the one holding on to it can face the mirror.

6. A lower coat hook should be mounted on a side wall not more than 1100 mm - 1200 mm from the floor and projecting not more than 40 mm from the wall.

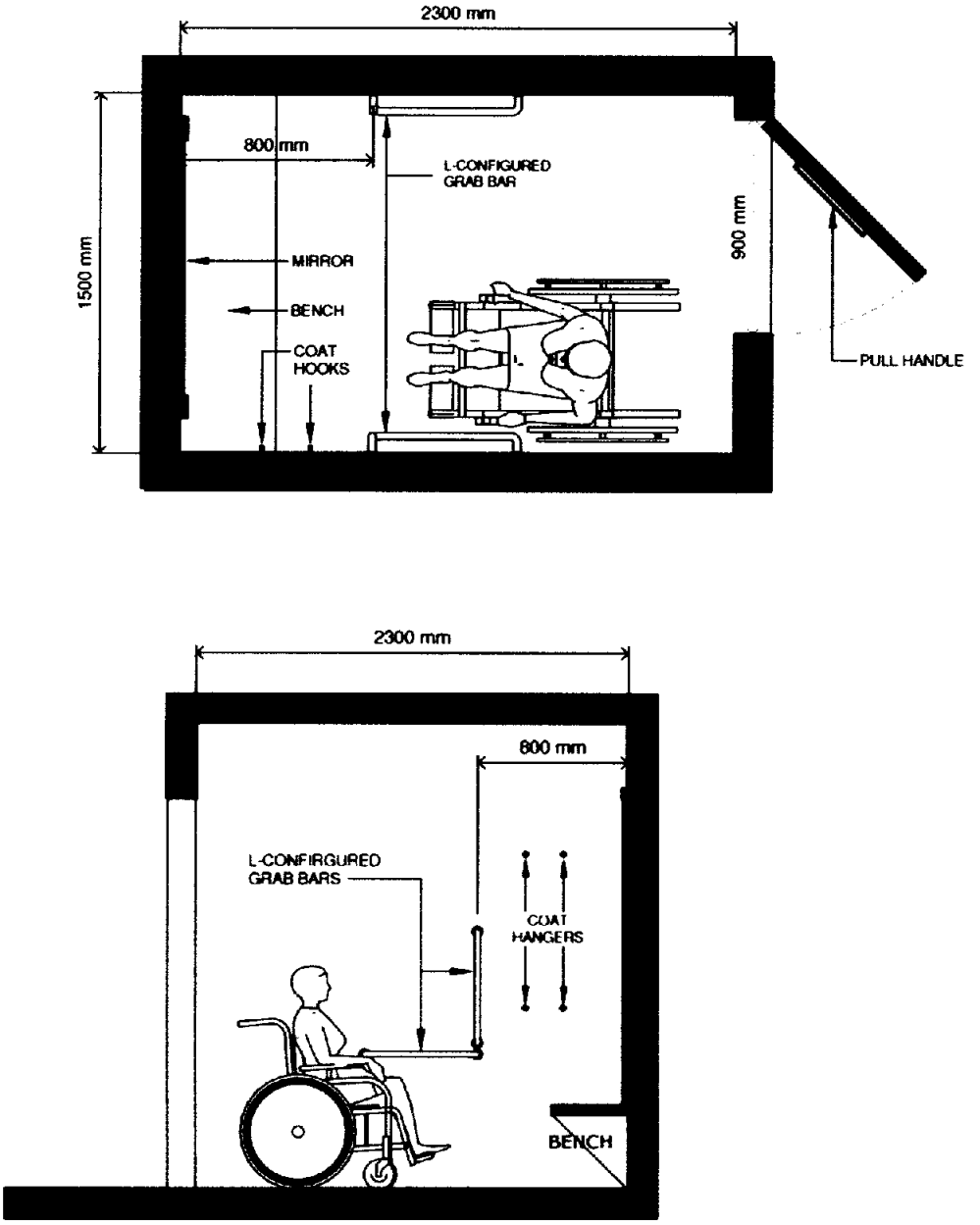


Figure 93. Illustrations of the design specification for an accessible fitting room.

CHAPTER 5
OPTIONAL FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SEC. 43. SENSORY ROOM[49]. -

1. A sensory room is for those with autism and those with sensory challenges. It is ideal in places where families converge for a couple of hours such as malls, clubhouses, and large terminals.

2. A sensory room is a unique, private space of comfortable seating, soft adjustable lights, bubbling waters, calming activities and such to allow for a quiet and secure place to help children with autism and sensory needs, as well as adults stressed by travel, crowds, or loud noises.

3. A sensory room will aid in breaking down barriers that prevent families from bringing out their children with sensory needs.

4. Professional advice from doctors knowledgeable on sensory issues is highly recommended when making a sensory room.

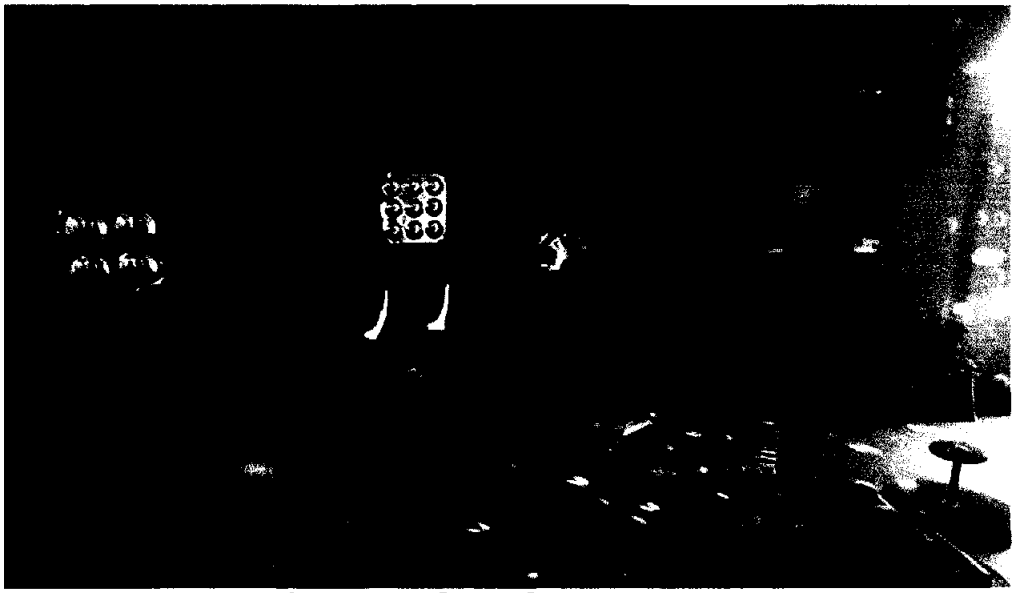


Figure 94. Photo of a sensory room.

SEC. 44. SENSORY GARDEN.

1. A sensory garden shall be provided in parks, playgrounds, big malls, and resorts. It is an environment that is designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses. This stimulation occurs courtesy of plants and the use of materials that engage one's senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound[50]. While anyone can enjoy a sensory garden, it is especially beneficial to the blind and visually impaired.

2. A sensory garden shall:

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[49] Adopted from www.flybirmingham.com/new-sensory-room-unveiled-at-bhm-airport
[50] Definition adopted from wikipedia.org/wiki/Sensory garden

a) Have pathways at 1200 mm wide, paved with slip-resistant pavers put closely together or pavers designed such that when put together does not create a bumpy ride for those in wheelchairs.
b) Plants and accessories on display for touching shall be reachable to a child in a wheelchair at a low height of at least 700 mm from the ground.
c) Be put together with professional advice as to the kinds of plants or accessories that are not harmful to the senses of touch and smell.

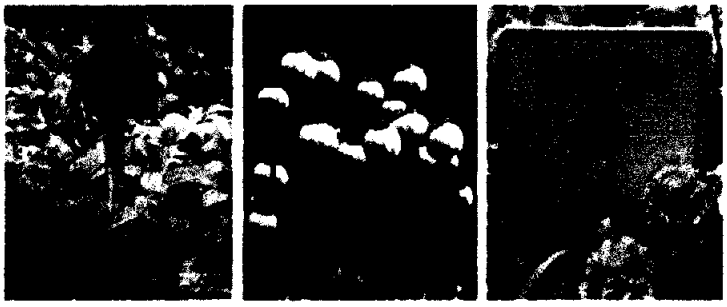


Figure 95. Photos of a sensory garden

CHAPTER 6
HOUSING PROJECTS

SEC. 45. PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS. -

1. In the case of Public Housing Projects comprising of apartment homes, condominiums, townhouses, and tenement housing, the government shall ensure that these types of housing are "accessible-ready" on the ground floor for a family member who acquires a disability or mobility impairment by providing the following:

    a) Ground floor elevation that will not require steps or steep ramps, if not, allow gentle slopes of 1:12-1:15;
    b) A room on the ground floor with little or no thresholds;
    c) Light switches between 900-1100 mm from the floor;
    d) Electrical outlets at 750-800 mm from the floor or just above tables or desk heights;
    e) Doors on the ground floor with clear widths in the range of 800-900 mm and open out;
    f) An accessible toilet on the ground floor with a door clear width of 800-900 mm and a shower area dropped down at 12.7 mm, which shall be sloped or beveled;
    g) A turning space of 1500 mm.
    h) Toilet shall not obstruct entry into the shower by positioning the toilet next to a wall where grab bars may be installed if and when needed. If it cannot be helped, then as much as possible, the distance between the front edge of the water closet and the wall should not be less than 800 mm to allow a wheelchair-user to get into the shower.

CHAPTER 7
UNIVERSAL STANDARDS AND POLICIES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

The government shall promote the modernization of transportation systems that make mobility accessible, safe, convenient and inclusive for all, especially the mobility impaired, visually and hearing impaired, elderly, pregnant women and young children in strollers, allowing for their independence as much as possible.

To this end, the government shall require the minimum accessibility requirements of all existing units of public transport vehicles, including those units which are to be repaired and renovated. The government shall further require public transportation staff to be given yearly disability awareness training to ensure that services are ready, proper, friendly, and courteous. Furthermore, PWD discount privileges shall be respected and honored at all times.

No license or franchise for the operation of public buses, passenger boats, ships and domestic airplanes shall be granted or issued unless the owner or operator thereof shall have provided and designated the number of seats and installed or provided the facilities and standards mandated in the preceding sections.

SEC. 46. WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE BUSES (WAB). -

1. This shall refer to buses having a minimum seating capacity of 30 persons for regular buses and mini-buses and shall apply to regular city buses, regular provincial buses, air-conditioned city buses and air-conditioned tourist and provincial buses.

2. No franchise or permit to operate public transportation units or buses shall be granted, issued or renewed unless 10% or at least one (1) of their units bought, constructed or renovated can accommodate the mobility impaired in accordance with the following required universal designs and specifications:

    a) Access into the bus shall be facilitated by any of the following:

        1) a platform lift,
        2) a pull-out slip-resistant ramp,
        3) a built-in flip-over ramp, or
        4) a portable folding ramp to be kept inside the bus for use at any time by a person with a mobility impairment, to serve as a bridging mechanism to eliminate every danger that the front wheels of wheelchairs and the tips of crutches and canes would not fall through the gap, thus allowing for a safe transfer;

3. Wheelchair-accessible buses shall have doors that open at least 900 mm wide to accommodate all types of wheelchairs. Door opening height must be at 1420 mm. Wheelchair lift platform must measure a clear 760 mm x 1020 mm wide[51].

4. A minimum space of two (2) bays for wheelchairs must be provided in the

[51] Adopted from the Code of Accessibility of Singapore.

place of folding seats for the use of the non-disabled when there are no persons with disabilities riding the bus.

5. Designated wheelchairs spaces must be nearest the entrance, beside a grab rail, and where wheelchair users can be secured with safety belts and clamps in case of sudden acceleration and deceleration.

6. There shall be at least four (4) priority seats indicated with signage for the crutch and cane users, elderly, and pregnant women. These designated seats and spaces shall have priority signage that shall be conspicuously displayed inside the units where designated seats or spaces are provided. Other passengers may use these designated seats if not occupied but yield to them whenever the occasion arises. The signages shall comply with the standards provided in Section 10.

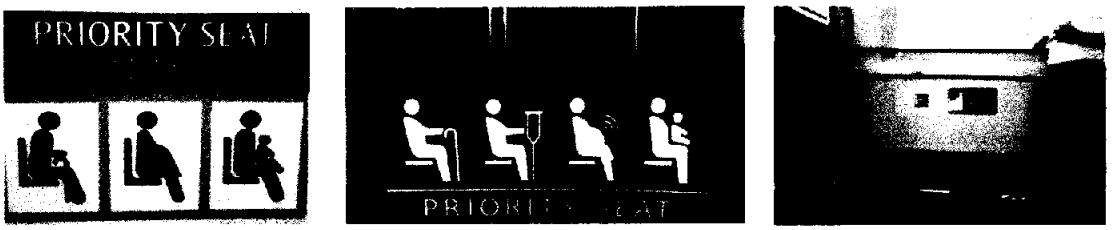


Figure 96. Actual photos of signage showing priority seating for PWD, elderly, pregnant women, and crutch and cane users

7. There shall be a call button that enables the wheelchair-user to alert the driver should he need attention or assistance at his next stop.

8. There shall be clear and audible sound systems or signage for the hard-of-hearing.

9. All accessible public transportation shall bear the international symbol of access.

SEC. 47. TRAINS AND RAILWAYS. -

1. This shall refer to any and all of the railway passenger companies and networks operating anywhere in the country.

2. There shall be friendly and consistent policies and systems of handling persons with disabilities from reservations to boarding to final destination. Laws on discounts must be implemented & respected.

3. Electronic devices and the prominent display of internationally recognized signage, posters or stickers shall be used to indicate priority and generate public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, senior citizens, women and children to accommodate their special needs.

4. Any public or private instrumentality operating passenger trains shall provide the seats for persons with disabilities in all instances.

5. Train stations shall:

   a) Have accessible ticket vending machines;
   b) Have passageways of at least 900 mm for wheelchair-users;

c) Provide spacious lifts or elevators that can hold at least two (2) wheelchair-users, if not baby strollers and two companions at one time, as well as luggage;
d) Provide gently sloped ramps with slip-resistant surface materials at a gradient of 1:15 as alternative routes or for emergencies or for prolonged elevator breakdowns. A gradient of 1:12 may be applied only if restricted by space;
e) Install safety railings or barriers on platforms to prevent persons and luggage from falling into the tracks;
f) Have at least two (2) universally designed unisex toilets and washrooms in anticipation of repairs and maintenance on one of them. A low urinal may be added in the same room, if space allows.
g) Have yellow tactile tiles for the blind. There shall be raised dots for STOP or CAUTION at points where there are changes of elevation or direction on passageways up to and from the train.
h) Have yellow hazard warning tactile tiles installed at a safe distance of 800 mm from the edge of the platform to the edge of the running tiles along the length of the train.
i) Have trained, courteous and attentive personnel ready at all times to escort and assist the mobility impaired by providing a portable folding ramp to bridge the gap between the platform and the train for safe transfers.
j) Provide the service of alerting the destination station to meet and assist the passenger with a mobility impairment upon arrival of the train.
k) Carefully develop emergency and evacuation plans and procedures for the safety of persons with mobility impairments.
l) Have accessible ATMs.

6. Trains shall have the following standards:

a) Have its floor on the same level as the platform floor.
b) Have a designated car for persons with disabilities indicated with signage on or next to a door with a clear width of 900 mm, or have at least six (6) designated seats per car for persons with disabilities nearest to the door.
c) Have signage on the windows of the designated car indicating priority seating for persons with mobility impairments, elderly, pregnant women and children in strollers.
d) There shall be a minimum clearance of 900 mm from the pole or grab bar to any part within the train car so as not be an obstruction to wheelchair users. Designated area may have an unfolding seat for a non-disabled passenger.
e) Have audio and visual announcement systems.

SEC. 48. PASSENGER SHIPS & FERRIES. -

1. Operators of passenger sea vessels shall ensure friendly and consistent policies and systems of handling the mobility impaired from reservations to actual boarding.

2. Gangways shall be at least 900 mm wide leading to entrances and doors of the same clear width of 900 mm.

3. Gangways shall be of slip-resistant surfaces with handrails on both sides for

safety.

4. At least one deck in passenger ships shall be provided with accessible ramps, passageway, access to gangways, galleys, safety equipment and bunks/berths/cabins with dimensions conforming with the requirements pertaining to accommodation.

5. High thresholds must be ramped or beveled.

6. Anticipating the need for repairs and maintenance, there shall be at least two (2) accessible unisex toilets and showers in universal design.

7. Designated seats, beds or cabins for the mobility impaired shall be marked with the accessibility signage.

8. Designated seats, beds or cabins for the mobility impaired shall be situated near and on the same level as the entrance/exit of the vessel and near accessible toilets.

9. Assisting staff shall be trained yearly in the handling persons with disabilities, particularly in an emergency.

10. Trained assisting staff shall be recognizable with a vest worn with the accessibility signage as follows:

    a) Signage on the left breast shall have a size of 100 mm x 100 mm;
    b) Signage at the back shall be bigger with a size of 200 mm x 200 mm

Figure 97. Actual photo of staff wearing vests with the universal accessibility symbol

11. Persons with mobility impairments shall be given priority to during embarkation and disembarkation through the assignment of time windows. They shall be given a twenty (20) minute period to embark ahead of the three (3) hour embarkation time prior to the ship's departure; and shall be allocated a maximum of one (1) hour for disembarkation after the ship's arrival.

12. Persons with mobility impairments shall be carefully considered and included in emergency and evacuation plans and measures. They shall receive top priority during rescue operations.

SEC. 49. TERMINALS, STATIONS & DEPOTS. -

1. The criteria and accessibility requirements provided for buildings and

related structures shall also apply to terminals.

2. Ramps inside the building from the disembarkation or parking site to the boarding site shall have a gradient of 1:15, slip-resistant surfaces, and have railings.

3. Ticket-selling counters shall be split level, with a lower one provided for wheelchair-users in accordance with the standards provided under Section 11. On the other hand, ticket vending machines shall have specifications indicated in Section 40 of this Act.

4. Passenger passageways shall have at least a 900 mm clear passage big enough for motorized wheelchairs. If other passageways are limited to the passing of only one person for control purposes, a separate entry way beside or near it with a clear width of 900 mm shall be made to allow for the passage of big wheelchairs.

5. Anticipating breakdown of toilet facilities, repairs and maintenance, there shall be at least two (2) universally designed unisex toilets at the terminals with the correct position of grab bars. If space allows within the comfort room, a low urinal may be installed on the opposite side from the water closet where the lower lip of the urinal shall be at 380-400 mm from the floor.

6. Restaurant tables shall movable seats. They shall have clear spaces underneath for wheelchair knee and foot space. Table supports underneath shall be of thin design and close to the center of the table.

7. There shall be tactile tiles to guide the visually impaired from the entrance to the nearest place of boarding or the queuing area. In train stations, there shall be a distance of 800 mm from the edge of the train platform to the side of the tactile tiles installed along the entire length of the train platform[52].

8. Announcements shall be communicated to the Deaf through visible means. Reserved seats for the Deaf and Hard-of-hearing shall be situated nearest these visual information or where announcements are made.

9. There shall be reserved seats for persons with disabilities nearest the door leading to the boarding site.

SEC. 50. GAS STATIONS & REST AREA FACILITIES. -

1. Gas stations and rest area facilities shall have at least one universal comfort room.

2. It must be accessible from the street level with a ramp having a gradient of a range of 1:12 to 1:15.

3. It must have an accessible public phone.

4. If it has a commercial area attached to it, its payment counter top shall be at 800 mm high from the floor.

[52] Adopted from Japan's Barrier Free Transportation Act of 2006

SEC. 51. AIRPORTS. -

1. Airports shall have two (2) to four (4) parking slots for persons with disabilities.

2. At least two (2) well-maintained wheelchairs on standby at the drop-off entrance of the airport for the mobility impaired in crutches or canes and who do not have their own wheelchairs and cannot walk very far.

3. For elevators to be used by travelers in airports, ports and terminals, the minimum size of an elevator shall be determined by considering the presence of a wheelchair-user, the companion, the ground staff giving assistance, and one luggage trolley.

4. There shall be universal toilets with family friendly features in or near lounges, shopping areas, food outlets and pre-departure areas and arrival lobbies.

5. It shall have drinking fountains in two or three levels for standing, seated and young children users.

6. There shall be priority seating in departure areas indicated with signage.

7. There shall be priority for PWDS in boarding announcements and sequence seating and the departure areas shall be properly indicated with signage, which shall be clear and visible.

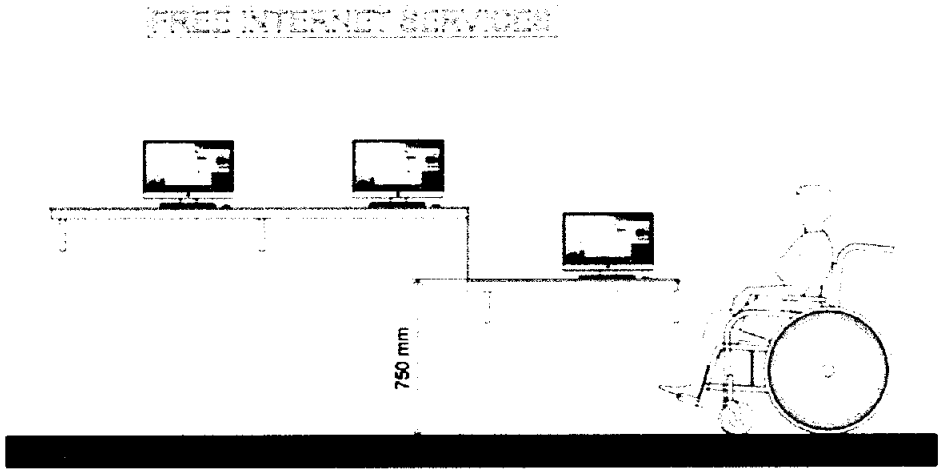
Figure 98. Actual photo of a signage showing priority boarding for PWDs

8. There shall be accessible tables and chairs in their restaurants.

9. There shall be one accessible low counter for free internet services and another low counter for charging bays for the benefit and use of PWDs.

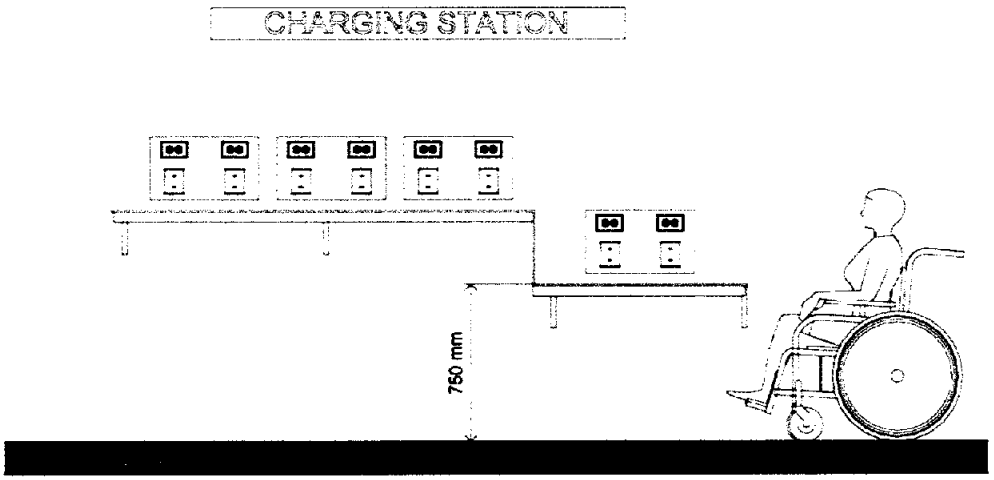
Figure 99. Actual photos of split level counters for free internet service and for charging bay[53]

[53] Inputs & photos on #9: Courtesy of Christine C. Ruedas, Velez College of PT.



FREE INTERNET SERVICES DESK

Figure 100. Illustration of the design specification for split level counters for free internet service



CHARGING STATION DESK

Figure 101. Illustration of the design specification for split level counters for charging bay

SEC. 52. POLICIES FOR PHILIPPINE AIRPORTS AND AIRPLANES FLYING ANY DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL ROUTE. -

1. Instrumentalities operating passenger airplanes shall provide and designate the number of seats for persons with disabilities.

2. Policies and systems of handling persons with disabilities shall be friendly and consistent from reservations to actual boarding.

3. Laws on discounts shall be respected and implemented.

4. All airports, and especially those servicing major cities or popular tourist destinations, shall provide Airport Ground Support Equipment (GSE) and accessibility services, such as ramps, trained assistants, etc.) to its passengers with mobility impairments, if possible, starting from the entrance of the airport to the airline seat and to the next destination airport.

5. In addition, the following airport and airline policies shall be enforced:

   a) ASSISTANTS' TRAINING: Ground crew whose job is to assist persons with disabilities shall first undergo training on the proper way of handling persons with disabilities and their assistive devices under a licensed Physical Therapist who is a member of the medical team of the airport. If none is available, videos made by colleges of physical therapy may be accessed in the internet for reference. A therapist or someone in the medical team or personnel trained in Filipino and International sign language would be helpful to the Deaf.
   b) ASSISTANTS' UNIFORM: Trained staff assigned to assist persons with disabilities shall wear vests with the accessibility signage to make them readily recognizable by persons with disabilities, elderly passengers and their companions.
   c) AIRPLANE SEATS: When accepting seat reservations or seating persons with disabilities on the plane, they shall be given airline seats with the widest legroom to accommodate their braces and prosthesis, nearest the widest toilet and at least one of their companions allowed to be seated with them. Upon embarkation, no further identification or medical certification is required for these passengers who need to be carried or are using leg braces or prosthesis.
   d) TAGGING OF WHEELCHAIRS AND LUGGAGE: Personal wheelchairs must be tagged with a similar card indicating:
      - LOAD IN HOLD AT DOOR SIDE (for easy priority release)
      - SPECIAL DELIVERY TO PASSENEGER AT AIRCRAFT DOOR

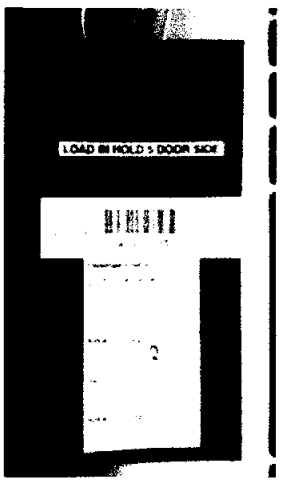


Figure 102. Actual photo of wheelchair loading/unloading instruction tag

Figure 103. Actual photo of personal wheelchair tagged as "special delivery" and brought up to the cabin instead of to the carousel to eliminate inconvenient/risky transfers and strollers. This is also applicable for strollers.

e) Luggage of persons with disabilities shall both be tagged with the accessibility icon or wheelchair symbol to indicate joint/equal priority especially during transfers, loading and unloading and claiming.

Figure 104: Actual photo of PWD's luggage tagged with the accessibility icon

f) **FRAGILITY OF MOBILITY AIDS:** Wheelchairs and mobility aids shall at all times be handled as fragile. After the person with a disability is delivered to his seat inside the airplane, his personal wheelchair shall be brought down to the cargo hold, loosely wrapped but tightly closed in clear plastic so that any loosened, detached or broken parts can be easily retrieved for possible swift repair. Should a handler, due to recklessness or neglect, cause severe damage to any passenger's mobility aid, especially a wheelchair, that it cannot function properly or can no longer be used safely or comfortably, the airline or airport shall make every effort to immediately repair if not replace the mobility aid with a new one of the same kind and size as much and as soon as possible.

Figure 105: Actual photo of a wheelchair wrapped in clear plastic

g) **EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION:** Persons using their own wheelchairs shall not be forced to transfer to an airport wheelchair. They shall be allowed to enter and exit the plane using their own wheelchairs as much as possible.

1) After boarding, stewards in the plane sh1.ll immediately notify the ground staff at the next destination of the presence of a passenger with a disability *who is travelling with their own wheelchair* to prepare themselves to render assistance.
2) Upon confirmation with the concerned passenger, at the beginning and towards the end of the flight, stewards shall request and remind the ground crew at the destination airport to retrieve the passenger's personal wheelchair from the cargo hold upon arrival and deliver it directly to the plane door where the passenger with a mobility impairment can ride on it without unnecessarily going through twice the difficulty and discomfort of having to transfer to another wheelchair.
3) When there is no tube available, the passenger's own wheelchair must be placed on the tarmac at the bottom of the plane's stairs or ramp to enable the carried passenger to sit on his own wheelchair at the soonest possible time without exposing him to further risk or danger of mishandling. Persons with disabilities shall be handled with care at all times, and in the absence of a tube, they shall never be carried up the plane with the feet first. Assisting staff should not hesitate to ask the person with a disability how they prefer to be assisted.
4) After arrival, ground staff assisting persons with mobility impairments shall continue to escort and assist them all the way to boarding their vehicles. While they may receive a tip from the passenger or companion, they are expected to give courteous and friendly assistant services all throughout without expecting anything in return.

CHAPTER 8
BARRIER-FREE TOURISM

SEC. 53. POLICIES PROMOTING BARRIER-FREE TOURISM

1. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

a) The minimum accessibility requirements shall apply to all existing units of public transport vehicles, and including those units, which are to be repaired and renovated.
b) All land, sea and air transport vehicles and carriers open for public use, including buses, trains, ships and airplanes shall have policies and procedures friendly to persons with mobility impairments, accessibility features and mechanisms as illustrated and deemed necessary to

facilitate safe and convenient boarding and disembarkation of all passengers including persons with disabilities without discrimination of any form;

c) All Service providers and operators of public land transportation are required to make available at least one percent of all its buses or transport vehicles accessible for passengers with mobility concerns and shall include accessibility as a requirement in acquiring new vehicles for public transport as a matter of policy;
d) All Service providers and operators of public transportation are required to provide training, at least once a year, for personnel on assisting persons with disabilities in terminals and during boarding and disembarkation;
e) Service providers shall make available forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides and readers to facilitate accessibility into buildings, facilities and transportation, and qualified, professional sign language interpreters to events for greater participation and assimilation.

2. ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS[54]:

a) It shall ensure that it has the correct barrier-free facilities according to the design specifications and measurements stated in these provisions, and that all outlets of the hotel is accessible to persons with disabilities.
b) An establishment's website is required to include relevant and detailed information and especially pictures of barrier-free facilities and amenities in the guest room, toilet, lavatory, and shower or bathtub in rooms designated for the mobility impaired existing in the hotel, as well as other outlets within the resort or hotel to provide information to a prospective guest with disability or impairment whether or not the establishment can address his special needs. Front office staff or the sales office shall be ready to e-mail pictures of its toilet & bathroom, if requested by a prospective guest. This website shall be updated from time to time along with the improvements of the establishment's facilities and amenities.
c) For transparency purpose, all accommodation establishments shall specify the number of rooms for PWDS available in its premises. Further, it shall also specify other amenities that can be borrowed from housekeeping by the guest with a disability, such as a wet-proof bath chair, a sturdy, non-slip bench across the bathtub, bedside supports, beach path mat, etc.

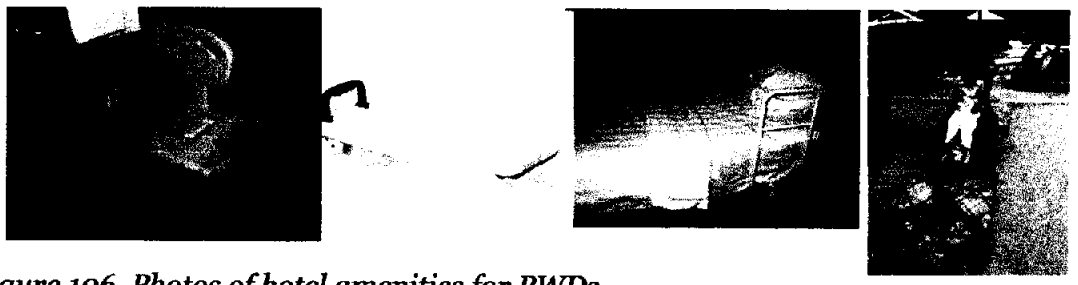


Figure 106. Photos of hotel amenities for PWDs

[54] Adopted from The Inclusion Imperative Towards Disability-inclusive Development and Accessible Urban Development

d) Accommodation establishments shall ensure that their reception or front desk personnel understands what "barrier-free" or "universal" means when asked, and can explain exactly what facilities are available if a PWD inquires.
e) Front desk personnel should be able to provide information or suggest sites, establishments and resorts in the local area that have barrier-free facilities & inclusive environments.
f) Accommodation establishments shall have accessible transport services as part of your hotel establishment or tie-up with an accessible transport entity to convey your guest to accessible tourism sites.
g) Persons with disabilities must not be banned or discriminated from participation in various sports and recreational venues and activities. However, the extent of their participation may be regulated by the operator of the recreational facility only in cases where safety is compromised. Should a person with disability insist where the risk to his safety is too high, he shall sign a waiver in which he shall not hold the establishment liable in case of any untoward event.

3. TOURISM SITES[55]

a) Tourist attractions, nature attractions, historical buildings and sites, structures and related facilities, such as: viewing towers and decks, ferris wheels, cable cars, gardens, swimming pools, amusement parks, gardens, zoos, aquaria, casinos, adventure parks and facilities, museums, galleries, videoke and karaoke bars, malls, strip malls, theaters or cinemas, shopping centers, , "pasalubong" outlets, restaurants, clubhouses, sports and other recreation centers shall have the following facilities:

1) Pre-visit information available in accessible formats and providing complete information about the accessibility of the site and services.
2) Staff trained in disability and equality awareness.
3) An accessible external landscape, including routes.
4) Simple and intuitive wayfinding and orientation.
5) Accessible routes at the entrance, throughout the attraction, display or activity area, until the exit.

Figure 107. Actual photo of an accessible cable car that is very close to and on the same level as the platform. It has ample space for a wheelchair and some companions.

[55] Adopted from United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

b) Viewing decks in zoos and aquariums shall have designated areas for wheelchair users which shall be duly indicated with the accessibility symbol.

Figure 108. Actual photos of viewing decks with designated areas for PWD

c) Multiple wheelchair seating in sports venues, theatres, cinemas, auditoriums with leveled floor for wheelchair-users.

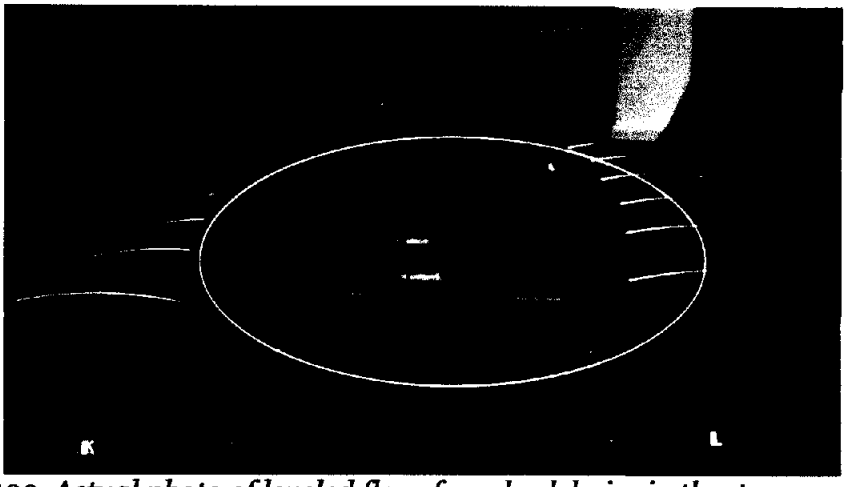


Figure 109. Actual photo of leveled floor for wheelchairs in theaters or auditoria.

d) There shall be Boarding assistance and safety systems with portable devices such as folding ramps in ride attractions.

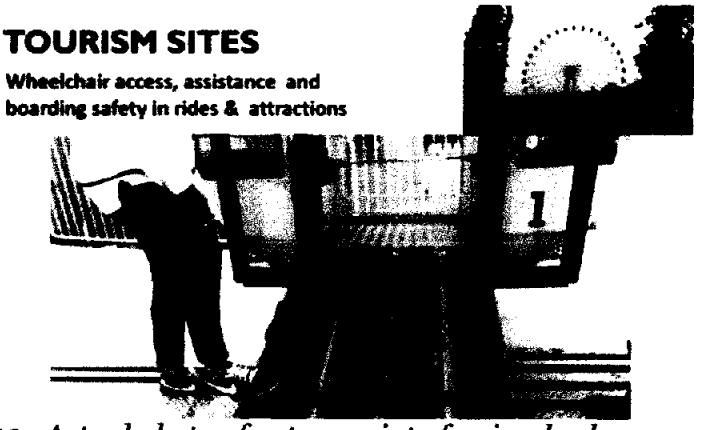


Figure 110. Actual photo of entrance into ferris wheel car with a portable ramp provided by assistants.

e) A one-wheeled carriage shall be provided for ruins and mountain trekking.

Figure 111. Actual photo of a one-wheeled carriage to reduce bumps in ruins and rough mountainous terrains.

f) There shall be well-designed and legible signage showing direction and indicating detours for wheelchair paths.

Figure 112. Actual photo of a PWD signage showing direction in a garden.

g) There shall be universal comfort room facilities.
h) Shopping areas and pasalubong outlets shall also be accessible in accordance with the standards provided in this Act.
i) Interpretive information available in a variety of formats.

j) In the event of an emergency, PWDs shall be the priority for evacuation.
k) There shall be electric shuttle cars with portable ramps for the mobility impaired in large areas and spaces such as malls, zoos, amusement parks, gardens and the like.

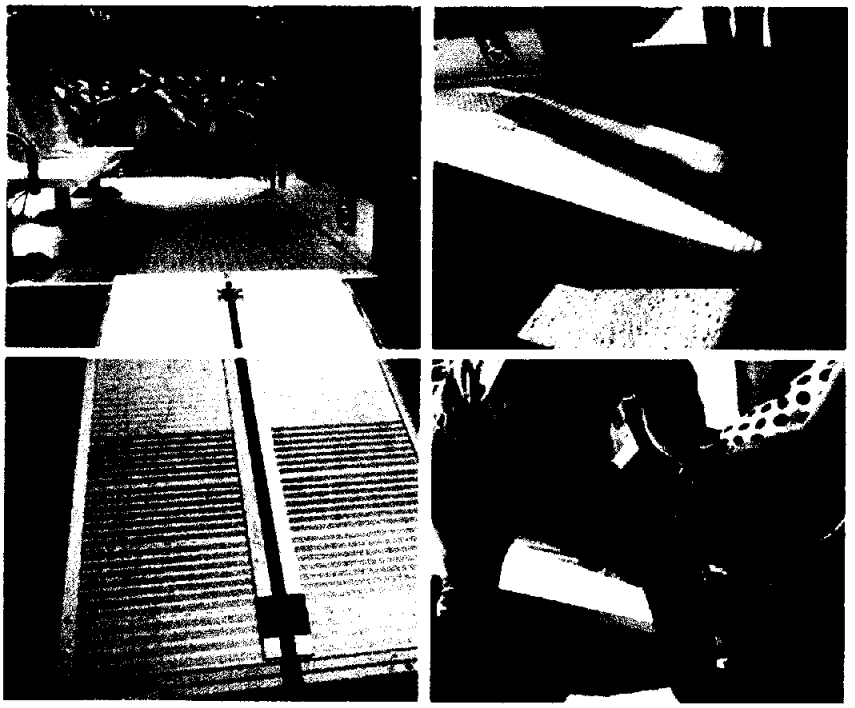


Figure 113. Actual photos of portable ramp used in a shuttle

SEC. 54. TRAVEL AGENCIES. -

1. Travel agencies shall endeavor to provide barrier-free tourism services for people with disabilities who are planning a trip or vacation. This can be done by:

    a) Creating a database of the following:

        1. Accommodation sites that have barrier-free facilities, especially in toilets and bathrooms.
        2. Tourist sites, restaurants and points of interest that have barrier-free facilities.
        3. Accessible transportation.

    b) Taking time to understand a client's special needs and how these needs can be addressed by the right facility or amenity.
    c) Finding an accessible accommodation with facilities that match the client's special needs.
    d) Find the appropriate means of transportation for the client from arrival to touring to departure.
    e) Work with the establishment, tourist site management and transport operator to see what they can do to meet the client's special needs during his travel and stay.
    f) Create a demand for barrier-free facilities, networks, and services.

SEC. 55. ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATION. -

1. All government institutions and private establishments providing services open or provided to the public shall take necessary measures to provide accessibility in information and communications by making available accessible computers and accessible information technology devices, facilitating accessible telecommunication and accessible broadcasting services to all users, including persons with disabilities;

2. All national and local government offices shall take into account accessibility for persons with disabilities in providing public information by making available information materials in accessible formats, providing sign language interpretation and ensuring website accessibility for all users;

3. Service providers for telecommunication, broadcasting, information, computer and other information technology devices shall make efforts to take into account accessibility for persons with disabilities in providing services or manufacturing devices on the basis of social solidarity;

4. Information and communication technology devices, hardware and other components shall be designed appropriately for the ease of use of persons with different types of disabilities;

CHAPTER 9
EDUCATION, IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING, FINES & PENALTIES

SEC. 56. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN STANDARDS OF ACCESSIBILITY. -

1. All public and private colleges and universities offering and teaching interior design, architecture, civil engineering and related courses shall include in its curriculum a subject on universal accessibility laws. The Commission on Higher Education shall issue rules and regulations to ensure that this Act shall be properly taught in colleges and universities aforementioned.

2. Within a period of one (1) year from effectivity of this Act, the Department on Public Works and Highways shall conduct fora, symposia, seminars, and other awareness-raising activities to government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, contractors, architects, engineers, and other stakeholders on the pertinent provisions of this Act.

SEC. 57. PERIOD OF COMPLIANCE. -

1. All establishments specified in Section 4 and 5 of this Act are mandated to comply the mandated standards within five (5) years from effectivity of the Act subject to the following conditions:

2. All establishments covered, which are already existing at the time of the effectivity of the Act, shall comply with herein provisions and apply provisions of Section 56, paragraph 1 for the conduct of repairs and renovations pursuant to this Act;

3. All establishments to be constructed after the effectivity of this Act shall not

be given any building permit unless it shall strictly comply with the mandated standards under this Act.

SEC. 58. INCENTIVES. -

1. For private establishments which are required to implement renovation and repairs to comply with the standards specified under this Act, government shall subsidize 30% of the total renovation or repair cost. The subsidy shall be given in the form of a tax credit, which can be used to pay or offset a portion of their tax payments. The tax credit can either be used to pay or offset local business taxes or national taxes.

2. To avail of this incentive, the Office of the Building Official together with an accredited non-government organization or person engaged in PWD accessibility advocacy, shall certify that an establishment has undertaken repairs and renovations and has fully complied with the universal standards and specification under this law.

3. The local government in coordination with the Bureau of Internal Revenue shall prepare the rules and regulations for the process and requirements in availing the incentive provided under this Act as well as mechanisms to prevent the abuse of the use of this incentive.

4. The Department of Tourism, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Works and Highways are mandated to issue rules and regulations for the grant of incentives to the specific establishments covered under their specific jurisdiction to encourage compliance of this provisions of this Act.

SEC. 59. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING. -

1. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall be responsible for the compliance of all national roads and highways, pedestrian bridges or overpasses, curb ramps, ramps and handrails, crossings and their inter-connectivity. It shall ensure that all the aforementioned facilities, pending and upcoming, shall be fully compliant with this Act.
2. The Office of the Building Official in all local government units shall be responsible in ensuring that all establishments mentioned in Sections 4 and 5 of this Act within its territorial jurisdiction shall comply with the universal design and standards mandated in this Act. In relation thereto, no building permit, occupational permit shall be issued unless a building or facility is fully and correctly compliant with the universal design and standards under this Act.

    a) All local government units are mandated to create an Accessibility Audit Division in its respective Office of the Building Official. The Accessibility Audit Division shall be in-charge with checking and monitoring that all covered establishments are fully compliant of this Act. The Accessibility Audit Division shall include a duly licensed civil engineer or architect, and, if available, a person with disability well-versed on accessibility matters. The Division is authorized to tap or partner with the private sector in monitoring the compliance of all covered establishments.
    b) The Office of Tourism Standards and Regulations of the Department of

Tourism (DOT) is hereby empowered to monitor the compliance of all tourism and tourism-related enterprises with the universal designs and standards and barrier-free tourism policies under this Act. Compliance with this Act shall be a requirement for accreditation or renewal of such accreditation to operate as a tourism enterprise/facility.

3. All government offices shall have an accessibility audit focal person, who shall be responsible in checking that any construction, repair, or renovation in the said office is fully and correctly compliant to this Act. Such focal person shall sign in the inspection report prior to any payment made to private contractors.

4. The Department of Transportation shall be in-charge of ensuring compliance of the universal standards and design for the transportation sector. The following attached agencies of government are mandated to ensure compliance to the universal design and standards under this Act, which are applicable to the specific sector regulated by them. Compliance to this Act shall be a requirement prior to the issuance of any license or permit issued by the following:

   a) Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board - in respect to the issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) and Provisional Authority (PA) for the operation of public road transportation utilities or services.
   b) Land Transportation Office – In respect to the registration of buses and jeepneys and enforcement of regulations related to land transport.
   c) Philippine National Railways and the Light Rail Transit Authority – For the operation of passenger trains and including stations and terminals.
   d) Maritime Industry Authority – In respect to the development, promotion, and regulation of all enterprises engaged in business of designing, constructing, manufacturing, acquiring, operating, supplying, repairing and/or maintaining vessels or components thereof; of managing and/or operating shipping lines, shipyards, dry docks, marine railways, marine repair shops, shipping and freight forwarding agencies and similar enterprises; issuance of licenses to all water transport vessels
   e) Philippine Ports Authority – In respect to the planning, development, financing, construction, maintenance and operation of ports, port facilities, port physical plants, and all equipment used in connection with the operation of a port.
   f) Civil Aeronautics Board – In respect to the supervision and regulation of, the jurisdiction and control over air carriers, general sales agents, cargo sales agents and airfreight forwarders, and issuance of certificates/licenses to aircrafts.
   g) Air Transportation Office – In respect to the maintenance, operation and development of all government airports, their ground support equipment, their policies in handling persons with mobility impairments according to the policies stated under this Act.

5. The National Council on Disability Affairs is hereby directed to do the following:
   a) create an Accessibility Audit Committee that is in-charge of monitoring correct implementation:

1) Within its offices
2) In other government agencies
3) In public places
4) In transportation vehicles and facilities
5) In tourism areas
6) In the professional curriculum

b) promote the correct understanding of the Universal Design and Barrier-Free Tourism provisions and policies of this law among persons with disabilities so they do not confuse this with some of the provisions of BP344.
c) Actively and regularly disseminate copies of this law to implementing bodies.
d) Support PWDs who have a grievance against non-compliant establishments if raised to their level.
e) Help gather new universal design ideas and standards to further enhance the experience of accessibility and barrier-free tourism for all.

SEC. 60. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE. - Any person aggrieved by the lack or improper accessibility features in an establishment or facility required under this Act shall file a grievance complaint before the Office of the Building Official of the city or municipality where such establishment or facility is situated.

1. The person aggrieved shall fill up the Accessibility Grievance Form (See Annex 1 of this Act) and submit it to OBO. Within 5 days from receipt of the grievance form, the Office of the Building Official shall send a notice of conference to the concerned establishment or office notifying it of a clarificatory conference together with the complainant. The conference shall be held within a period of 5 days from receipt of such notice. OBO shall likewise conduct an inspection of the establishment or facility to verify the complaint prior to the conduct of the clarificatory conference.

2. During the conference, the concerned establishment shall be notified of the nature or specific acts of its alleged lack or improper accessibility features or facilities mandated under this Act. It shall be shown pictures of its violations, if any. If the complaint is found to be with basis, the establishment or facility shall be required to issue an undertaking that it shall immediately take corrective measures to install the required accessibility feature or facility or provide the correct standard as required under this Act within a period of 30 days from termination of the conference.

3. The establishment may request for an additional maximum period of 30 days to comply provided it can show justifiable reasons or grounds.

4. Unless certified by the proper authority not feasible technically, structurally, or financially, failure of the establishment to comply with its Undertaking shall render it liable under Section 61 of this Act.

SEC. 61. FUNDING. -

1. All government offices are required to allocate ten percent (10%) of their annual budgets for the repair and renovation of their respective offices,

buildings, and facilities in order to comply with the universal design and standards under this Act following its enactment into law and thereafter.

2. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall allocate Five Hundred Million Pesos (PhP500,000,00.00) annually for the improvement and repair of all national roads, bridges, ramps, pedestrian crossings, sidewalks and other facilities to comply with the provisions of this Act following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 62. PENALTIES. -

1. The following acts shall be punishable under this law, to wit:

    a. Failure to install or provide the accessibility features specified in Chapters 1 to 7 of this Act;
    b. Failure to comply with the specified design and/or standard provided under this Act;
    c. Failure to implement the necessary renovation or repair to comply with the accessibility standards within the period of compliance provided in Section 56 of this Act;
    d. Failure to install the universal accessibility signage in areas where they are required for the proper guidance of persons with disabilities;
    e. Installation of universal accessibility signage despite the lack or absence of universal design standards or facilities;
    f. Allowing non-PWDs to use the designated PWD parking slots;
    g. Putting any obstruction that blocks PWD's access to curb ramps, sidewalks, ramps, disembarkation areas, pedestrian bridges;
    h. Providing misleading information of the presence of accessibility features in an establishment despite its absence thereof;
    i. Removal of such accessible equipment, features and amenities without the prompt replacement of such with those of better standard or quality.

2. Any person who commits any of the aforementioned acts shall be punished in the following manner:

    a. For the first violation, a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years, or both at the discretion of the court; and
    b. For any subsequent violation, a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not exceeding One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or imprisonment for not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years, or both at the discretion of the court.

3. Any establishment that cannot comply with this Act due to technical or structural impediment as provided for in Section 6 shall secure a certification to such effect from the Office of the Building Official.

4. Any government contractor that shall implement a government project that does not comply with any of the accessibility facilities and standards mandated under this Act shall be banned from participating in any bidding project for one (1) year.

5. Any government employee or official who falsely certifies that a project or facility is compliant to the mandated standards under this Act shall be criminally and administratively liable under existing laws, rules, and regulations.

6. In the case of corporations, partnerships, cooperatives or associations, the president, manager or administrator, or the person who is directly charge of the construction, repair or renovation of the buildings, space or utilities shall be criminally responsible for any violation of this Act and/or rules, regulations and specifications promulgated pursuant thereto.

SEC. 63. PERSONS OR INDIVIDUALS LIABLE FOR ANY VIOLATION OF THIS ACT[58]. -

1. For Buildings/Establishment/Structure:

   a) Owner or Operator of the Building, Establishment or Structure
   b) Contractor
   c) Architect
   d) Engineer
   e) Building Official or Other Public Official in-charge with the issuance of building permit, registration, certification and/or inspection of the building, establishment or structure

2. For Air, Land and Sea Transportation:

   a) Owner/Operator of Public Transportation
   b) Body builders
   c) Safety Officers/Engineering/Managers
   d) Drivers/Conductors/Conductresses
   e) Public Official in-charge with the issuance of permits, registration, certification and inspection of the public transportation

SEC. 64. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - Should any provision of this Act be found unconstitutional by a court of law, such provisions shall be severed from the remainder of the Act, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Act.

SEC. 65. REPEALING CLAUSE. -

1. Batas Pambansa 344 or *An Act To Enhance The Mobility Of Disabled Persons By Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments And Public Utilities To Install Facilities And Other Devices* is hereby repealed.

2. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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[58] BP 344: Accessibility Law

SEC. 66. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This act shall take effect within 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

ANNEX 1: ACCESSIBILITY GRIEVANCE FORM

ACCESSIBILITY GRIEVANCE FORM

Date of Filing: _____
Month/Day/Year

Attention:
OFFICE OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, City/Municipality of _____

Full name of complainant: _____

☐ PWD/Nature of disability_____ ☐ Family/Concerned Citizen

Home Address: _____

Contact Nos.: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of establishment where the problem/concern was encountered:

_____

Address or Branch of establishment where the problem/concern was encountered:

_____

Accessibility Issue/Details of Concern: _____

_____

_____

_____

Suggestions/recommendations to address the problem/concern:

_____

_____

_____

_____ _____
Full Signature of Complainant *Name & Signature of Witness, if any.*