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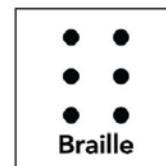
Blind or Low Vision



International Symbol of
Accessibility



Assisted Listening Device



Braille

GUIDELINES FOR

BARRIER-FREE DESIGN

OF

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT FACILITIES



Audio Description



Large Print



Deaf or Hard of Hearing



Volume Control Telephone



Web Access



TTY Teletypewriter



Sign Language Interpretation

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Introduction

On December 14, 2001, the Ministry of Citizenship's accessibility legislation, Bill 125, received royal assent and was proclaimed as the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA). The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) received Royal Assent and was proclaimed on June 13, 2005.

Section 4 of the ODA requires the Government of Ontario to develop accessible design guidelines through consultation with persons with disabilities and others to promote accessibility to government buildings, structures and premises.

On-line consultation and focus testing was performed with the assistance of an architectural consultant. Recommendations were made based on information gathered through the consultation process, legislation and other sources. Those recommendations were presented in a report entitled "Report on Recommendations for Accessible Design Guidelines", dated June 6, 2003.

These Guidelines were revised in December 2014 to update them in accordance with the revisions to the Ontario Building Code, which come into effect January 2015 and in particular the AODA - Design of Public Spaces Standard.

Note that the design guidelines contained within this document are not comprehensive and represent common accessibility related requirements encountered in OPS related projects. ***The Ontario Building Code (as amended) should always be referenced for comprehensive design details.***

Purpose

These Guidelines will be used to inform Infrastructure Ontario, all Government of Ontario Ministries and their third party service providers of the minimum general requirements for accessible design in Government of Ontario owned and operated facilities. ***This document is intended as a guideline only and the Ontario Building Code (as amended) should always be referenced for more in depth detail and specifications.***

Application

Subsection 4(4) of the ODA states: "The Government of Ontario shall ensure that the design of buildings, structures and premises, or parts of buildings, structures and premises, that it purchases, constructs or significantly renovates after this section comes into force complies with the guidelines before occupation or regular use by its employees.

The Guidelines are meant to address primarily base building requirements, including areas generally accessible to the public, and may not apply to non-public areas of special purpose facilities. As such, it is the responsibility of each Ministry to ensure their space is as accessible as possible, regardless of its inclusion in these guidelines.

In summary, all areas of newly designed or newly constructed Government of Ontario facilities, and/or alterations/renovations related to existing facilities, shall comply with these guidelines, unless otherwise provided for in this section, or as modified in a Ministry's program or facility-specific accessibility standard or specification, to the greatest extent possible.

Definition of New Lease

Subsection 4(5) of the ODA states that the Government of Ontario will also have regard for these guidelines in determining whether to enter into a 'new lease' with a third party landlord for space to be occupied or used by its employees.

A 'new lease' is defined to include

- All new leases, sub-leases and assignments of lease with a third party landlord for space to be occupied by government employees; and
- Any additional space added to an existing lease, by renewal or amendment, whether or not the space is contiguous or on the same floor.

Further, a 'new lease' does not include:

- A service provider's leased space being reverted back to the Government due to a service provider's termination;
- The renewal of a lease;
- Sub-letting of space by government tenants to third party tenants; or
- License arrangements.

Heritage Facilities

Infrastructure Ontario manages many provincially significant heritage assets through its Heritage Management Process (2007). Contemplated renovations to heritage assets shall be assessed for compliance with these guidelines on an individual basis, to determine the most effective and least disruptive means of retrofit. Appropriate Government and external stakeholders will be engaged to ensure an appropriate building transition plan is achieved.

Security Considerations

In some cases, the accessible design requirements outlined in these guidelines may conflict with a requirement that is based on the specific security features of a facility (e.g. detention centre or courthouse). Where such conflicts arise, the contemplated construction or renovations shall be assessed for compliance with these guidelines on an individual basis to determine if the intent of the guidelines can still be achieved without compromising the security and safety of the facility's users.

Definition of Significant Renovation

These Guidelines will apply to renovations or changes to contiguous government owned or occupied space of at least 10,000 square feet where 50% of the floor space is affected.

Significant renovations do not include projects limited only to repair or restoration to wall finishes, flooring or ceilings.

Additional Items to Consider

Maintenance

It is essential that accessible paths of travel and facilities be properly maintained in accordance with other applicable legislation or standard maintenance practices in order to reduce the creation of new barriers. Some examples of maintenance items include:

- Timely removal of snow and ice;
- Timely repair of uneven surfaces;
- Removal of furniture, fixtures and stored items that impede clearance spaces or corridor widths;
- Proper leveling of elevators;
- Adjustment of door closers and elevator doors to prescribed limits;
- Maintenance of prescribed lighting levels; and
- Proper maintenance of non-glare surfaces.

Emergency Evacuation Planning

Facility Emergency Evacuation Planning should address accessibility procedures for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities who regularly occupy a facility should have access to Emergency Evacuation Plans in a range of formats, including large text and electronic formats. This will help to improve the understanding of evacuation methods and promote adequate training of persons with disabilities of the emergency measures.

Implementation

Where applicable, Ministries shall ensure due consideration and compliance with this document during site evaluation and acquisition, pre-planning, and the site plan, design, construction document preparation, approvals, construction and contract administration phases of each project initiated. These guidelines are not accompanied by a prescriptive 'appeal' or 'exemption' process. As such, it is at the discretion of the Ministry and/or the relevant Infrastructure Ontario project team to determine if compliance with these guidelines can be achieved in light of any exceptional circumstances. Further, as per previous note above, this is only a guideline document and the OBC as amended should always be referenced and adhered to as applicable.

Exceptional Circumstances

Exceptional circumstances may be identified on a case-by-case evaluation, the impact of which will be considered when determining whether these guidelines will be applied in their entirety to a facility or specific space based on the following considerations:

-
- Whether a particular site offers services to the general public that warrant regular access;
 - Whether the requirements of other applicable legislation will impeded the application of these guidelines;
 - Whether the use of these guidelines would obstruct the structural integrity of the facility, or the quality and/or function of a facility, program or service; or
 - Whether health and/or safety requirements will render the application of these guidelines unreasonable.

Municipal Regulations, By-Laws and Guidelines

Many municipalities have prepared their own accessible guidelines or standards. Where a building is located within a municipality with its own regulations, by-laws, and/or guidelines related to accessibility, the municipal specification is to be applied to the area of construction or renovation as applicable and as practical.

1.0 Exterior Areas

1.1 Design of Public Spaces Standard

The design of accessible public spaces is governed by the Design of Public Spaces Standard, forming part of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA). This standard provides accessibility requirements for the following:

- recreational trails;
- beach access routes;
- boardwalks;
- outdoor public use eating areas;
- outdoor play spaces;
- exterior paths of travel;
- pedestrian signals;
- parking;
- service counters;
- fixed queuing guides;
- waiting areas; and
- maintenance of accessible elements.

It is advised that when designing any of the elements listed above, the design team refer directly to the Design of Public Spaces Standards and the Ontario Building Code. A link to this document is noted below and can also be found at the end of this guideline.

[O.Reg 413/12 - Design of Public Spaces Standard Reg.](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2012/elaws_src_regs_r12413_e.htm)

(http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2012/elaws_src_regs_r12413_e.htm)

1.2 Accessible Off Street Parking and Drop-Off Areas

[O.Reg. 413/12 section 80.32 to 80.38](#)

- 1.2.1 A Type A parking space is a wider parking space intended to be for accessible vans. The parking space must be 3400 mm in width. (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 A Type B parking space is a standard accessible parking space with a minimum width of 2400 mm. (Figure 1).
- 1.2.3 Provide a minimum number of accessible car parking spaces in each parking area as follows:
 - One parking space for the use of persons with disabilities, which meets the requirements of a Type A parking space, where there are 12 parking spaces or fewer.

- Four per cent of the total number of parking spaces for the use of persons with disabilities, where there are between 13 and 100 parking spaces in accordance with the following ratios, rounding up to the nearest whole number:
- 1.2.4 Where an even number of accessible parking spaces are required, parking spaces must be equally divided between Type A and Type B parking spaces. Where an odd number of accessible parking spaces are required, the additional odd numbered parking space may be a Type B parking space.
 - 1.2.5 Both Type A and Type B parking spaces must have a 1500mm wide access aisle. The access aisle shall be the same length as required for the accessible parking space. Two adjacent parking spaces may share the same access aisle. Access aisles must be marked with high tonal contrast diagonal lines. (Figure 1).
 - 1.2.6 One accessible parking space and an additional three per cent of parking spaces for the use of persons with disabilities, where there are between 101 and 200 parking spaces must be accessible parking spaces, calculated in accordance with ratios set out in subparagraphs of 1.2.3 rounding up to the nearest whole number.
 - 1.2.7 Two accessible parking spaces and an additional two per cent of parking spaces for the use of persons with disabilities, where there are between 201 and 1,000 parking spaces must be parking spaces for the use of persons with disabilities in accordance with the ratio in subparagraphs of 1.2.3 rounding up to the nearest whole number.
 - 1.2.8 Eleven accessible parking spaces and an additional one per cent of parking spaces for the use of persons with disabilities, where more than 1,000 parking spaces are provided must be parking spaces for the use of persons with disabilities in accordance with the ratio in subparagraphs of 1.2.3 rounding up to the nearest whole number.

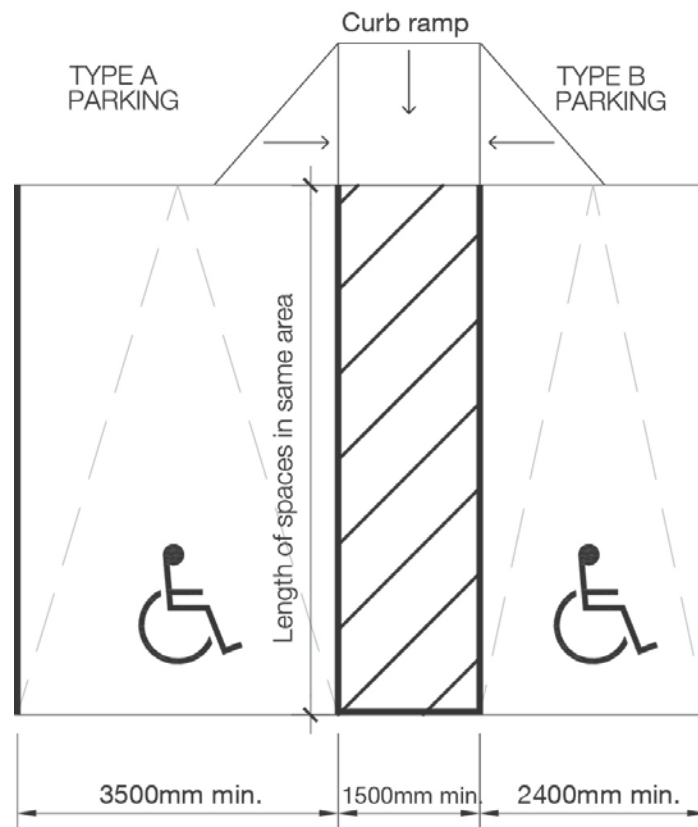


Figure 1 Accessible Parking Spaces

SYMBOLS OF ACCESS



International Symbol of
Accessibility



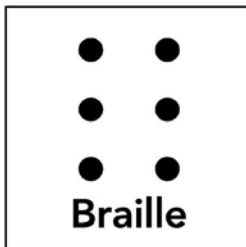
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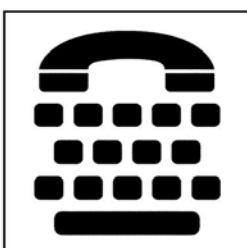
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Figure 2 Symbols

- 1.2.9 Type A and Type B accessible parking spaces shall be located as close as possible to the main accessible entrance of the building and shall lead directly to the building entrance without crossing any drive aisles. Provide a curb ramp as per 1.4.11. (That will not be blocked by a parked vehicle) directly adjacent to the designated spaces. The accessible route shall be clearly marked.
- 1.2.10 The surface of all accessible parking spaces must be level (2% maximum slope in any direction), firm (no gravel) and slip-resistant. Pavement markings must use non-slip paint. Do not paint the entire surface of the parking space.
- 1.2.11 Provide signage to designate the accessible spaces as reserved for permit-holders:
- .1 A vertical post-mounted sign in front of the space, with the centre of the sign between 1500mm and 2000mm above the ground. Sign shall be in accordance with Ontario Highway Traffic Act, Ontario Reg. 581. (Figure 3); and
 - .2 A painted pavement marking in the centre of the space, in contrasting colour to the pavement, 1000mm in length, with the International Symbol of Accessibility. (Figure 1)

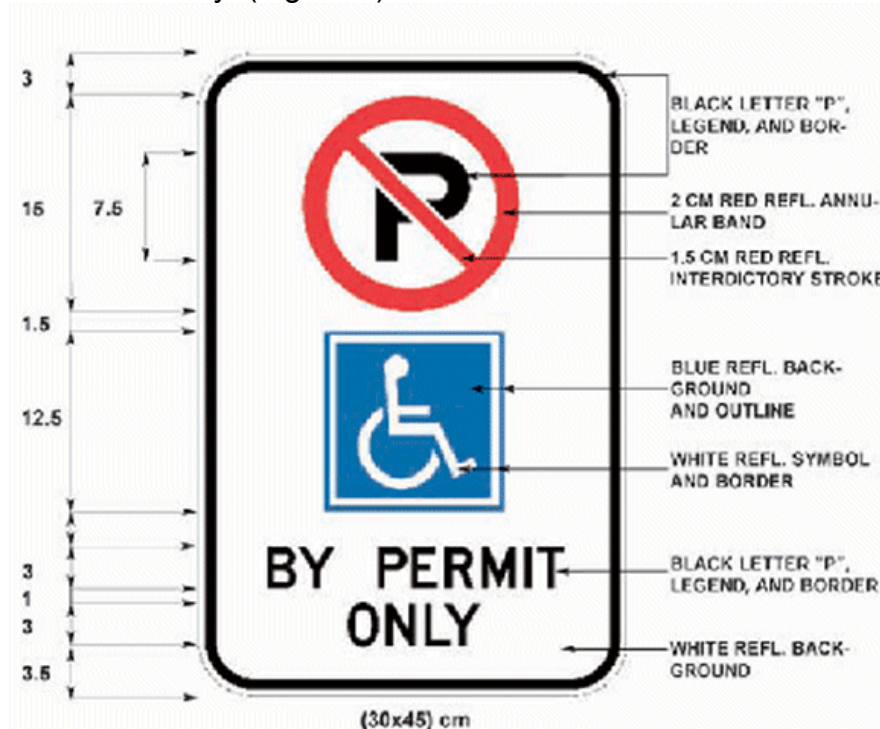


Figure 3 Vertical Parking Sign

- 1.2.12 Provide an additional sign at Type A spaces labeled “Van Accessible.”
- 1.2.13 Provide a passenger pick-up area at or near the main accessible entrance. The access aisle on the passenger side shall be a minimum of 1500mm wide by 6000mm long.
- 1.2.14 Accessible parking spaces and passenger pick-up areas shall have a minimum clear height of 2850mm, including along the vehicular access/egress route.
- 1.2.15 Provide a call button or two-way communication system at all underground parking areas that have accessible parking spaces.
- 1.2.16 Where more than one off-street parking facility is provided within one site, the number and type of accessible parking spaces must be distributed based on the number of accessible parking spaces required for each facility. However, accessible parking spaces must have comparative or additional user convenience than standard parking spaces. Convenience factors include proximity to main entrances, protection from weather, security, lighting and comparative maintenance.

1.3 On-Street Parking Spaces [O.Reg. 413/12 Section 80.39](#)

- 1.3.1 When providing on-street parking spaces, consultation must occur with the public on the need, location and design of accessible on-street parking spaces. Consultation must also occur with municipal accessibility advisory committees, if established.

1.4 Walkways, Ramps and Stairs [O.Reg. 413/12 - Exterior Paths of Travel](#)

- 1.4.1 Provide an accessible route from streets and parking areas to all accessible entrances. The accessible route shall be a minimum of 1600mm wide. Surfaces shall be a maximum of 5% (1:20) running slope and a maximum of 2% (1:50) cross slope. Where running slope must exceed 5% (1:20), provide a ramp in accordance with 1.4.7.
- 1.4.2 An accessible, exterior path shall meet the technical requirements as detailed in section 80.23 of [O. Reg. 413/12](#)
- 1.4.3 Exterior paths equipped with ramps shall meet technical requirements as detailed in section 80.24 of [O. Reg. 413/12](#)

- 1.4.4 Exterior paths equipped with stairs shall meet technical requirements as detailed in section 80.25 of [O. Reg. 413/12](#)
- 1.4.5 Where the accessible route is adjacent to a vehicular route, it shall be separated from it by a cane-detectable curb or railing.
- 1.4.6 Accessible routes must be free from overhead protrusion hazards. Provide a cane-detectable railing, planter or bench anywhere that the overhead clearance is less than 2100mm. (Figure 4).

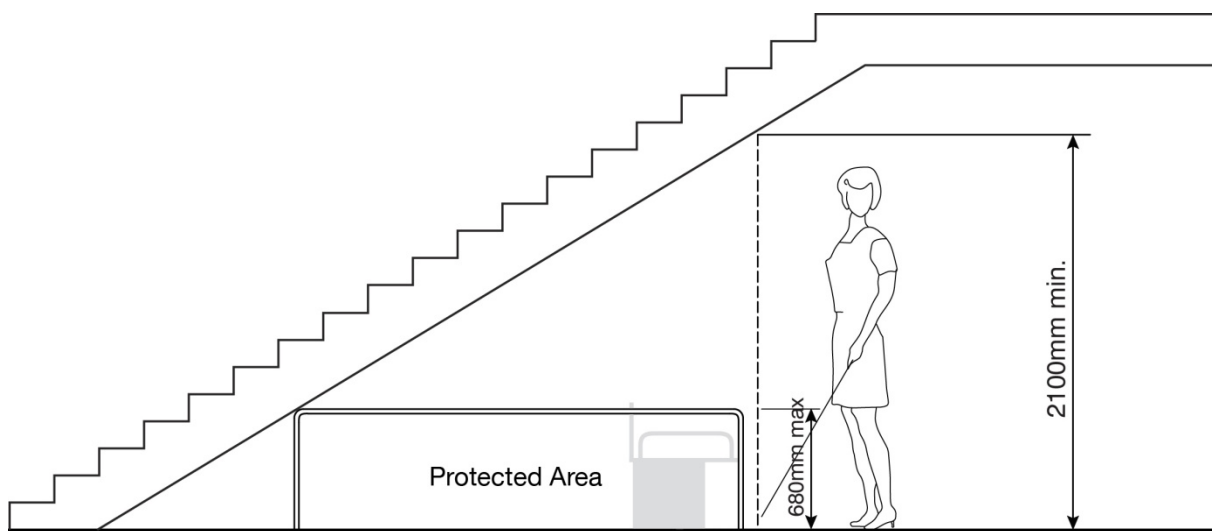


Figure 4 Overhead Hazards

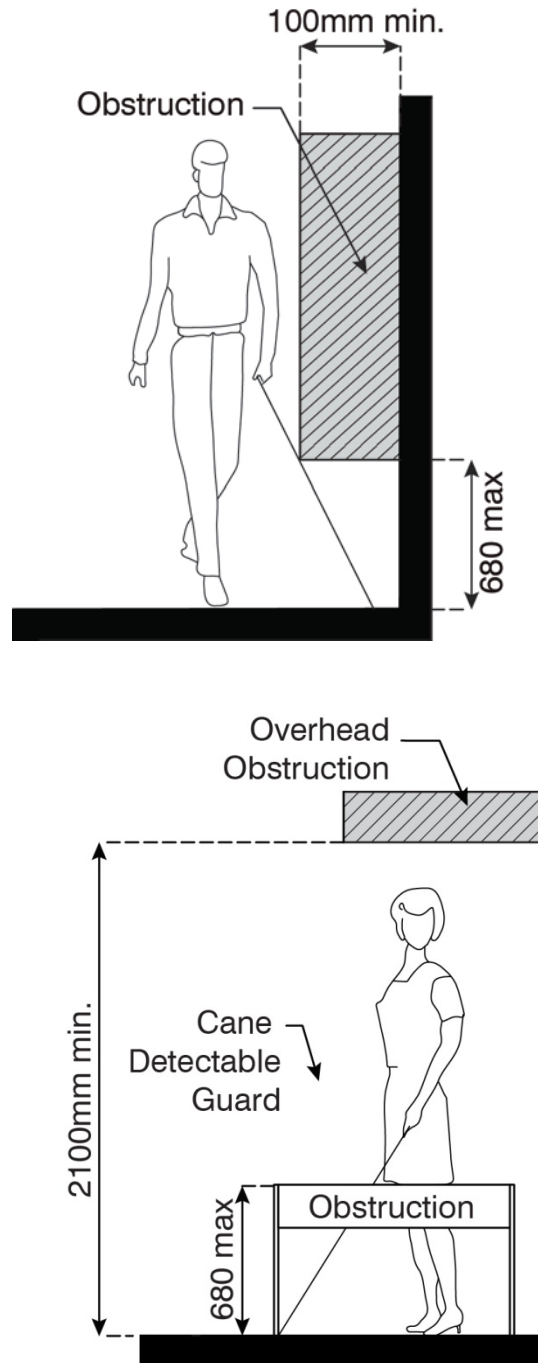


Figure 5 Cane Detectable Obstructions

- 1.4.7 Where possible, locate gratings out of the accessible route. Any gratings in accessible routes walkways must be level and have a maximum 13mm wide opening in the direction of travel. Elongated openings must be oriented approximately perpendicular to the direction of pedestrian travel.

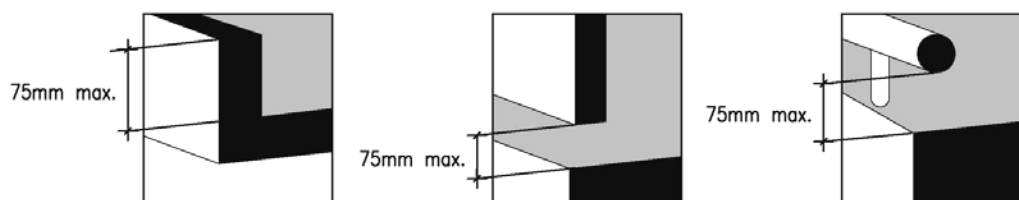
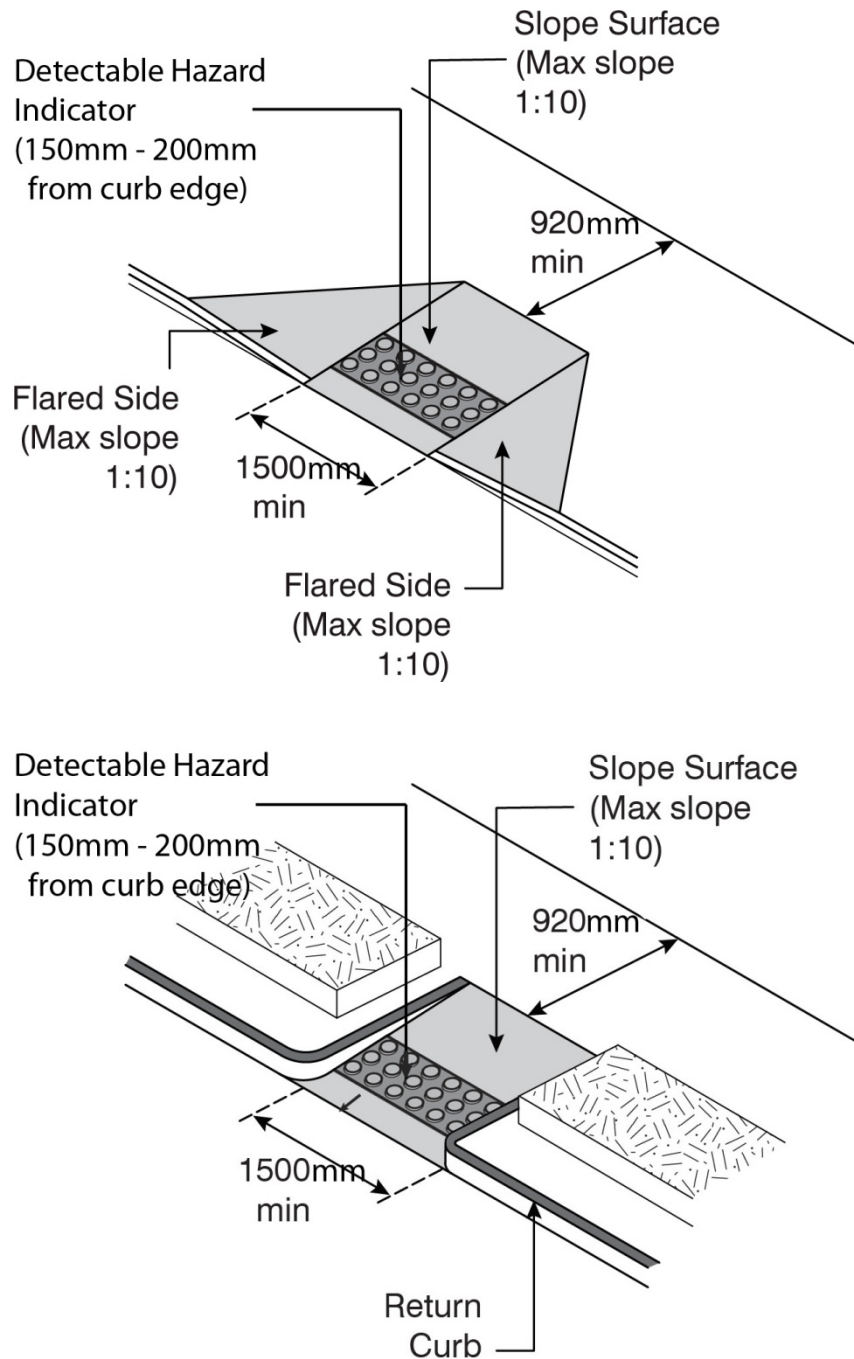


Figure 6 Ramp Edge Protections

- 1.4.8 Ramps shall have a colour contrasting, textured, detectable warning surface in accordance with 3.7.2 at the top and bottom a minimum of 920mm from the start of the slope, extending the entire width of the stair or ramp.
- 1.4.9 Where the location of the ramp is not readily evident from the main access route, provide a sign incorporating the International Symbol of Accessibility and a directional arrow indicating the location.
- 1.4.10 Provide curb ramps at all level changes along accessible paths of travel. Curb ramps shall align with the direction of travel.
- 1.4.11 Curb ramps shall have:
 - .1 Maximum gradient of 13% (1:7.5);
 - .2 Minimum width of 1500mm (exclusive of flared sides);
 - .3 A surface (including flared sides) that is slip-resistant, colour and texture contrasted with adjacent surfaces;
 - .4 Maximum cross slope of 1:50;
 - .5 A smooth transition from the curb ramp to the adjacent surfaces;
 - .6 Detectable hazard surfaces in accordance with 3.7.3., set back between 150 mm and 200 mm from the curb edge; and
 - .7 If flared, have flared sides with a slope of not more than 10% (1:10).(Figure 7).



2.0 **Figure 7 Curb Ramps**

- 1.4.12 Provide a detectable hazard surface in accordance with 3.7.3 wherever a walkway adjoins a hazardous area such as an unprotected drop-off, edge of a pool, pedestrian crossings or to separate a walkway from a drive aisle that is at the same level.

-
- 1.4.13 Provide a level area in accordance with 2.4.9 adjacent to all accessible entrance doors.
- 1.4.14 Where a ramp or stair is more than 2200mm wide, one or more intermediate handrails, continuous between landings, are to be provided and located so that there is no more than 1650mm between handrails. Intermediate handrails shall meet the requirements in Item 2.1.3.
- 1.4.15 Where a depressed curb is provided, the depressed curb shall:
- Have a maximum running slope of 1:20;
 - Align with the direction of travel; and
 - Be provided with detectable hazard surfaces in accordance with 3.7.3. and set back between 150 mm and 200 mm from the curb edge when adjoining a pedestrian crossing.

1.5 Entrances and Exits

[Ontario Building Code \(As Amended\) Section 3.8.1.2](#)

- 1.5.1 For new buildings, all public entrances shall be accessible. For existing buildings, as many as feasible (but no less than one-half of all public entrances) shall be accessible. Provide signage incorporating the International Symbol of Accessibility to indicate the location of all accessible entrances. The accessible entrance must connect the exterior accessible route with the interior accessible route. Where an entrance consists of multiple doors beside each other, only one door in each set need be accessible.
- 1.5.2 All required exits from the ground level must be accessible. Signage incorporating the International Symbol of Accessibility shall indicate the location of these exits.
- 1.5.3 Clear glass doors, walls and sidelights at the entrances shall have a 100mm wide contrasting colour strip mounted continuously 1350mm above the floor.
- 1.5.4 Two doors in series (such as in vestibules) shall have a minimum 1500mm clear distance between the open doors. (Figure 8)

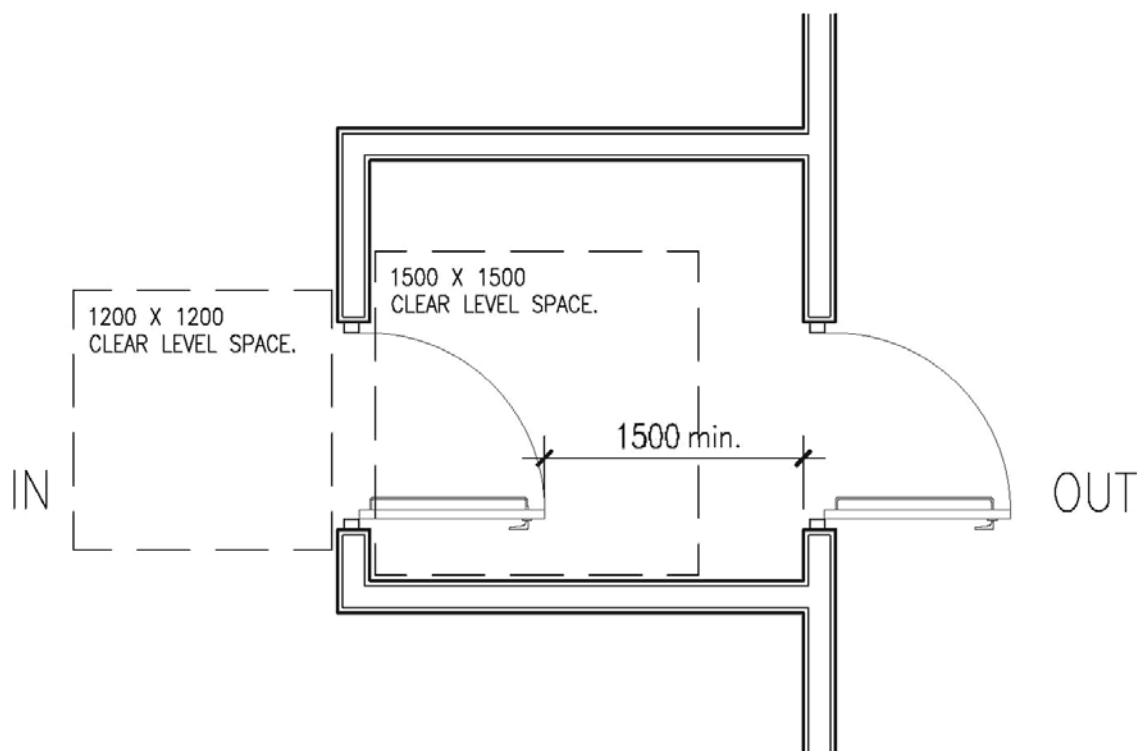


Figure 8 Vestibule Clearance

- 1.5.5 Loose floor mats that can cause a tripping hazard or impede wheelchair use are not permitted in the accessible path of travel.
- 1.5.6 Accessible entrance and exit doors shall be such that frame stops, the door thickness, and horizontal hardware (such as panic bars) shall not reduce the clear width of the doorway to less than 865mm. (Figure 9).

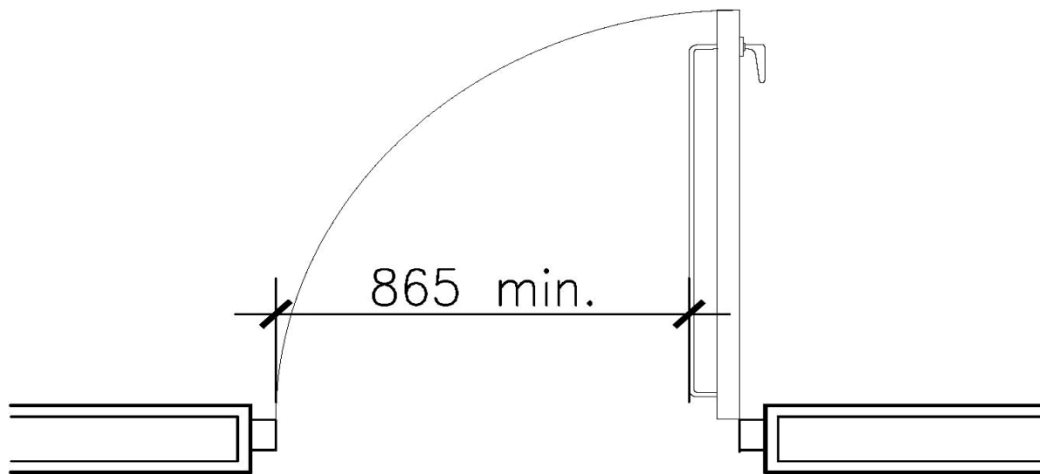


Figure 9 Door Clear Width

- 1.5.7 Provide a minimum clear level space on both sides of doors as follows:
- .1 1500mm x 1500mm on the pull side
 - .2 1200mm x 1200mm on the push side
- 1.5.8 At least one door in every accessible entrance and exit (including doors leading from parking areas to the building) shall be equipped with an automatic operator. If there are two doors in series (vestibules), both doors shall have an automatic operator. Doors shall remain open a minimum of 5 seconds and shall take a minimum of 3 seconds to close from a 70 degree position. Pushbuttons, key switches and card readers shall be located in conformance with 3.5. If the automatic door is a swinging door, provide a cane-detectable guard rail with a horizontal member no more than 680mm above the ground. (Figure 10).

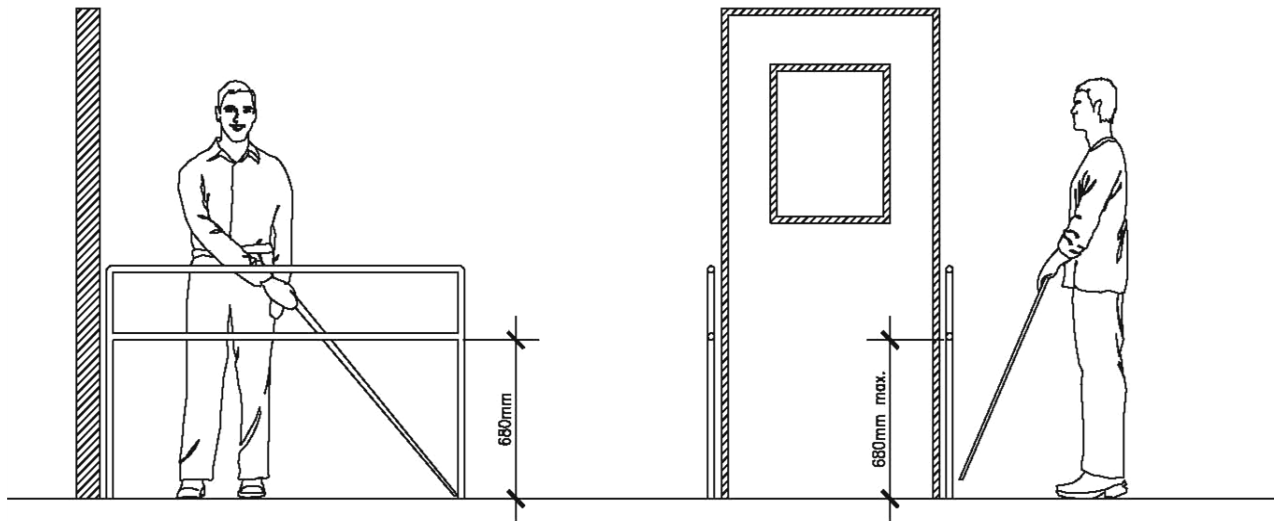


Figure 10 Cane Detectable Railing

- 1.5.9 Doors shall have lever hardware, push/pull plates, or exit devices (panic hardware). Round knobs and thumb-latches are not acceptable.
- 1.5.10 Any exterior door not equipped with an automatic operator shall require a maximum force of 38N to open. Door closers shall take a minimum of 3 seconds to close from a 70 degree position.
- 1.5.11 Where a revolving door is used, an adjacent accessible swinging door shall be provided.

1.6 Exterior Amenities

- 1.6.1 Where exterior amenities such as outdoor seating, terraces, playgrounds etc. are provided, ensure that they include accessible components. Tables and seating areas shall have clearances in accordance with 3.9.
- 1.6.2 At least 20% but never less than one picnic table or outdoor seating area shall be accessible. Accessible picnic tables and outdoor seating areas shall be placed on a solid, firm and stable hard surface and are accessible from the accessible walkways. If only some are accessible, provide signage incorporating the International Symbol of Access indicating the locations. Accessible outdoor public use eating areas are to be accessible to persons using mobility aids and must have clear knee and toe space at each table to allow for a forward approach. Refer to [O.Reg 413/12 - Section 80.16 to 80.17](#)

- 1.6.3 Where kiosks or pay booths are intended to be used by pedestrians, ensure that at least one window for each service provided within the kiosk or pay booth is located at a maximum of 860mm above grade and has an even, level (maximum 2%) access clearance area of not less than 750mm x 1200mm.

2.0 Interior Areas

2.1 Barrier Free Path of Travel

[Ontario Building Code \(As Amended\) – Section 3.8.1.3 \(and 3.8.3.3\)](#)

2.2 Stairs and Ramps

2.2.1 Interior stairs shall have:

- .1 Closed risers;
- .2 Maximum rake of 60%;
- .3 Uniform riser height (180mm high maximum) and tread depth (280mm deep minimum);
- .4 Maximum nosing projection of 38mm, with a bevel or radius between 6mm and 10mm and no abrupt underside;
- .5 Colour contrasting, slip-resistant nosings 40-60mm deep;
- .6 Minimum light level of 100 lux; and
- .7 Detectable warning surface as per 3.7.2 at top of the stairway.

(Figure 18)

2.2.2 The underside of all open stairs, escalators and other overhead features must be protected by cane-detectable railings, planters or benches anywhere the overhead clearance is less than 2100mm. (Figure 4).

2.2.3 Handrails within an accessible path of travel meet the requirements set out in the [Ontario Building Code \(As Amended\) Section 3.8.3.4](#)

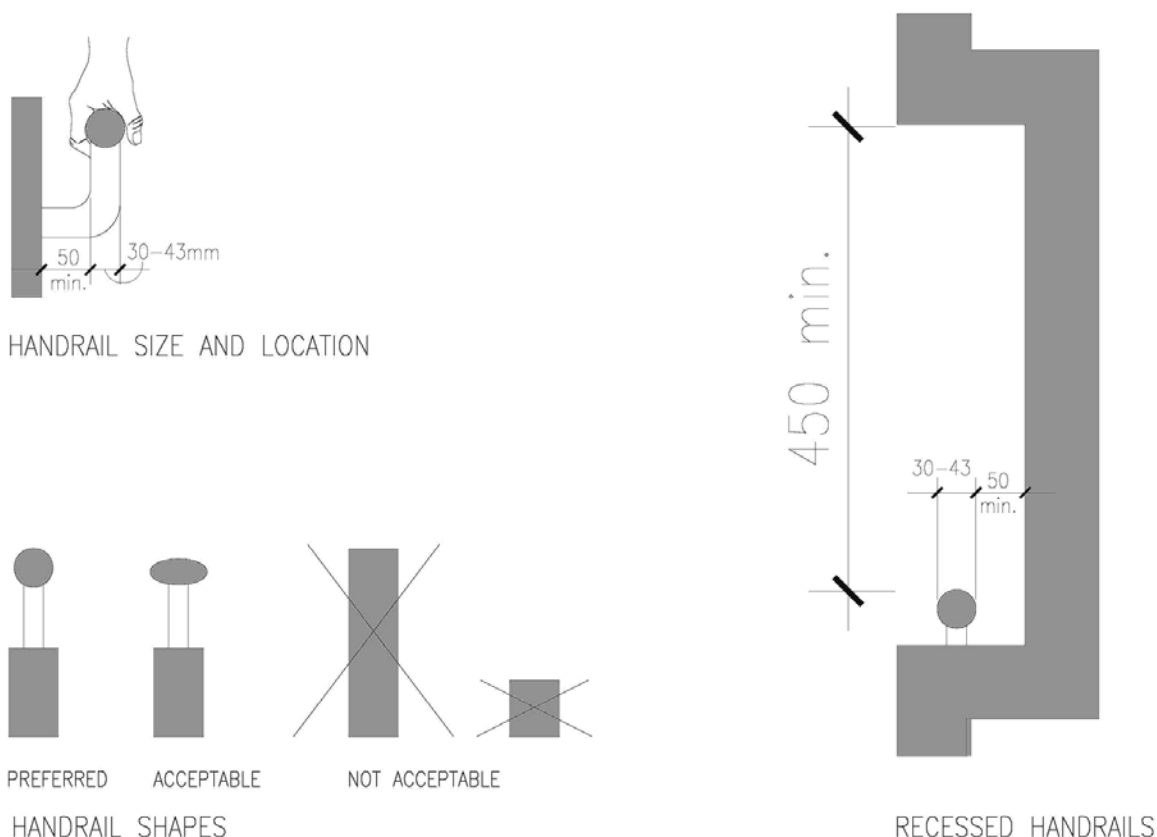


Figure 11 Handrails

- 2.2.4 Sloped floors shall be designed as a ramp where the gradient exceeds 5% (1:20). Interior ramps shall have:
- .1 Minimum width of 900mm clear between handrails;
 - .2 Maximum gradient of 1:8 where vertical rise is less than 75mm and 1:10 where vertical rise is between 75 and 200mm
 - .3 Level area of at least 1670mm by 1670mm at the top and bottom of the ramp;
 - .4 Level area of at least 1670mm long and at least the same width as the ramp at intervals of not more than 9m along its length, where there is a change in direction of the ramp, and at any intermediate doors along the length of the ramp;
 - .5 Handrails on both sides as described in 2.1.3;
 - .6 A wall or guard on each side that is not less than 1070mm above the ramp surface;
 - .7 Edge protection in the form of curb or rail (Figure 6); and
 - .8 A minimum light level of 100 lux.

- 2.2.5 Ramps and stairs shall have a colour contrasting, textured detectable warning surface as per 3.7.2, extending the entire width at the top and bottom a minimum of 920mm from the start of the slope or stairs. (Figure 17).
- 2.2.6 Except where the location of the ramp is clearly evident, provide signs incorporating the International Symbol of Accessibility indicating the location of the ramp.

2.3 Lobbies and Corridors

- 2.3.1 All floor levels above or below the main accessible level that are used by the public shall be accessible by ramps (in accordance with 2.1) or elevators (in accordance with 2.3).
- 2.3.2 Interior accessible routes shall be minimum 1100mm wide with an 1800mm by 1800mm turn-around space a minimum of 30m apart.
- 2.3.3 Corridors shall be free from overhead and protrusion hazards. Any overhead obstruction shall be a minimum of 2100mm high. Any horizontal projection more than 100mm into the corridor that is less than 2100mm high shall have a cane-detectable warning no more than 680mm above the floor. (Figure 6)
- 2.3.4 Wherever a turnstile is used, it shall have a gate directly adjacent with a clear width of at least 865mm. Where the location of the gate is not readily apparent, a sign shall indicate its location.
- 2.3.5 All floor surfaces shall be hard, level, slip-resistant, and non-glare. Carpets shall be non-static and short, dense pile. Floor patterns shall not be visually confusing.
- 2.3.6 Any gratings or drains in floors shall have maximum 13mm openings in either direction.
- 2.3.7 Provide a detectable hazard surface in accordance with 3.7.3 wherever a walkway adjoins a hazardous area such as an unprotected drop-off or the edge of a pool.

2.4 Elevators, Escalators and Lifts

- 2.4.1 All passenger elevators shall comply with Appendix E of CSA Standard CAN/CSA-B44 “Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators”.
- 2.4.2 Ensure that the emergency communication within the elevator is clearly audible. Do not permit the playing of any music in elevators.
- 2.4.3 Provide a mirror on the back wall of the elevator to assist people in wheelchairs and scooters in backing out of the elevator. However, mirrors on sidewalls should not be permitted due to visual distractions and confusion.
- 2.4.4 Loose mats and loose flooring are not permitted in elevators or lifts.
- 2.4.5 Platform lifts shall be permitted only if the persons using them can independently operate them. Lifts that require a key or assistance from another person are not acceptable.
- 2.4.6 Provide an LED-messaging system in each elevator to enable communication in the event of an emergency with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- 2.4.7 Provide voice-activated speakers in all elevators.

2.5 Interior Doors and Doorways

- 2.5.1 Doors shall be a minimum of 915mm wide, such that frame stops, the door thickness, and horizontal hardware (such as panic bars) shall not reduce the clear width of the doorway to less than 865mm. (Figure 9).
- 2.5.2 All doors shall have lever hardware, push/pull plates, exit devices (panic hardware) or automatic operators. Knobs and thumb-latches are not acceptable.
- 2.5.3 Unless the door is equipped with an automatic operator, provide clearance beside doors as follows:
 - a) 300mm clear beside latch at push side of door
 - b) 600mm clear beside latch at pull side of door
- 2.5.4 Any interior door not equipped with an automatic operator shall be single hand operation and require a maximum force of 22N to open. Door closers shall take a minimum of 3 seconds to close from a 70 degree position.
- 2.5.5 Thresholds shall be maximum 13mm high. Where over 6mm high, shall be beveled at a slope of not more than 1:2.
- 2.5.6 Doors shall have vision panels, either in the door or in a directly adjacent sidelight, except where privacy concerns make them unfeasible. Vision panels shall have the bottom edge no more than 900mm above the floor and no more than 250mm from the latch side of the door.
- 2.5.7 Clear glass doors and sidelights at the entrances shall have a 100mm wide contrasting colour strip mounted continuously 1350mm above the floor.
- 2.5.8 Two doors in series (such as in vestibules) shall have a minimum 1500mm clear distance between the open doors (Figure 12).
- 2.5.9 Provide a minimum clear level space on both sides of doors as follows:
 - .1 1500mm x 1500mm on the pull side
 - .2 1200mm x 1200mm on the push side

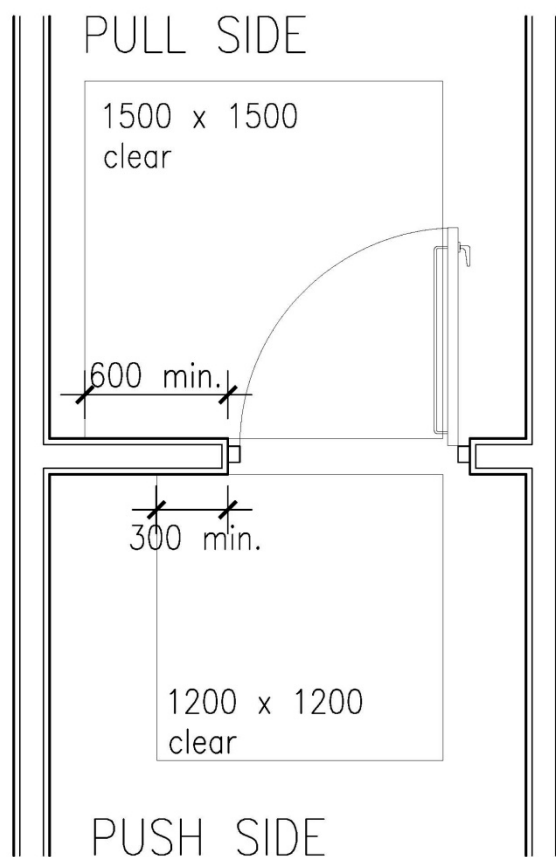


Figure 12 Door Clearances

- 2.5.10 Where a revolving door is used, an adjacent accessible swinging door shall be provided.

3.0 Facilities

Ontario Building Code (As Amended) - Section 3.8.3.8 - 3.8.3.12

3.1 Washrooms

- 3.1.1 Every floor that is served by washrooms shall have either:
- .1 An accessible individual washroom as described in 3.1.2; or
 - .2 An accessible water closet stall, lavatory and accessories as described in 3.1.3.

For new buildings, or where the extent of renovation includes reconfiguration of washrooms (i.e., new fixture locations), only option 1) is permissible. For renovations where option 1) is unfeasible, option 2) is acceptable.

- 3.1.2 Accessible individual washrooms shall have:
- .1 A door that complies with 2.5.1 through 2.5.5;
 - .2 An automatic operator with the ability to be locked from the inside;
 - .3 A minimum area of 3.5 s.m., with minimum a dimension between opposite walls of 1.7m;
 - .4 A clear turning circle of 1700mm (does not include space under lavatory)
 - .5 A water closet that complies with 3.1.4;
 - .6 A lavatory that complies with 3.1.6;
 - .7 A shelf or counter at least 200mm x 400mm, mounted not more than 1000mm above the floor;
 - .8 A coat hook mounted not more than 1200mm above the floor and projecting not more than 40mm;
 - .9 An automatic hand dryer or paper towel dispenser mounted in accordance with 3.5;
 - .10 Washroom accessories (such as soap dispensers, vending machines, waste receptacles, etc.) that comply with 3.5; and
 - .11 An emergency call button.
- 3.1.3 Accessible facilities within a multi-fixture washroom shall have:
- .1 A door that complies with 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.5.5, 2.5.6, with an automatic operator, or be designed so that no door is necessary;
 - .2 If there are two doors in series, there shall be at least 1500mm clear between them when open;
 - .3 At least 1500mm x 1500mm clear space in front of the accessible water closet stall;
 - .4 At least 750mm x 750mm clear space in front of each accessible lavatory;
 - .5 At least one accessible water closet stall that complies with 3.1.8;
 - .6 At least one lavatory that complies with 3.1.6 (In new buildings, all lavatories shall comply);
 - .7 If urinals are provided, at least one urinal shall comply with 3.1.5;

- .8 A shelf or counter at least 200mm x 400mm, mounted not more than 1000mm above the floor;
- .9 Washroom accessories (such as soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, hand dryers, vending machines, waste receptacles, etc.) shall comply with 3.5; and
- .10 An emergency call button.

3.1.4 Accessible water closets shall:

- .1 Be located between 460mm and 480mm from the adjacent side wall;
- .2 Have a clear transfer space at least 900mm wide clear on the open side;
- .3 Have a back support where there is no seat lid or tank;
- .4 Not have spring loaded seats;
- .5 Have a seat height of 430mm to 460mm above floor;
- .6 Have flush controls that are automatic, or are located on the transfer side of the water closet;
- .7 Have two grab bars that comply with 3.1.7:
 - a) One 600mm long, mounted horizontally, centred on the water closet at a height of 840mm to 920mm above the floor (or 150mm above the tank where there is one), and
 - b) One L-shaped, 760mm x 760mm, mounted with the horizontal portion at a height of 750mm to 900mm above the floor, and the vertical component mounted 150mm in front of the water closet; and
- .8 Have a non-regulating toilet tissue dispenser mounted in line with the front of the water closet, between 600mm to 700mm above the floor.

3.1.5 Accessible urinals shall:

- .1 Have a clear space of at least 750mm wide by 1200mm deep (including under the urinal);
- .2 The urinal rim no higher than 430mm above the floor;
- .3 Flush controls no higher than 1200mm above the floor; and
- .4 Vertical grab bars that comply with 3.1.7 on both sides, minimum 600mm long, mounted with the bottom between 600mm – 650mm above the floor, maximum 380mm from the centerline of the urinal.

3.1.6 Accessible lavatories shall:

- .1 Have a centreline located at least 460mm from the adjacent side wall;
- .2 Have the top of the counter or lavatory located no more than 840mm above the floor;
- .3 Have a clear space of 750mm x 750mm in front of the lavatory;
- .4 Have clearance beneath the lavatory of at least:
 - a) 920mm wide
 - b) 735mm high at the front edge
 - c) 685mm high at a point 205mm back from the front edge
 - d) 350mm high over a distance from a point 300mm back from the front edge to 430mm back from the front edge;

- .5 Be equipped with automatic faucets, or faucets with lever handle(s) at least 75mm long, that are located not more than 485mm from the front of the counter or front edge of lavatory, that are not spring-loaded;
- .6 A mirror mounted with the bottom edge as low as possible, but not more than 1000mm above the floor;
- .7 Temperature controlled water to not exceed 55 degrees Celsius; and
- .8 A soap dispenser mounted within 500mm of the lavatory, no higher than 1100mm, operable with one hand.

3.1.7 Grab Bars shall be:

- .1 Slip-resistant ;
- .2 Have a diameter of 30mm-40mm;
- .3 Have a clear space of 30mm – 40mm from the wall; and
- .4 Be firmly mounted to resist a force of 1.3kN in any direction.

3.1.8 Accessible water closet stalls shall have:

- .1 A clear space inside of at least 1500mm x 1500mm clear of the door swing;
- .2 A door which provides at least 865mm clear width which is capable of being locked from the inside using one hand, with a large thumb turn, with spring hinges to close automatically;
- .3 A water closet that complies with 3.1.4; and
- .4 A coat hook mounted not more than 1200mm above the floor and projecting not more than 40mm.

3.1.9 Unless the accessible washrooms are directly adjacent to the other washrooms, provide directional signage incorporating the International Symbol of Accessibility indicating the location.

3.1.10 Provide a motion detector control for lights in all accessible washrooms. In a multi-unit washroom, ensure that the sensor will detect motion within the accessible stall.

3.1.11 Universal Washroom technical details are found in [O.Reg 191/14](#) which amends the Ontario Building Code Section 3.8.3.12 pertaining to such.

3.2 Shower Facilities

Please refer to [O.Reg. 191/14 - Section 3.8.3.13](#) for applicable technical details for design.

3.3 Drinking Fountains

- 3.3.1 Drinking fountains shall have a spout that:
- .1 Is located near the front of the unit;
 - .2 Is not more than 915mm above the floor;
 - .3 Provides a water flow at least 100mm high.
 - .4 Provide water at an angle of 30 degrees if spout is less than 75mm from front of fountain, 15 degrees is more than 75mm but less than 125mm from the front of the fountain
- 3.3.2 Controls shall be automatic or operable with one hand using a force of not more than 22N.
- 3.3.3 It must be detectable by a cane at a level at or below 680mm from the finished floor
- 3.3.4 Drinking fountains shall have a clear floor area of 810 mm wide by 1370mm deep. All drinking fountains must be cane-detectable at or below 680 mm from the finished floor.
- 3.3.5 Cantilevered fountains shall:
- Be mounted not more than 915mm above the finished floor
 - Provide a clearance height under the fountain of not less than 735mm above the finished floor
 - Have a clear depth under the fountain of not less than 450mm
 - Have a clear width under the fountain of not less than 760mm
 - Have a toe clearance height under the fountain of at least 350mm above the finished floor from a point 300mm back from the front edge to the wall, and;
 - Have a depth at the base of the fountain of at least 700mm.

3.4 Public Pay Telephones

- 3.4.1 All public pay telephones shall have:
- .1 All operable parts (including coin slot) not more than 1200mm above the floor;
 - .2 A clear space of 860mm wide by 1480mm deep;
 - .3 A minimum of 680mm clear knee space;
 - .4 Illumination level of at least 200 lux; and
 - .5 A level shelf 450mm wide by 300mm deep, between 720mm to 800mm above the floor, with a clear space of 250mm above the shelf.
- 3.4.2 In every facility where public pay telephones are provided, at least one shall have graduated volume control and be identified by the symbol for persons who are hard of hearing.
- 3.4.3 In every facility where public pay telephones are provided, at least one shall be a TTY phone. All TTY locations shall be identified by the symbol for TTY telephones.

3.5 Controls

- 3.5.1 All manual controls (light switches, card readers, thermostats, coin slots, control handles, fire alarm pulls, vending machines, etc.) must be:
- .1 Located between 900mm min. and 1200mm max. above the floor;
 - .2 Located with a clear floor space of at least 860mm x 1480mm (clear of door swings);
 - .3 Operable with one hand, without tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist, with a force not to exceed 22N; and
 - .4 Of contrasting colour to the background.
- (Figure 15).

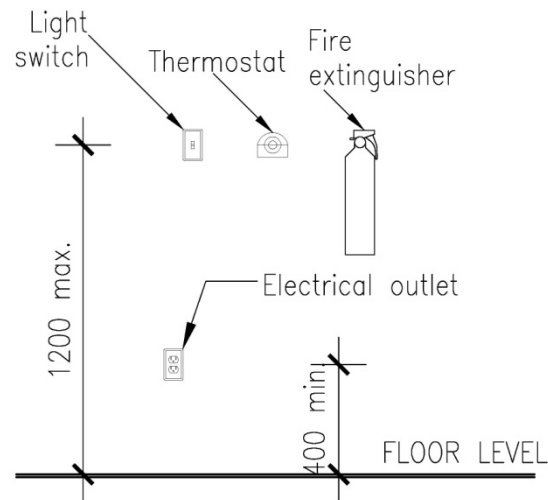


Figure 15 Control Locations

- 3.5.2 Push buttons for automatic doors shall have minimum dimensions of 100mm and shall be located such that the opening door does not block them.
- 3.5.3 Information on visual displays shall be supplemented by tactile and/or auditory information.

3.6 Signage

- 3.6.1 Signage indicating room uses, names or numbers shall:
- .1 Be consistently located, to the latch side of a door, 150mm from the frame;
 - .2 Be mounted at a consistent height, such that all characters and symbols are not less than 1200mm above the floor and not more than 1500mm above the floor;
 - .3 Have glare-free surface;
 - .4 Have colour contrasted to background;
 - .5 Be lit to at least 200 lux; and
 - .6 Include appropriate pictograms wherever possible (i.e., washrooms, stairs, etc.)
 - .7 Use appropriate approved symbols (Figure 2) including but not limited to the International Symbol of Access (ISI)
- 3.6.2 Characters on signs shall:
- .1 Be sans serif with Arabic numerals;
 - .2 Have a width to height ratio between 3:5 and 1:1 (using an upper case X for character measurement);

- .3 Have a stroke width to height ratio between 1:5 and 1:10;
- .4 Be at least 25mm high (for viewing distance of up to 750mm, higher for signs that are to read further away); and
- .5 Have colour contrasted from the background, light coloured characters/symbols on a dark background or dark coloured characters/symbols on a light background.

- 3.6.3 Signs that include tactile raised characters (0.8 – 1.5 mm thickness) and Grade 1 Braille, or auditory information shall be provided at identification signs (including building directories, floor designations and room designations), regulatory signs (including identification of building exits) and warning signs. (Figure 16).

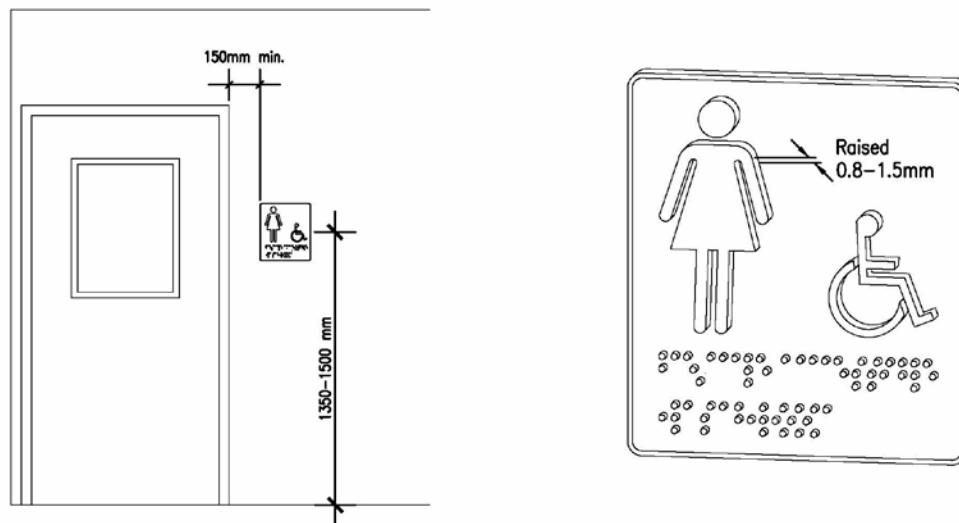


Figure 16 Tactile Signs

- 3.6.4 Signs incorporating the appropriate symbols for access shall be provided at all accessible facilities such as parking spaces, building entrances, washrooms, showers, elevators, telephones, meeting rooms etc.
- 3.6.5 Provide an audible sign at the main entrance to all buildings to provide information that will assist in way-finding through the building.

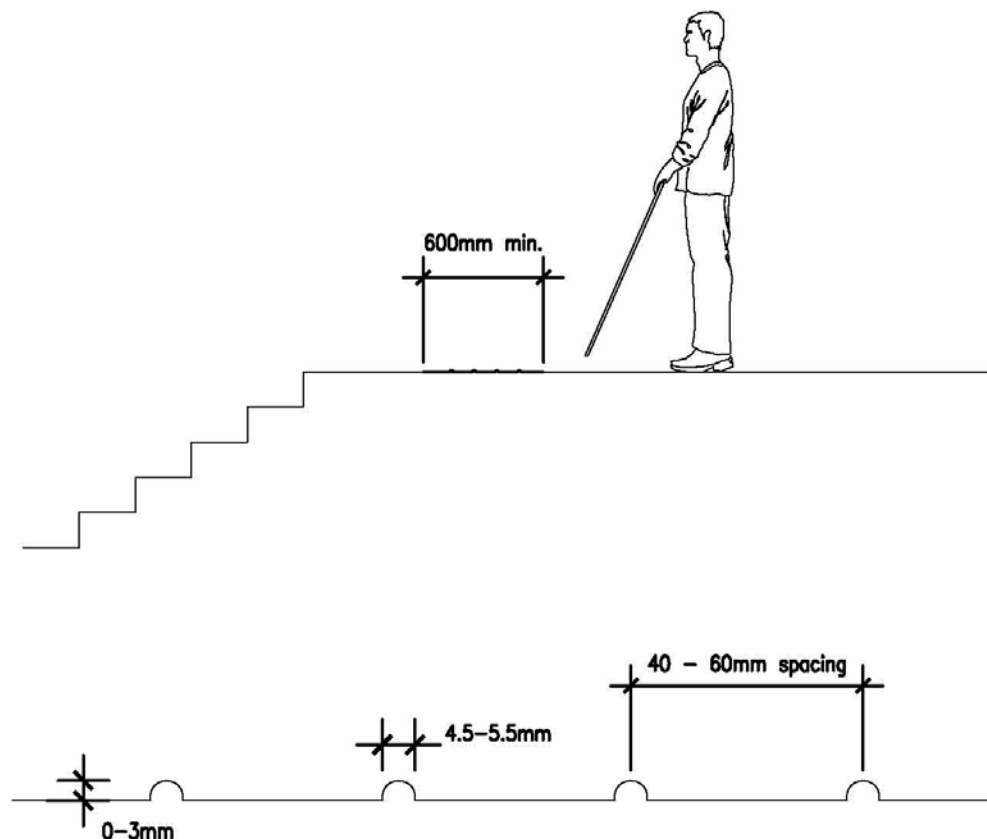
3.7 Tactile Warnings

- 3.7.1 Provide tactile warnings (textured surfaces, knurled lever handles etc.) at the following locations:
- .1 Doors to hazardous areas;
 - .2 Tops of all stairs and ramps;

- .3 Where an accessible walkway crosses a vehicular way;
- .4 The bottom of curb ramps that are set back between 150 mm and 200 mm from the curb edge;
- .5 The edges of flush pools, planters, etc. that are not protected by curbs.

3.7.2 Detectable warning indicators shall be composed of continuous ridges perpendicular to the route of travel, that:

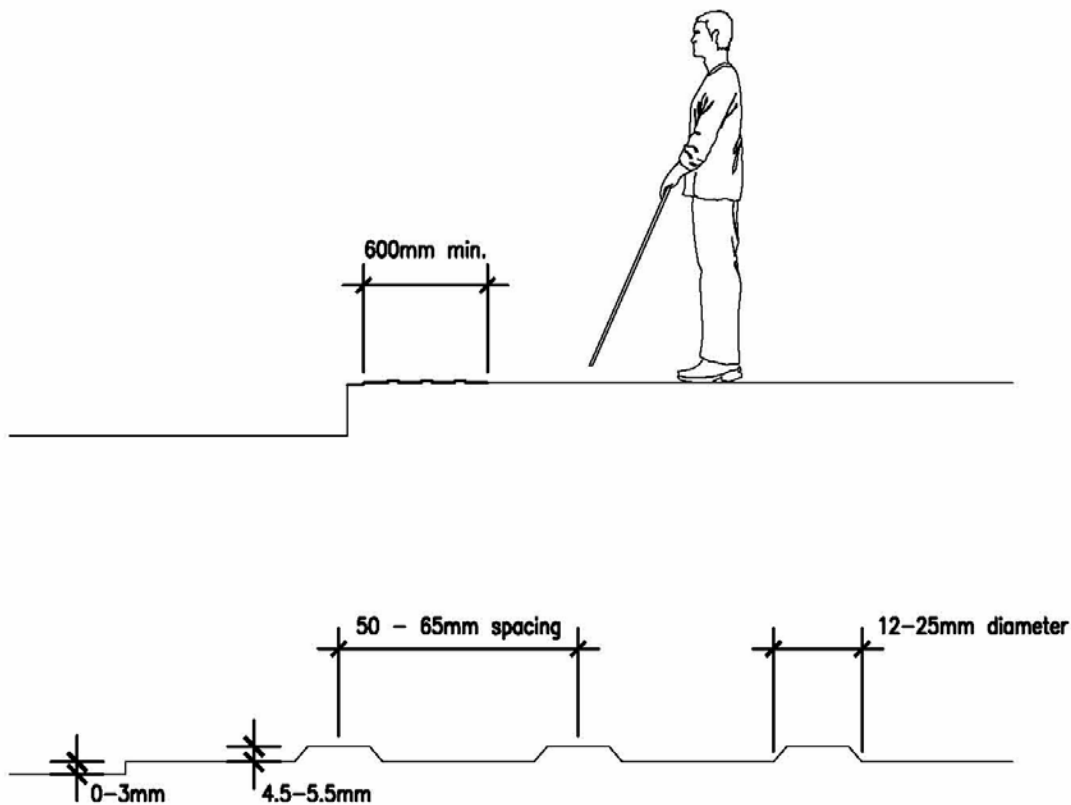
- .1 Have a height between 3mm and 5mm;
- .2 Have a width between 4mm and 8mm;
- .3 Are spaced between 40mm to 60mm on centre;
- .4 Are slip-resistant; and
- .5 Have high tonal and texture contrast with the surrounding surface. (Figure 17).



NOTE: Truncated domes are organized in a grid pattern.

Figure 17 Detectable Warning Indicators

- 3.7.3 Detectable hazard indicators shall:
- .1 be at least 610mm in depth;
 - .2 extend the full width of the hazard;
 - .3 be composed of truncated domes:
 - a. with a height of 4.5mm to 5.5mm;
 - b. with a base diameter of 21mm to 25mm; and
 - c. spaced between 50mm and 65mm on +centre;
 - .4 Be slip-resistant; and
 - .5 Have a contrasting colour to the surrounding surface. (Figure 18)



NOTE: Truncated domes are organized in a grid pattern.

Figure 18 Detectable Hazard Indicators

3.8 Service Counters and Waiting Areas

Requirements for service counters, line-up areas and waiting areas are detailed in [O.Reg. 413/12 Sections 80.41 to 80.43](#)

3.9 Meeting Rooms, Boardrooms, Courtrooms, Assembly Areas, Cafeterias, Coffee Shops, Etc.

3.9.1 Provide designated space for seating for persons in wheelchairs or scooters as follows:

Item	Number of Fixed Seats in Seating Area	Minimum Number of Spaces Designated for Wheelchairs	Minimum Number of Fixed Seats Designated for <i>Adaptable Seating</i>
1.	Up to 20	2	1
2.	21 to 40	2	2
3.	41 to 60	2	3
4.	61 to 80	2	4
5.	81 to 100	3	5
6.	Over 100	3% of the seating capacity	The greater of 5 seats or 5% of the aisle seating capacity

Designated spaces shall be on a level surface (1% maximum slope in any direction), and at least 850mm wide by 1200 mm deep (front or rear access) or 1525mm deep (side access). Where the seating is fixed, at least one fixed seat directly adjacent to each accessible seating space shall be signed as reserved for companion seating.

3.9.2 Lines of sight must be comparable to other seating and must not be compromised by standing members of the audience.

3.9.3 Ensure that tables in areas such as meeting rooms, cafeterias and libraries are a maximum of 860mm high, and have a clear knee space of at least 750mm wide, 480mm deep and 680mm high.

3.9.4 Aisles such as cafeteria lines, spaces between tables and aisles between library stacks shall be minimum 915mm wide.

3.9.5 Anywhere that coat racks are provided, ensure that at least one section has a rod height not more than 1370mm above the floor.

3.10 Assisted Listening Devices

- 3.10.1 Provide an assisted listening device in any auditorium, assembly room, meeting room or theatre with an area greater than 100 s.m. and an occupant load more than 75 people. Such rooms shall be signed with the symbol for persons who are hard of hearing.
- 3.10.2 Any television set displaying information for the public shall include closed-captioning.

3.11 Visual and Audible Alarms

- 3.11.1 All building alert and alarm signals, including fire alarms, building entrance release hardware and other signals intended for the public to indicate operation of a building access control system, shall provide both an audible and a visual signal.
- 3.11.2 Visual alarms shall:
- .1 Have a light intensity of at least 75 Candelas;
 - .2 Be located so that at least one is visible from any portion of a floor area;
 - .3 Have a flash rate within the frequency range of 1-3 Hz; and
 - .4 Be synchronized to flash in unison wherever multiple alarms may be visible at one time.

3.12 Life Safety

- 3.12.1 Where the emergency evacuation planning of a facility necessitates that persons with disabilities await assistance in order to be evacuated (example: floor level above grade served by stairs), provide a safe Area of Refuge in a fire-separated room, equipped with two-way communication, emergency lighting and separate ventilation. This requirement is waived for fully sprinklered buildings.
- 3.12.2 Where a building has an emergency power supply, all automatic door operators will be provided with emergency power.
- 3.12.3 All facilities shall have an Emergency Policy and Emergency Evacuation Plan that addresses the needs of people with disabilities.

References

1. [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design \(2010\)](#)
2. [Bill 125 - Ontarians with Disabilities Act. December 14, 2001](#)
3. [CNIB. Clearing Our Path. 2009](#)
4. [Integrated Accessibility Regulations Standard, including the Design of Public Spaces Standard](#)
5. [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2012 Building Code Compendium O. Reg 332/12](#)
6. [Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment website, October 2013](#)
7. [Planning for Accessible Municipalities, Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2005](#)
8. [Integrated Accessibility Regulations Standard, including the Design of Public Spaces Standard](#)
9. [Ontario Building Code, O.Reg 332/12](#)
10. [O. Reg. 368/13](#)
11. [O. Reg 191/14](#)