



1. GLOSSARY OF TERMS FROM THE ADA AND UFAS

ABA (the Architectural Barriers Act). Passed in 1968, it marks one of the first efforts to ensure access to the built environment. It requires access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with Federal funds.

ABLE-BODIED. Non-disabled (person)

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

ACCESSIBLE. Describes a site, building, facility, or portion thereof that complies with ADA standards and that can be approached, entered, and used by physically disabled people.

ACCESSIBLE ELEMENT. An element specified by ADA standards (for example, telephone, controls, and the like).

ACCESSIBLE ROUTE. A continuous unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements and spaces in a building or facility. Interior accessible routes may include corridors, floors, ramps, elevators, lifts, and clear floor space at fixtures. Exterior accessible routes may include parking access aisles, curb ramps, walks, ramps, and lifts.

ACCESSIBLE SPACE. Space that complies with accessibility standards.

ADAPTABILITY. The ability of certain building spaces and elements, such as kitchen counters, sinks, and grab bars, to be added or altered so as to accommodate the needs of either disabled or non-disabled persons, or to accommodate the needs of persons with different types or degrees of disability.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. A governmental agency that adopts or enforces regulations and standards for the design, construction, or alteration of buildings and facilities.

ADVISORY INFORMATION. Advisory information is included in an appendix to a guideline and contains additional material to assist in understanding rationale, requirements, or recommendations. All figures are considered advisory. Advisory



information is not enforceable. Excerpt: "ADAAG A4.27.3 Height. Fig. A8 further illustrates mandatory and advisory control mounting height provisions for typical equipment...Electrical receptacles installed to serve individual appliances and not intended for regular and frequent use by building occupants are not required to be mounted within the specified reach ranges. Examples would be receptacles installed specifically for wall-mounted clocks, refrigerators, and microwave ovens."

ALTERATION. An alteration is a change to a building or facility that affects or could affect the usability of the building or facility or part thereof. Alterations include, but are not limited to, remodeling, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, historic restoration, resurfacing of circulation paths or vehicular ways, changes or rearrangement of the structural parts or elements, and changes or rearrangement in the plan configuration of walls and full-height partitions. Normal maintenance, reroofing, painting or wallpapering, or changes to mechanical and electrical systems are not alterations unless they affect the usability of the building or facility.

ANSI (the American National Standards Institute). ANSI is a nongovernmental national organization that publishes a wide variety of recommended standards, which are called ANSI A17.1 "Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, Physically Handicapped People," ANSI's standards for barrier-free design are developed by a committee made up of 52 organizations representing associations of handicapped people, rehabilitation professionals, design professionals, builders, and manufacturers using the consensus process.

ASSEMBLY AREA. A room or space accommodating a group of individuals for recreational, educational, political, social, civic, or amusement purposes, or for the consumption of food and drink.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS (ALS). Assistive listening systems augment amplification systems by transmitting the signal directly to individual receivers or hearing aids by means of infrared, inductive loop, or FM technology. Excerpt: "ADAAG 11.2.1 Courtrooms. (2) Permanently installed assistive listening systems complying with 4.33 shall be provided in each courtroom. The minimum number of receivers shall be four percent of the room occupant load, as determined by applicable State or local codes, but not less than two receivers."

ATBCB (the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board). Established by Congress in Section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the Rehabilitation Act), 29 U.S.C. 792 to ensure compliance with architectural standards set by the four agencies responsible for setting architectural standards (DOD, GSA, HUD, and USPS).

AUTOMATIC DOOR. A door equipped with a power-operated mechanism and controls that open and close the door automatically upon receipt of a momentary actuating



signal. The switch that begins the automatic cycle may be a photoelectric device, floor mat, or manual switch mounted on or near the door itself (see power-assisted door).

CIRCULATION PATH. An exterior or interior way of passage from one place to another for pedestrians, including, but not limited to, walks, hallways, courtyards, stairways, and stair landings.

CLEAR. Unobstructed.

CLEAR FLOOR SPACE. The minimum unobstructed floor or ground space required to accommodate a single, stationary wheelchair and occupant.

CLOSE CIRCUIT TELEPHONE. A telephone with dedicated line(s) such as a house phone, courtesy phone or phone that must be used to gain entrance to a facility.

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

COMPLY WITH. Meet one or more specifications of this standard.

CROSS SLOPE. The slope that is perpendicular to the direction of travel (see running slope).

CURB RAMP. A short ramp cutting through a curb or built up to it.

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

EGRESS, MEANS OF. An accessible route of exit that meets all applicable code specifications of the regulatory building agency having jurisdiction over the building or facility.

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

ELEVATED PLAY COMPONENT. A play component that is approached above or below grade and that is part of a composite play structure consisting of two or more play components attached or functionally linked to create an integrated unit providing more than one play activity.

ENTRANCE. Any access point to a building or portion of building or facility used for the purpose of entering. An entrance includes the approach walk, the vertical access leading to the entrance platform, the entrance platform itself, vestibules if provided, the



entry door(s) or gate(s), and the hardware of the entry door(s) or gate(s). The principal entrance of a building or facility is the main door through which most people enter.

ESSENTIAL FEATURES. Those elements and spaces that make a building or facility usable by, or serve the needs of, its occupants or users. Essential features include but are not limited to entrances, toilet rooms, and accessible routes. Essential features do not include those spaces that house the major activities for which the building or facility is intended, such as classrooms and offices.

EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions are permitted departures from regulatory requirements Excerpt: "309.3 Height. Controls and operating mechanisms shall be placed within one or more of the reach ranges specified in 308. EXCEPTION: This requirement does not apply where the use of special equipment dictates otherwise or where electrical and communications systems receptacles are not normally intended for use by building occupants."

EXTRAORDINARY REPAIR. The replacement or renewal of any element of an existing building or facility for purposes other than normal maintenance.

FACILITY. All or any portion of a building, structure, or area, including the site on which such building, structure or area is located, wherein specific services are provided or activities performed.

FINAL RULE: A final rule is a document that has been completed under the processes of the Administrative Procedures Act, including those requiring notice and public comment. It may not yet be enforceable. For instance, the Access Board issues its guidelines as Final Rules. Excerpt: "The final rule establishes standards and procedures for the implementation of title III of the Act."

FULL AND FAIR CASH VALUE. Full and fair cash value is calculated for the estimated date on which work will commence on a project and means:

1. The assessed valuation of a building or facility as recorded in the assessor's office of the municipality and as equalized at one hundred percent (100%) valuation, or
2. The replacement cost, or
3. The fair market value.

FUNCTIONAL SPACES. The rooms and spaces in a building or facility that house the major activities for which the building or facility is intended.

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



GROUND LEVEL PLAY COMPONENT. A play component that is approached and exited at the ground level.

GSA- (The General Services Administration) Prescribes architectural standards for all buildings subject to the Architectural Barriers Act that are not covered by standards issued by the other three standard-setting agencies; the Department of Defense (DoD); the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). This agency issues standards in accordance with its statutory authority.

GUIDELINES. Guidelines comprise general, scoping, technical, and advisory material developed for reference in a regulation as a standard. Excerpt: "The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board is issuing final guidelines to assist the Department of Justice to establish accessibility standards for new construction and alterations in places of public accommodation and commercial facilities, as required by title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The Department of Justice has proposed to adopt the guidelines as the accessibility standards for new construction and alterations in places of public accommodation and in commercial facilities for purposes of title III of the ADA."

IF, IF...THEN. Denotes a specification that applies only when the conditions described are present.

LAVATORY: A Sink

MARKED CROSSING. A crosswalk or other identified path intended for pedestrian use in crossing a vehicular way.

MAY. Denotes an option or alternative.

MEZZANINE OR MEZZANINE FLOOR. That portion of a story which is an intermediate floor level placed within the story and having occupiable space above and below its floor.

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

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

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. An individual who has a physical impairment, including impaired sensory, manual or speaking abilities, which results in a functional limitation in access to and use of a building or facility.



PLAY AREA. A portion of a site containing play components designed and constructed for children.

PLAY COMPONENT. An element intended to generate specific opportunities for play, socialization, or learning. Play components may be manufactured or natural, and may be stand alone or part of a composite play structure.

POWER-ASSISTED DOOR. A door used for human passage with a mechanism that helps to open the door, or relieve the opening resistance of a door, upon the activation of a switch or a continued force applied to the door itself. If the switch or door is released, such doors immediately begin to close or close completely within 3 to 30 seconds (see automatic door).

PRIVATE FACILITY. A place of public accommodation or a commercial facility subject to title III of the ADA and 28 C.F.R. part 36 or a transportation facility subject to title III of the ADA and 49 C.F.R. 37.45.

PROVISIONS. Provisions are individual requirements within a rule, standard, or guideline. Excerpt: "Taken together, these provisions are intended to prohibit exclusion and segregation of individuals with disabilities and the denial of equal opportunities enjoyed by others, based on, among other things, presumptions, patronizing attitudes, fears, and stereotypes about persons with disabilities. Consistent with ADA standards, public accommodations are required to make decisions based on facts applicable to individuals and not on the basis of presumptions as to what a class of individuals with disabilities can or cannot do."

PUBLIC ENTITY. --The term "public entity" means--
(A) any State or local government;
(B) any department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or States or local government; and
(C) the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, and any commuter authority (as defined in section 103(8) of the Rail Passenger Service Act).

PUBLIC FACILITY. A facility or portion of a facility constructed by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity subject to title II of the ADA and 28 C.F.R. part 35 or to title II of the ADA and 49 C.F.R. 37.41 or 37.43.

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

QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY. --The term "qualified individual with a disability" means an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication,



or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the in programs or activities provided by a public entity.

RAMP. A walking surface in an accessible space that has a running slope greater than 1:20 (5%).

REGULATIONS. Legal requirements developed to implement a law or statute. Excerpt: 28 CFR Part 36 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities, Subpart A-General, § 36.101 Purpose. "The purpose of this part is to implement title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12181), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public accommodations and requires places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with the accessibility standards established by this part."

REQUIREMENTS. The regulatory criteria that must be satisfied in order to comply with a regulation or a standard. Excerpt: "ADA requirements comprise all of the regulatory mandates of titles I through V, including the standards for accessible design."

RESTRICTED ENTRANCE. "ADAAG 11.1.1 Entrances. Restricted entrances are those entrances used only by judges, public officials, facility personnel or other authorized parties on a controlled basis." Excerpt: "ADAAG 11.1.1 Entrances. Where provided, at least one restricted entrance and one secured entrance to the facility shall be accessible in addition to the entrances required to be accessible by 4.1.3(8)."

RULE. A regulation. Excerpt: "The rule requires, as does the statute, that covered newly constructed facilities be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities."

RUNNING SLOPE. The slope that is parallel to the direction of travel (see cross slope).

SCOPING. Scoping provisions specify when, how many, and under what conditions accessibility is required. Excerpt: "ADAAG 4.1.3(13) Controls and operating mechanisms in accessible spaces, along accessible routes, or as parts of accessible elements (for example, light switches and dispenser controls) shall comply with 4.27."

SECURED ENTRANCE. "ADAAG 11.1.1 Entrances. Secured entrances are those entrances to judicial facilities used only by detainees and detention officers." Excerpt: "ADAAG 11.1.1 Entrances. EXCEPTION. At secured entrances, doors and doorways operated only by security personnel shall be exempt from 4.13.9, 4.13.10, 4.13.11, and 4.13.12."

SERVICE ENTRANCE. An entrance intended primarily for delivery of services.

SHALL. Denotes a mandatory specification or requirement.



SHOULD. Denotes an advisory specification or recommendation.

SIGNAGE. Display verbal, symbolic, tactile, and pictorial information.

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

SITE IMPROVEMENT. Landscaping, paving for pedestrian and vehicular ways, outdoor lighting, recreational facilities, and the like, added to a site.

SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS. Rooms in which people sleep, for example, dormitory and hotel or motel guest rooms.

SOFT CONTAINED PLAY STRUCTURE. A play structure made up of one or more components where the user enters a fully enclosed play environment that utilizes pliable materials (e.g., plastic, netting, fabric).

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

STANDARDS. A standard is a set of requirements promulgated by an entity with rulemaking (standards-setting) authority in order to establish a basis for compliance and enforcement. Excerpt: "A facility that is constructed to meet the requirements of the rule's accessibility standards will be considered readily accessible and usable with respect to construction."

STATUTE. A statute is a law.

STORY. That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and upper surface of the floor or roof next above. If such portion of a building does not include occupiable space, it is not considered a story for purposes of these guidelines. There may be more than one floor level within a story as in the case of a mezzanine or mezzanines.

STRUCTURAL IMPRACTICABILITY. Changes having little likelihood of being accomplished without removing or altering a load-bearing structural member and/or incurring an increased cost of 50 percent or more of the value of the element of the building or facility involved.

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

TDD. (*Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf*). Machinery or equipment that employs interactive text based communications through the transmission of coded signals across the standard telephone network. Text telephones can include, for example, devices known as TDDs (telecommunication display devices or telecommunication devices for



deaf persons) or computers with special modems. Text telephones are also called TTYs, an abbreviation for tele-typewriter.

TACTILE WARNING. A standardized surface texture applied to or built into walking surfaces or other elements to warn visually impaired people of hazards in the path of travel.

TECHNICAL PROVISIONS. Technical provisions provide design or performance specifications for an accessible item or feature. Excerpt: "ADAAG 4.27.4 Operation. Controls and operating mechanisms shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate controls and operating mechanisms shall be no greater than 5 lb. (22.2N)."

TEMPORARY. Applies to facilities that are not of permanent construction but are extensively used or essential for public use for a given (short) period of time, for example, temporary classrooms or classroom buildings at schools and colleges, or facilities around a major construction site to make passage accessible, usable, and safe for everybody. Structures directly associated with the actual processes of major construction, such as port-o-potties, scaffolding, bridging, trailers, and the like, are not included. Temporary as applied to elements means installed for less than 6 months and not required for safety reasons.

TEXT TELEPHONES. Machinery or equipment that employs interactive graphic (i.e., typed) communications through the transmission of coded signals across the standard telephone network. Text telephones can include, for example, devices known as TDD's (telecommunication display devices or telecommunication devices for deaf persons) or computers.

TOILET STALL. A space enclosed by partitions containing one water closet within a larger common use toilet room. Excerpt: "ADAAG 4.17.4 Toe Clearances. In standard stalls, the front partition and at least one side partition shall provide a toe clearance of at least 9 in (230 mm) above the floor."

TTY. (*Tele-Typewriter*). Machinery or equipment that employs interactive text based communications through the transmission of coded signals across the standard telephone network. Text telephones can include, for example, devices known as TDDs (telecommunication display devices or telecommunication devices for deaf persons) or computers with special modems. Text telephones are also called TTYs, an abbreviation for tele-typewriter.

UFAS. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) were published in 1984 by four Federal agencies with standards-setting authority under the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968. <http://www.access-board.gov/ufas/ufas-html/ufas.htm#intro>

USE ZONE. The ground level area beneath and immediately adjacent to a play structure or equipment that is designated by **ASTM F 1487 Standard Consumer Safety**



Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use (see 2.3.2) for unrestricted circulation around the equipment and on whose surface it is predicted that a user would land when falling from or exiting the equipment.

VEHICULAR WAY. A route intended for vehicular traffic, such as a street, driveway, or parking lot.

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

WATER CLOSET. A water closet is a toilet. Excerpt: "ADAAG 4.16.2 Clear Floor Space. Clear floor space for water closets not in stalls shall comply with Fig. 28. Clear floor space may be arranged to allow either a left-handed or right-handed approach."

These definitions were downloaded directly from UFAS and the ADA.