



U.S. Access Board

Budget: \$7.48 million (FY 2014)

Staff: 28

- Office of Administrative Services
- General Counsel's Office
- Technical & Information Services



Overview of the Access Board

- 25 members
 - 13 public members appointed by the President for four year terms
 - 12 Federal members from various Federal agencies
 - Each agency has a staff liaison
- Board meets every other month in Washington, DC and has one out-of-town event

Access Board Programs

- Guidelines and standards development
 - Architectural Barriers Act (1968)
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
 - Telecommunications Act (1996)
 - Rehabilitation Act Amendments (1998)
 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010)
- Technical assistance and training
- Research
- ABA enforcement

Technical Assistance

- Publications and guides
- Online tutorials
- Technical assistance - 12,000 – 13,000 inquiries each year



United States Access Board
Play Area Accessibility Online Training

References | Help

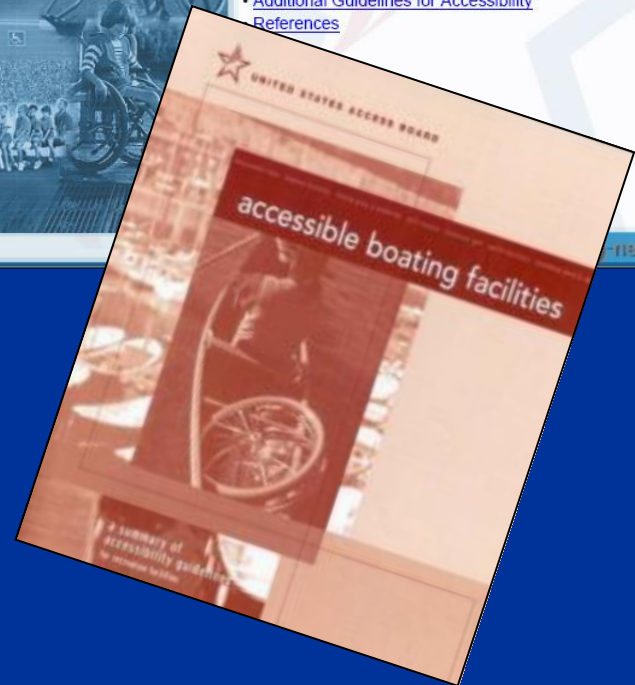
- Application of Play Area Guidelines
- Play Components
- Soft Contained Play Structures
- Guidelines for Accessible Routes
- Guidelines for Accessible Surfaces
- Additional Guidelines for Accessibility

MAIN MENU

Please select a training or reference section:

- [Application of Play Area Guidelines](#)
- [Play Components](#)
- [Soft Contained Play Structures](#)
- [Guidelines for Accessible Routes](#)
- [Guidelines for Accessible Surfaces](#)
- [Additional Guidelines for Accessibility](#)
- [References](#)

next



Training

- Sessions on all guidelines and standards
- Tailored to each audience
- 80 – 100 sessions each year across the country and abroad



Research

Supports development of guidelines and guidance materials



ABA Enforcement

- Complaint process
- On-line form
- About 75 cases opened each year



ABA Coverage

- Applies to facilities designed, built, altered or leased with Federal funds
 - Federal buildings
 - Non-Federal buildings

Rulemaking Authority

- New construction and alterations
- Under the ADA and ABA, our guidelines are not enforceable until adopted by a standard setting agency

Rulemaking Authority

- Under the ADA and ABA, the Board's authority only extends to the fixed items and equipment of a facility
- Other agencies have authority over non-fixed or free-standing equipment

Required Rulemaking Process

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
 - Published in Federal Register
 - Public comment period – minimum 60 days by Executive Order
- Final Rule
 - Published in Federal Register



Required Rulemaking Process

- Regulatory assessments required at proposed and final rule stages
 - Submit to Office of Management and Budget for review
 - 90 day review process

Our Rulemaking Process Enhancements

- Extensive public input and involvement
 - Information meetings
 - Lengthy comment periods
 - Public hearings
- Based on consensus where possible
 - Advisory committees
 - Regulatory negotiation committees

Advisory Committees

- 14 committees since 1993 representing over 350 organizations



Completed Rulemakings

- ADA Accessibility Guidelines (1991)
Supplements:
 - state and government facilities (1998)
 - children's environments (1998)
 - play areas (2000) and recreation facilities (2002)
- Transportation Vehicles (1991)
- Telecommunications Access (1998)
- Electronic and Information Technology (2000)
- Updated ADA and ABA Guidelines (2004)
- Outdoor Developed Areas (2013)
- Emergency Transportable Housing (2014)

Rulemaking in Development

1. Transportation Vehicles (buses)
2. Public Rights-of-Way and Shared Use Paths
3. Medical Diagnostic Equipment
4. Passenger Vessels
5. Information and Communications Technology
6. Self-Service Transaction Machines
7. Transportation Vehicles (rail)

Vehicle Guidelines Update (Buses)

- Update of 1991 ADA guidelines for buses and vans



Vehicle Guidelines Update

- First draft of guidelines – April 11, 2007
- Public hearings
- Second draft of guidelines – November 19, 2008
- Proposed rule – July 26, 2010
- Information meetings on ramp slope
- **Next step – final rule**

*This rulemaking updates the guidelines for buses and vans;
a subsequent rule will address rail vehicles*

Public Rights-of-Way

New guidelines will cover:

- Sidewalks
- Crossings
- Curb ramps and detectable warnings
- Pedestrian signals
- On-street parking
- Work zones
- Roundabouts



Public Rights-of-Way

- First draft of guidelines – June 17, 2002
- Public hearing – October 8, 2002
- Second draft of guidelines – November 23, 2005
- Proposed rule – July 26, 2011
- **Next step – final rule**

Shared Use Paths

- The design, construction, and use of shared use paths differs from trails and sidewalks
- Shared use paths often serve recreational purposes while providing off-road transportation routes for pedestrians, cyclists, roller skaters, and others

Shared Use Paths

- Information meeting – September 13, 2010
- Advance notice of proposed rulemaking – March 28, 2011
- Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking – February 13, 2013
- **Next step – final rule**



Medical Diagnostic Equipment

- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act gave the Board authority to set standards for medical diagnostic equipment
 - examination tables, examination chairs, weight scales, mammography equipment, and x-ray machines
- In consultation with the Food and Drug Administration

Medical Diagnostic Equipment

- Information meeting – July 29, 2010
- Proposed rule – February 9, 2012
- Advisory Committee – September 2012 – December 2013
- **Next step – final rule**



Passenger Vessels

- New guidelines for passenger vessels, including cruise ships, gaming boats, ferries



Passenger Vessels

- First draft of guidelines – November 26, 2004
- Second draft of guidelines – July 7, 2006
- Third draft of guidelines – June 26, 2008
- Numerous information meetings and vessel visits
- Passenger Vessel Emergency Alarms Advisory Committee report – September 10, 2008
- Proposed rule – June 25, 2013
- **Next step – final rule**

Information and Communication Technology

Joint update of:

- Section 508 standards for electronic and information technology (procured by Federal agencies)
- Section 255 guidelines for telecommunications products

Information and Communication Technology

- Advisory Committee report – April 3, 2008
- Advance notice of proposed rulemaking – March 22, 2010
- Public hearings
- Second advance notice of proposed rulemaking – December 8, 2011
- **Next step – proposed rule**

Self-Service Transaction Machines

- Rulemaking on self-service transaction machines covered by the ADA



Self-Service Transaction Machines

- The Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Justice (DOJ) have related rulemakings that present an opportunity to work collaboratively to develop a single set of technical requirements that can be referenced and scoped by each agency
- **Next step – proposed rule**

Rail Vehicles Guidelines Update

- Update of ADA guidelines (1991) for:
 - rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, intercity (Amtrak) rail, automated guideway, high-speed rail, and trams and similar vehicles
- Advisory Committee – May 2013

Model Codes Organizations and Voluntary Consensus Standards

- Member of the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy
- ICC/AANSI A117 Committee
- ASME A18 Platform Lift and Stairway Chair Lift Committee
- NFPA Disability Access Review Advisory Committee
- National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard
- World Wide Web Consortium
- RESNA Standards Committee on Cognitive Technologies
- National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- ASTM Committee on Playground Surfacing Systems

Voting Accessibility

- Voluntary voting system guidelines issued by the Election Assistance Commission include provisions for accessibility
- Board holds positions on the Board of Advisors and Technical Guidelines Development Committee



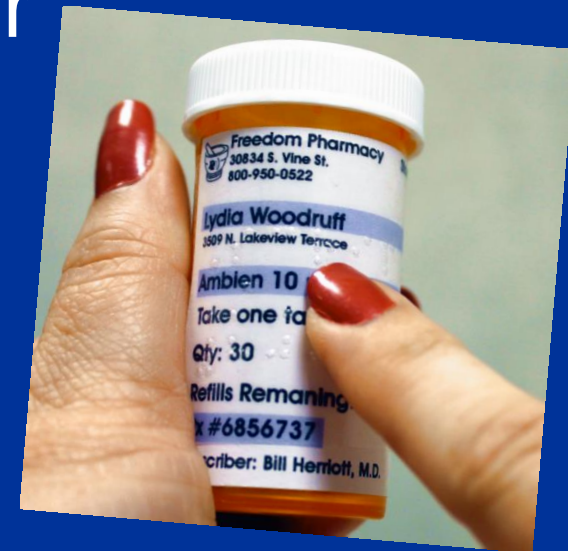
United States
ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES

Prescription Drug Labels

- Advisory guidance on making prescription drug container labels accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired or who are elderly
- Working Group on Accessible Prescription Drug Container Labels



Educate About Accessibility

- Webinars
 - National Network of ADA Centers (monthly)
 - Chief Information Officers Council Accessibility Community of Practice and eFedLink (bi-monthly)
- On-line guide to the ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines



Educate About Accessibility

- Website (*www.access-board.gov*)
- News subscriptions
- Sign-up for *Access Currents* newsletter

