



ACCESSIBLE SOLUTIONS News

HELPING BUSINESSES WITH ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

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New ADA Accessibility Standards: TAS still effective

The U.S. Department of Justice published the final rule which revised the regulations that implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with an enforcement date of March 15, 2012. The new federal accessibility standards will be known as the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (SAD). For more information about the new ADA final rule, visit the U.S. Department of Justice website or the U.S. Access Board's website.



Applicable Date

Compliance Date for New Construction and Alterations	Applicable Standards
On or after January 26, 1993 and before September 15, 2010	1991 standards
On or after September 15, 2010, and before March 15, 2012	1991 standards or 2010 standards
<i>TDLR is accepting variance applications in order to use the 2010 standards</i>	
On or after March 15, 2012	2010 standards

The compliance date for the 2010 Standards for new construction and alterations is determined by:

- The date the last application for a building permit or permit extension is certified to be complete by a state, county, or local government;
- The date the last application for a building permit or permit extension is received by a state, county, or local government, where the government does not certify the completion of applications; or
- The start of physical construction or alteration, if no permit is required.
- If that date is on or after March 15, 2012, then new construction and alterations must comply with the 2010 standards. If that date is on or after September 15, 2010, and before March 15, 2012, then new construction and alterations must comply with either the 1991 or the 2010 standards.

Protesters in wheelchairs ticketed at Texas Capitol

On Tuesday night, March 1, 2011 at least 11 protesters in wheelchairs were ticketed for misdemeanor trespassing in the State Capitol. The demonstrators, who oppose proposed cuts in state social services, refused to leave an area outside Gov. Rick Perry's office, the *Dallas Morning News* reported. Earlier on Tuesday, actress Eva Longoria lobbied lawmakers and spoke at a rally on behalf of the mentally disabled. She said that if the Legislature passes proposed cuts in services, it would bring "shame on Texas." Hundreds of disabled people and their families and helpers rallied at the Capitol. Advocates said they don't want more money for the disabled, only the current level.

New access rules take effect for recreation sites



Recreation facilities across the country must become more accessible to people with disabilities under changes in Justice Department rules that implement the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The major rule changes are the first in two decades. It will add swimming pools, parks, golf courses, boating facilities, exercise clubs, and other recreational facilities to the 7 million places of public accommodations protected by the law. It also covers 80,000 units of state and local government.

Those subject to the revised regulations have until March 15, 2012 to comply with them. The Justice Department's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Thomas E. Perez, says the amended rules usher in a new day for the more than 50 million people with disabilities.

Germ fighting tips that may surprise you

Source: University of Arizona

- Take your shoes off and put them on a rack or in a closet nearest the door where you enter the house. Germs, allergens, and other contaminants collect on shoes and can be tracked throughout your house.
- Keep your toothbrush and toothpaste in the medicine cabinet. Flushing the toilet disperses microbes as far away as six feet, and many of them collect in the bathroom sink.
- Avoid putting your purse on the kitchen counter or on any surface where food is prepared or eaten. Researchers have found that purse bottoms can contain more than 10,000 bacteria per square inch.
- Use the end stalls in public bathrooms. The middle stalls harbor the most bacteria.
- Frequently clean your cell phone and your hands-free headphones or blue tooth with an alcohol swab to remove bacteria.



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