



# ACCESSIBLE SOLUTIONS News

HELPING BUSINESSES WITH ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

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## Accessibility Classes Suspended

Due to the pending adoption of new accessibility standards, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) has temporarily suspended all Texas Accessibility Academy classes until further notice. The TDLR reported they are working feverishly to develop a new Texas Accessibility Standards training program which incorporates the changes that go into effect March 15, 2012. The program will be available to current and future Registered Accessibility Specialists. To keep up with details about the release of this program, visit: [www.tdlr.state.tx.us/ab/taa.htm](http://www.tdlr.state.tx.us/ab/taa.htm)



## What You Need to Know Now

The current verbal guidance from TDLR is that each project will be inspected under the code that was in effect at the time the project was registered. Designers should familiarize themselves with the new requirements and begin integrating them into their current designs. Below are a few of the changes that were discussed.

### Van Parking:

- Accessible spaces for van parking will become 1 per 6, previously 1 per 8.
- The access aisle for angled spaces must be on the passenger side.
- All access aisles, including passenger loading zones, must be "hashed."

### Doors:

- 60% of all public entrances must be accessible (previously 50%).
- Where there are 1 or more restricted access or security entrances, at least 1 must be accessible.
- Closers must be adjusted so it takes 5 seconds, not 3 seconds, when opened at 70°, to travel within 3" of the door jamb.
- The exemption to allow a reduced clear width for shallow closets has been removed.

### Reach Range:

- The maximum side reach height will be 48" above the finished floor (AFF) (previously 54"). The side reach rule applies to a variety of building elements such as electrical outlets, light switches, thermostats, and more.

### Toilet Rooms:

- The center line of water closets will be 16-18" from side wall and 17-19" in ambulatory stalls.
- Water closet clearances will be 60" x 60", the same as a stall.
- No fixtures or obstructions may be located within the required water closet clearance.
- Toilet paper dispensers must be 7-9" in front of the water closet and 15-48" AFF.
- Minimum clearance between grab bars for any protruding object is 12" above and 15" below.
- A new exception allows for 24" rear grab bar when the adjacent fixture is recessed.



## I Owe HOW Much?

A woman visiting an attorney's office for a deposition was refused admittance because she was accompanied by her service dog. The woman reportedly required the service dog because she had mobility and balance problems due to a traumatic brain injury. The attorney was ordered to pay the woman \$30,000, as well as an additional \$10,000 civil penalty to the United States. The law firm agreed to adopt an ADA-compliant service animals policy; train staff on the policy; and place the policy, and a sign indicating service animals are welcome, in a conspicuous location.

## Destination CEU for Design Professionals: San Antonio Riverwalk

Would you like to earn self-study CEU credit while vacationing? Consider a visit to Pearl Riverwalk Park in San Antonio. This section of the Riverwalk was a \$63 million project and took seven years to design and construct. The park connects to downtown via Rio Taxi barges. Locks raise the barges to accommodate an 8-foot change in elevation along the waterway.



A lot of coordination with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation occurred before the project was finalized. Two-level ramps were designed to provide wheelchair access to the full length of the project as well as to a couple of scenic vantage points.



The park has 15 miles of hiking and biking routes. Many old distillery buildings along the Riverwalk have been converted to retail shops and restaurants. It's worth a trip.



*Pearl Riverwalk Park*

1865 McGee Lane, Suite B • Lewisville, TX 75077-1774  
[www.AccessibleSolution.com](http://www.AccessibleSolution.com)



Office: (972) 353-3025  
Fax: (972) 353-3060  
[Info@AccessibleSolution.com](mailto:Info@AccessibleSolution.com)

