

OUTDOOR ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

Handout #4

Technical requirements for accessible routes are found in Chapters 3 and 4 of ADAAG. An overview of sections likely to pertain to outdoor accessible routes is outlined below.

A. General

1. Accessible routes shall consist of one or more of the following components; walking surfaces with a running slope not steeper than 1:20, doorways, ramps, curb ramps excluding the flared sides, elevators and platform lifts (402.2)

B. Floor and Ground Surface

1. Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant (302.1, 403.2).

C. Walking Surface

1. The running slope of walking surfaces shall not be steeper than 1:20, with a cross slope not steeper than 1:48(403.3).
2. Changes in level of ¼ inch maximum are permitted, changes in level between ¼ and ½ inch must be beveled. Changes in level greater than ½ inch must be ramped (303, 403.4).
3. The clear width of accessible walking surfaces must be 36 inches minimum; 42 to 60 inches at 180 degree turn (403.5).
4. An accessible route less than 60 inches wide must provide passing spaces at intervals of 200 feet minimum. Passing spaces must be 60 by 60 inches, or a compliant T-shaped turn space at an intersection of two walks (403.5.3).

D. Ramps

1. The running slope of ramp runs must not be steeper than 1:12 (405.2), with a cross slope not steeper than 1:48 (405.3). Changes in level other than slope and cross slope are not permitted on ramp runs. (405.4)
2. Ramp runs must be a minimum 36 inches wide (405.5), and the rise of any ramp run must not exceed 30 inches (405.6).
3. Ramps must have landings at the top and the bottom of each ramp run (405.7)
4. Ramp runs with a rise greater than 6 inches must have handrails on both sides (405.8). Edge protection is required on the sides of ramp runs and landings with a vertical drop-off of over ½ inch (405.9).

E. Protruding Objects

1. Objects with leading edges between 27 and 80 inches above the surface must not protrude more than 4 inches into the accessible route, 12" for objects mounted on posts. Vertical clearance is required to be a minimum 86 inches (307).

This is an overview of the requirements. The actual section in ADAAG will govern and should be referred to for planning and construction of outdoor accessible routes. A reminder that raised areas like stages and gazebos must be on an accessible route.