

Welcome to the AccessibilityOnline Webinar Series



A collaborative program between the ADA
National Network and the US Access Board



**The Session is Scheduled to begin at 2:30pm Eastern Time
We will be testing sound quality periodically**

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(877) 232-1990(V/TTY)

Presenters

U.S. Access Board



Marsha Mazz



Dave Yanchulis

UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD

Accessible Signage

Session Agenda

- Access Designations
- Visual Access
- Tactile Signs
- Changes in the new standards

UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD

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Current ADA Standards



**DOJ's original standards
(1994) still in effect**



**Transportation Facilities -
updated DOT standards (2006)**

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Current ABA Standards (Federal facilities)



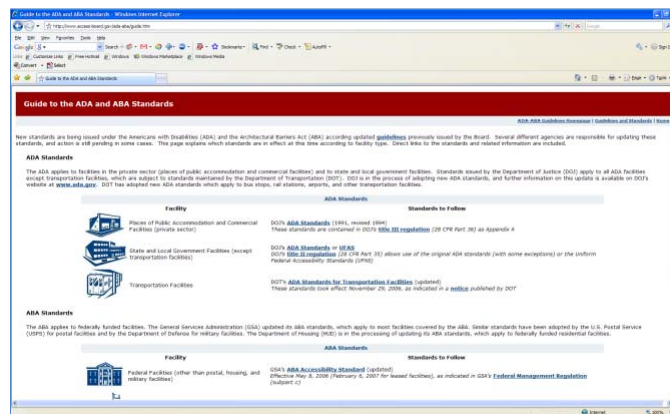
Updated standards in effect for all facilities except housing



Housing – UFAS still applies (HUD to update standards)

Online Guidance

www.access-board.gov/ada-aba/guide.htm



Scoping

(§4.1.3(16)/ New: §216)

- **Required: certain access designations**
- **Otherwise, standards apply to signs only where provided**
- **Interior and exterior signs covered**

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Exempt Signs

- **Building addresses**
- **Company names/logos**
- **Occupant names**
- **Directories and menus**
- **Temporary signs (new standards: 7 days or less)**
- **Prisons/Jails: signs in non-public areas (new standards)**

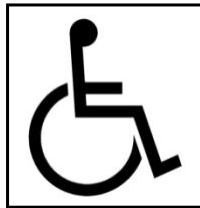


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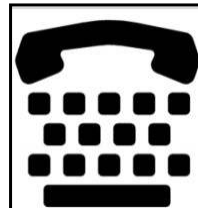
Access Designations

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Required Designations



Accessibility (ISA)



TTYs



Volume Control



Hearing Loss

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International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA)

- entrances
- toilet and bathrooms
- parking
- check-out aisles
- existing elevators (new standards)



Not required where *all* are accessible

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ISA

Entrances and toilet/bathrooms:

- ISA label at accessible locations
- Directional signs at inaccessible locations



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ISA

Text not specified, but can be helpful



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Directional Signs

Tip: Locate signs to prevent back-tracking
(e.g., at start of entrance route)



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ISA

Contrast (light-on-dark or dark-on-light)



Non-glare finish

Text (where provided): visual access

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ISA

Not specified/ required:

- Color (other than contrast)
- Size
- Borders
- Tactile access
- Verbal content (except van signs)

Variations of ISA not recognized

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Parking Signs

- Standard spaces: ISA
- Van spaces: ISA + “Van Accessible”
- Can be post, wall, or ceiling mounted

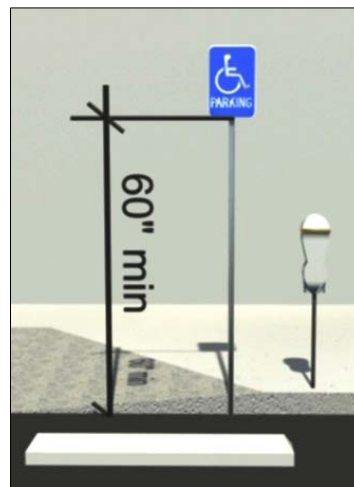


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Parking Signs

**Must be visible when
space occupied**

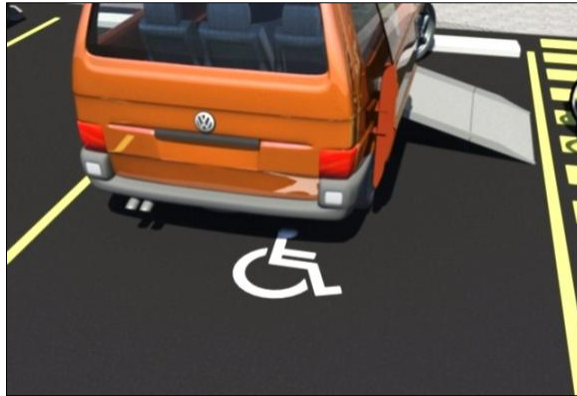
**New standards:
60" min. high
(measured to bottom)**



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Parking Signs

Surface designations do not satisfy this requirement (may be required locally)



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Parking Signs

New standards: Exception

On sites with 4 spaces max., sign not required at accessible space



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Parking Signs

New standards: Exception

Residential facilities – sign not required where spaces are assigned to specific dwelling units



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Parking Signs

New standards: Exception

Parking facilities – compliance required for:

- **parking signs**
- **means of egress signs**



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TTY Signs

Used to label TTY-equipped phones

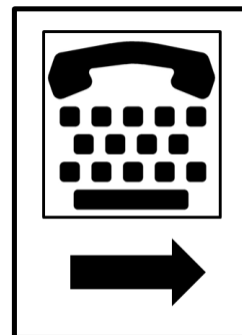


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TTY Signs

Directional signs required at:

- Pay phone banks without TTYs
- Entrances (if no other banks)
- Pay phone directional signs (new standards)



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Volume Control Label



**New standards:
Label not required
(all public phones
must have volume
control)**

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Hearing Loss Symbol

**Signs required for assistive listening
systems in assembly areas**



**New standards: required at each assembly
area or ticket office/ window**

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Questions?

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Visual Access

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Visual Access

- **Room/ space labels**
- **Informational signs**
- **Directional signs**

Exempt: temporary signs, occupant names, logos, addresses, directories, menus

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Visual Access

Room/ Space Labels - Examples:

- **“Conference Room”**
- **“Accounting Department”**
- **Room numbers**
- **Restroom labels**

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Visual Access

Informational Signs – Examples:

- “Employees Only”
- hours of operation
- Rules of conduct:
- “Use Stairs in Emergencies”
- “Visitors must sign in”

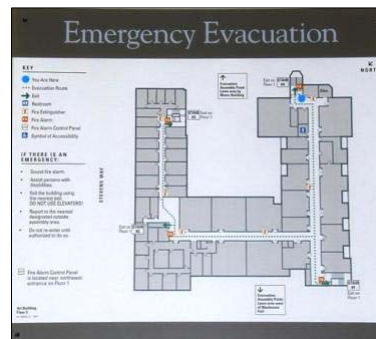


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Visual Access

Directional Signs - Examples

- “Meeting Rooms on Level 2”
- “Restrooms →”
- Egress routes



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Visual Access

- **Finish (non-glare)**
- **Contrast (light-on dark or dark-on-light)**
- **Characters (style, proportion, height)**
- **Spacing (character, line)**
- **Upper and lower case permitted**

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Contrast

light-on dark or dark-on-light

Contrast values not specified (the higher the better)



Contras



Contras

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Contrast

Examples of poor contrast

Contras

Contras

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Visual Access

**UPPER AND LOWER
CASE ARE OFTEN
EASIER TO READ THAN
ALL UPPER CASE**

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Visual Access

Upper and lower
case are often
easier to read than
all upper case

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Character Style

New standards specify “conventional form”

Prohibited:

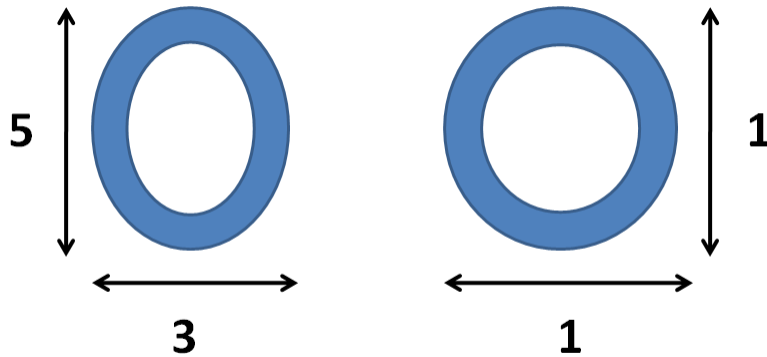
Italic *Oblique* *script*

highly decorative
or other *unusual forms*

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Character Proportion

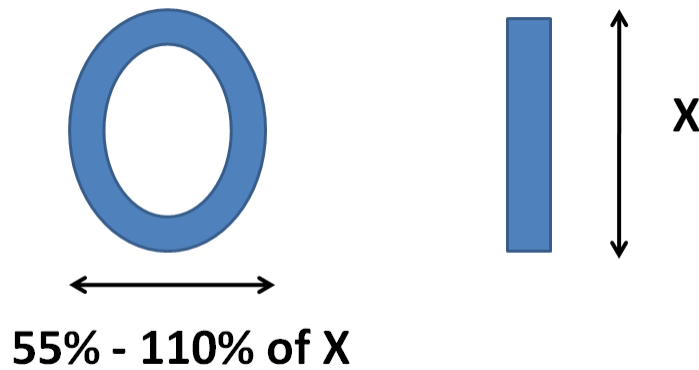
Width-to-height = 3:5 – 1:1



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Character Proportion

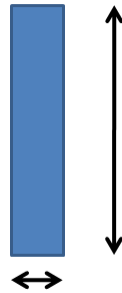
New standards:
"O" width = 55% - 110% "I" height



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Stroke width

10% - 20% of height



New standards: 10% - 30%, upper case "I"

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Character Style

Examples of compliant styles

Arial

Gill Sans

Helvetica

Palatino

Times

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Character Spacing

New standards:

ing

↔
10% - 35% of

character height

(measured to closest points of adjacent characters)

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Line Spacing

New standards:

abc

xyz

↑
135% - 170% of
character height
↓

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Character Height

- Size based on viewing distance
- 3" min. specified for overhead signs (80" min.)
- More detail in the new standards



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Character Height

New standards:

<u>Height above Floor</u>	<u>Min. Character Height</u>
40" – 70"	5/8" (+ 1/8" / foot of hor. distance above 72")
70" – 120"	2" (+ 1/8" / foot of hor. distance above 180")
above 120"	3" (+ 1/8" / foot of hor. distance above 21')

(minimum sign height: 40")

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Tactile Signs

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Tactile Signs

Labels of “permanent” rooms/spaces



- **Function not likely to change over time (or without significant alteration)**
- **Doorway: cue for sign location**

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Tactile Signs

Cane detection of doorways



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Tactile Signs

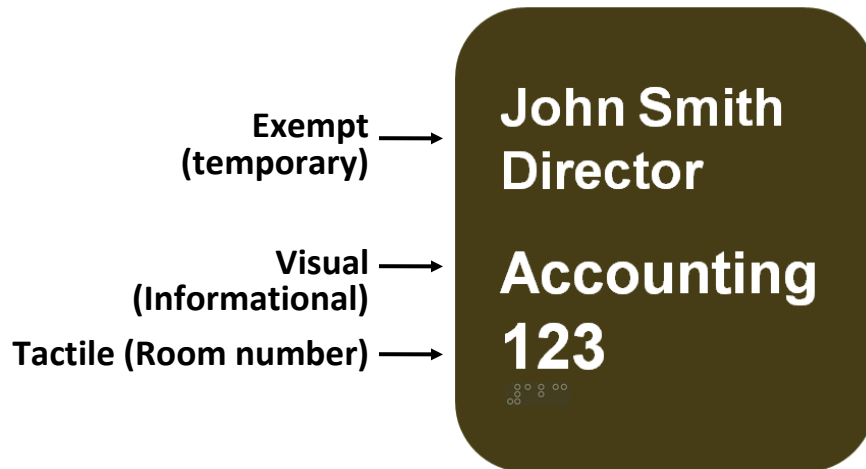
Scoping (interior & exterior):

- Restroom labels (at entry)
- Room numbers/ names (not likely to change)
- Floor levels
- Exit access/discharge
- Areas of Rescue Assistance

New standards exempt exterior signs not located at doors

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Tactile Signs



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Tactile Signs

- Raised characters
- Grade 2 Braille
- Visual access (finish and contrast)
- Pictograms (designating room/space)

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Raised Characters

- Upper case
- Raised 1/32" min.
- Character Height: 5/8" – 2"
- Non-glare finish
- Contrast (light-on-dark or dark-on-light)
- San or "simple" serif

TEXT

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Raised Characters

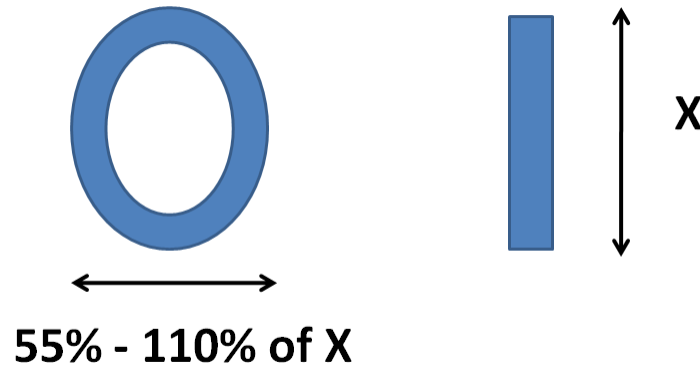
New standards:

- Height: based on upper case "I"
- Height: 1/2" min. allowed where visual access provided on separate sign
- "simple serif" removed
- Prohibited: italic, oblique, script, highly decorative, or other unusual forms

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Raised Characters

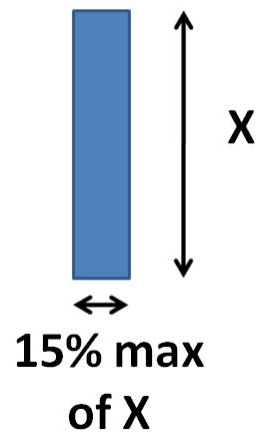
New standards: Character proportion
"O" width = 55% - 110% "I" height



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Raised Characters

New standards: Stroke thickness
15% max. of character height (upper case "I")



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Raised Characters

New standards: Character spacing
(rectangular cross sections)

$1/8'' - 4x$ stroke width



(measured to closest points of adjacent characters)

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Raised Characters

New standards: Character spacing
(non-rectangular cross sections)

$1/8'' - 4x$ stroke width



$1/16'' - 4x$ stroke width

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Raised Characters

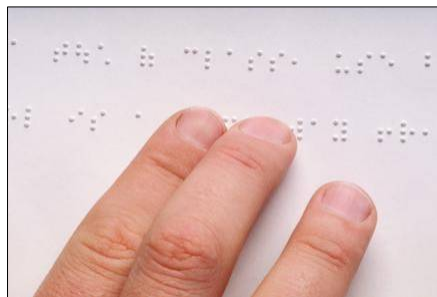
New standards:

- **Line spacing: 135% - 170% of character height (measured to baseline)**
- **3/8" min. separation from raised borders and decorative elements**

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Braille (Grade 2)

**Dots – domed or rounded shape
(read with light sweeping touch)**

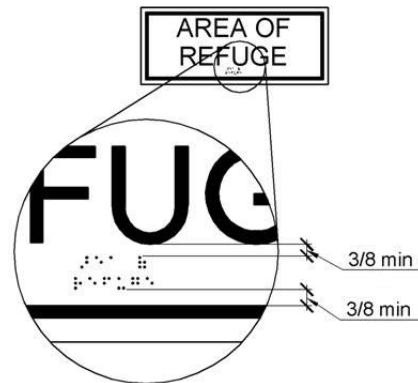


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Braille

New standards:

- Placed below raised text
- 3/8" min. separation from raised text, borders



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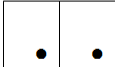
Braille

New standards:

**Limited use of uppercase notation
(standard capitalization, e.g., names, acronyms)**

Braille capital sign

 = first letter capital

 = all capitals

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Braille

no caps



First Letter Caps



ALL CAPS



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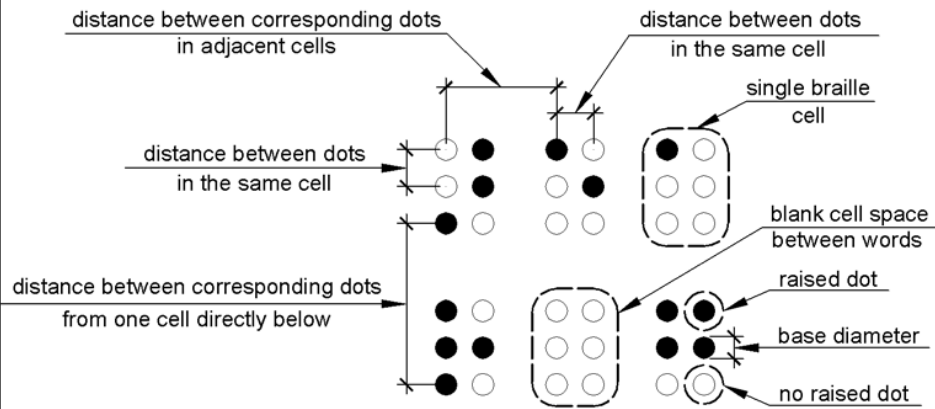
Braille

Dot dimensions

- Base diameter: 0.059" - 0.063"
- Height: 0.025" - 0.037"
- Dot Spacing:
 - same cell: 0.090" - 0.100"
 - adjacent cell: 0.241" - 0.300"
 - cell directly below: 0.395" - 0.400"

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Braille



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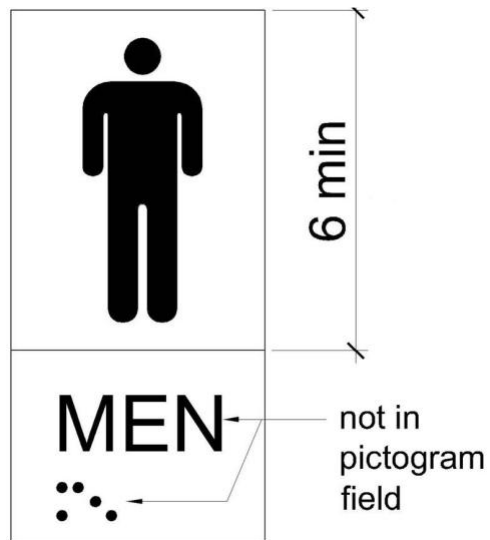
Pictograms (Tactile Signs)

Pictograms used to label permanent space (e.g., restroom, exit stairway):

- text equivalent (raised characters/braille)
- background 6" high min.
- contrast (dark-on-light or light-on-dark)
- non-glare finish

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Pictograms

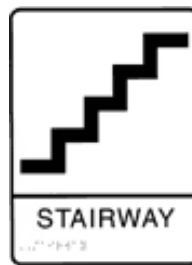


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Pictograms

Requirement applies:

- where pictogram provided
- only to those labeling permanent space
- not to informational/ directional pictograms



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Pictograms

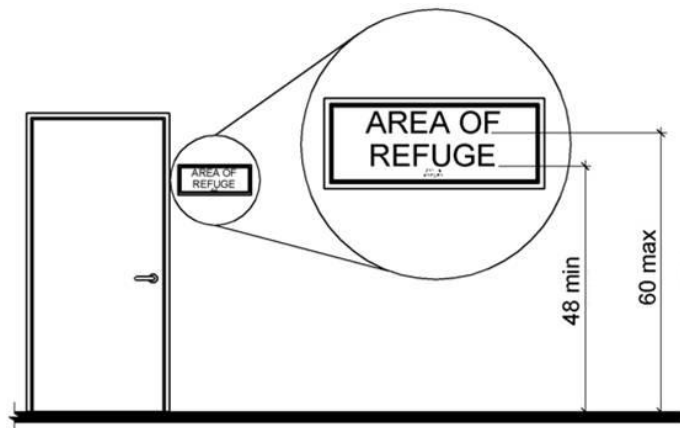
Examples of informational/ directional pictograms
(finish & contrast specs only)



Tactile Signs: Location

New standards:

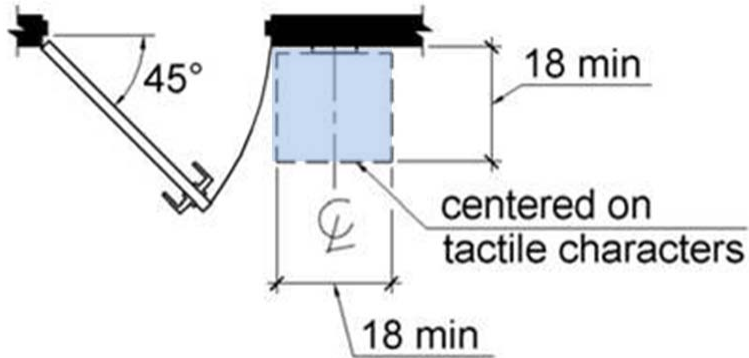
48" – 60" high measured to character baseline
(instead of 60" centerline)



Tactile Signs: Location

Location: latch side of doors

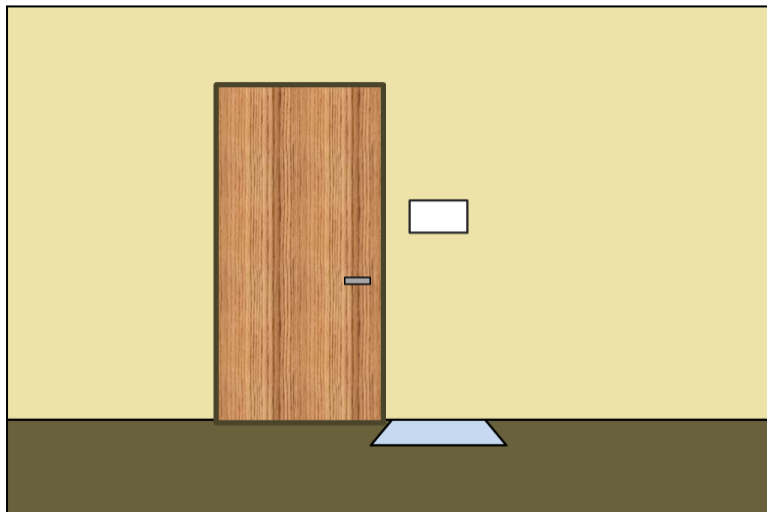
More detail in new standards (18" x 18" CFS at sign)



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Tactile Signs: Location

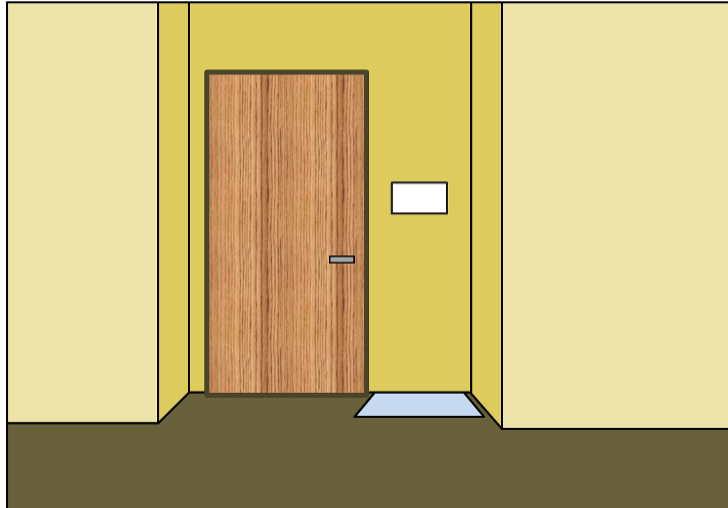
Latch side placement



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Tactile Signs: Location

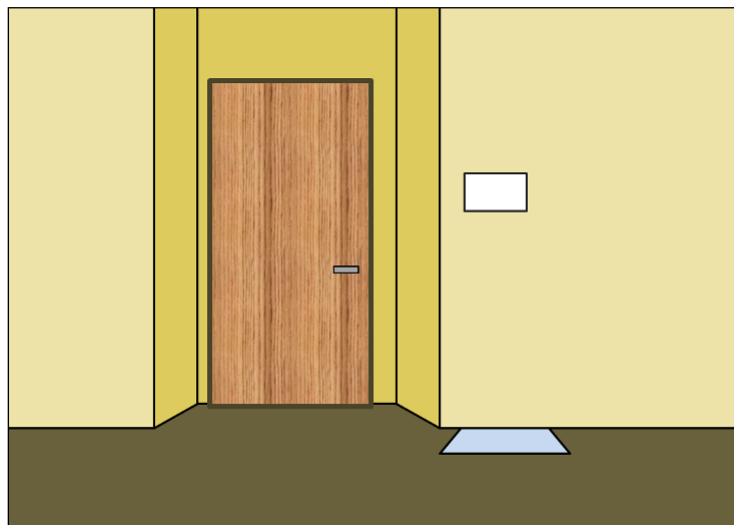
No space on latch side: on nearest adjacent wall



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Tactile Signs: Location

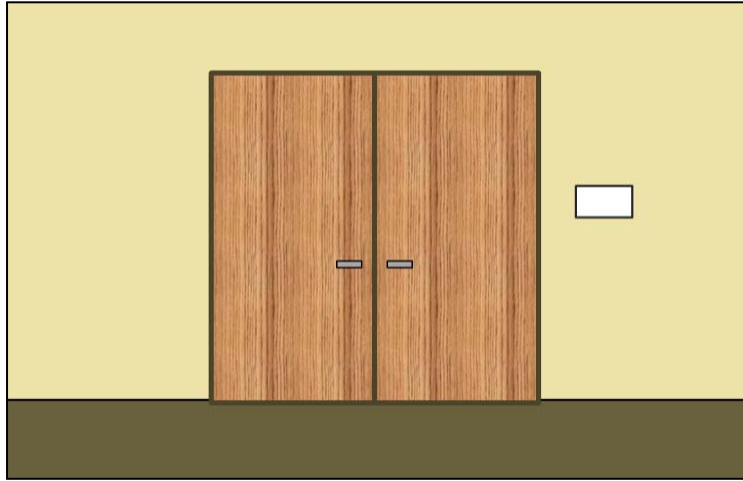
No space on latch side: on nearest adjacent wall



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Tactile Signs: Location

New standards: At double doors: right side
(2 active leaves) or on inactive leaf



Tactile Signs: Location

New standards: Permit
placement on the push side
of doors with closers and
without hold-open devices



Other Topics

- **Illumination Levels**
- **Audible Signs**
- **“Effective Communication”**

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Questions?

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U.S. Access Board

(800) 872-2253 (voice)

(800) 993-2822 (TTY)

E-mail: ta@access-board.gov

www.access-board.gov

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**Thank you for participating
in today's webinar**



Next scheduled session:

“Vehicle Guidelines Update”

August 5th

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