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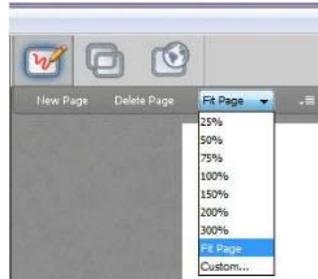
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# Accessible Swimming Pools and Spas

## Question and Answer Session

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### Presenters

U.S. Access Board



**Peggy Greenwell**



**Bill Botten**

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## Session Agenda

- Application
- New construction
- Existing facilities
- Scoping and technical requirements
- Questions

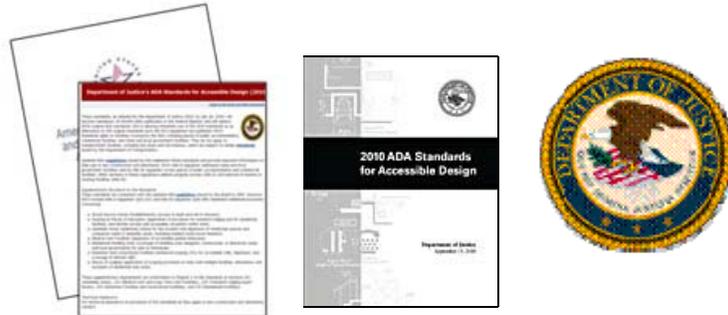


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## New construction

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# Current ADA Standards



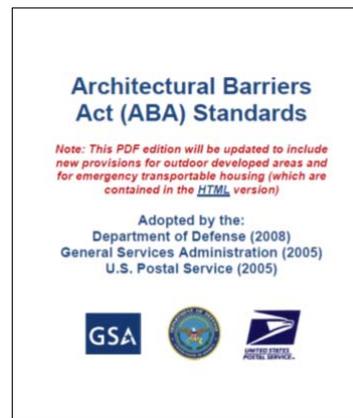
DOJ's 2010 Design Standards  
(mandatory March 15, 2012)

Delay in application to Existing Swimming pools – (January 31,  
2013)

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# Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)

- Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS)
- Covers Federal facilities (e.g. pools at military facilities)
- Newly constructed and altered pools – GSA – May 2006  
– DOD – Oct 2008



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# Residential facilities

- Pools and spas included with State and local government residential facilities
- Private community residential pools (i.e. Home Owner's Association) – generally not covered unless open to people other than residents and their guests

**CONTACT DOJ FOR GUIDANCE – 800 514-0301**



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# Existing pool and spa facilities

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## What Standards Apply to ADA Existing Facilities?

- Title II — Program accessibility
- Title III — Readily achievable barrier removal

*For more information, contact DOJ @ 800 514-0301*

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## Existing Facilities

### STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TITLE II

- “A public entity shall operate each service, program, or activity so that the service, program, or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.”
- Program accessibility
- Limited where actions would result in a “fundamental alteration in the nature of the program”

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## Existing Facilities

### **PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION: PRIVATE ENTITIES – TITLE III**

- Remove physical and communication barriers to existing facilities by persons with disabilities
- “Readily achievable”
- Easy to accomplish without much difficulty or expense

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## Safe Harbor – Existing Facilities

- Elements that comply with 1991 Standards do not need to be modified to meet the 2010 Standards unless those elements are altered on or after March 15, 2012.

Safe Harbor does not apply to elements in existing facilities that were not subject to specific requirements in the 1991 Standards

*For more information, contact DOJ @ 800 514-0301* 22

## Elements in 2010 Standards Not Subject to Safe Harbor

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) Residential facilities and dwelling units</li> <li>(B) Amusement rides</li> <li>(C) Recreational boating facilities</li> <li>(D) Exercise machines and equipment</li> <li>(E) Fishing piers and platforms</li> <li>(F) Golf facilities</li> <li>(G) Miniature golf facilities</li> <li>(H) Play areas</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Saunas and steam rooms</li> <li><b>(J) Swimming pools, wading pools, and spas</b></li> <li>(K) Shooting facilities with firing positions,</li> <li>(L) Miscellaneous.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Team or player seating</li> <li>(2) Accessible route to bowling lanes</li> <li>(3) Accessible route in court sports facilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|---|

For more information, contact DOJ @ 800 514-0301

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## DOJ Technical Assistance

U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division  
Disability Rights Section



**Accessible Pools**  
Means of Entry and Exit

**Overview**

The Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for title II (State and local government services) and title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) on September 15, 2010, in the Federal Register. These requirements, or rules, clarify and refine issues that have arisen over the past 20 years and contain new, and updated, requirements, including the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design ("2010 Standards").

Providing equal opportunity to people with disabilities is the fundamental principle of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication is designed to help title II and title III entities understand how new requirements for swimming pools, especially existing pools, apply to them.

People with disabilities were, for too long, excluded from participating in many recreational activities, including swimming. The revised 2010 Standards change that. For the first time, the 2010 Standards set minimum requirements for making swimming pools, wading pools, and spas (pools) accessible. Newly constructed and altered pools must meet these requirements. Public entities and public accommodations also have obligations with respect to existing pools. State and local governments must make recreational programs and services, including swimming pool programs, accessible to people with disabilities. Public accommodations must bring existing pools into compliance with the 2010 Standards to the extent that it is readily achievable to do so.

The requirements for newly constructed and existing pools will ensure that, going forward, people with disabilities can enjoy the same activities—a community swim meet, private swim lessons, a hotel pool—at the same locations and with the same independence, ease, and convenience as everyone else.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:  
ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING  
SWIMMING POOLS AT HOTELS AND OTHER PUBLIC  
ACCOMMODATIONS**

### Topics addressed

- Existing pools
- New construction and alterations
- Compliance dates
- Maintenance of accessible features
- Staff training
- Tax credits and deductions

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# Scoping provisions (242)

# Technical provisions (1009)

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## Swimming pools (242.2)

- **Required means of access into the water**
  - Over 300 linear ft of pool wall = 2 (one primary)
  - Less than 300 linear ft of pool wall = 1
  - lift or sloped entry



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## Linear feet of pool wall



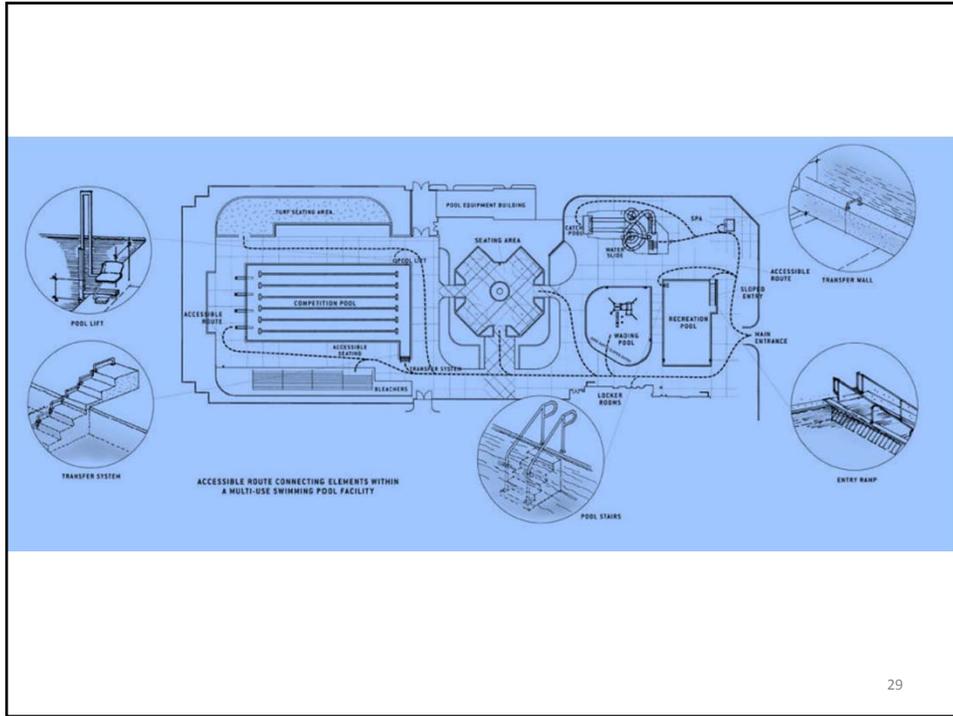
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### PERMITTED MEANS OF POOL ACCESS

POOL TYPE	SLOPED ENTRY	LIFT	TRANSFER WALLS	TRANSFER SYSTEMS	STAIRS
Swimming (less than 300 linear feet of pool wall)	✓	✓			
Swimming (300 or more linear feet of pool wall) —two means of entry required	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓
Wave action, leisure river, and other pools where user entry is limited to one area	✓	✓		✓	
Wading pools	✓				
Spas		✓	✓	✓	

\*Primary means must be by sloped entry or lift, secondary means can be any of the permitted types.

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# Sloped Entries

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## Sloped entries (1009.3)

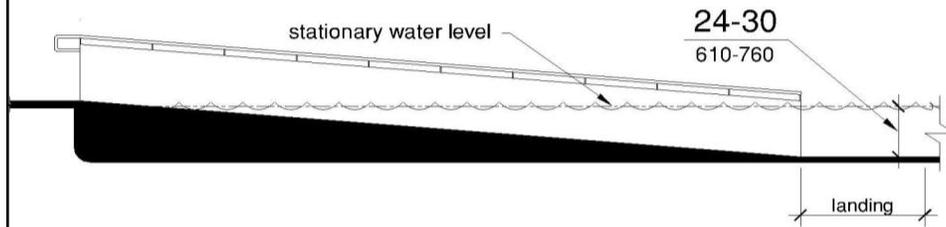
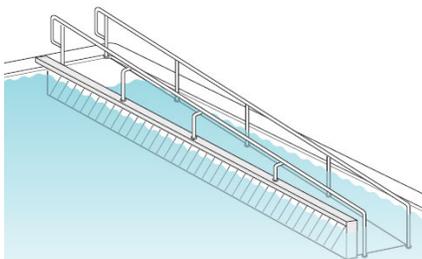


Fig. 72  
Sloped Entry Submerged Depth

- **Extend to 24 inches to 30 inches below stationary water level**
- **1:12 maximum slope**
- **Handrails - 33 inches min - 38 inches max clear width**

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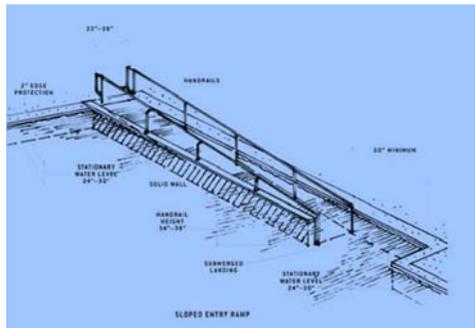
## Sloped entries



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## Sloped entries

- Handrail height - 34 and 38 inches to the top of the gripping surface
- Handrail extensions required at top landing but not at the bottom



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## Pool Lifts

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## “Portable” vs. “Fixed” pool lift

- “Fixed” vs. “Non-fixed”
- A fixed lift means that the lift is attached to the pool deck or apron in some way.
- A portable lift that is attached to the pool deck would be considered a fixed lift.

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## Availability of pool lifts

- I’ve decided that it is readily achievable to provide a lift, but the lift I ordered is on back order. Do I have to close my pool until the lift arrives?
- Do I have to leave my pool lift out at poolside when my pool is closed?
- Can I store my lift and bring it out only when it is requested by a person with a disability?



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## Multiple pools on the same site

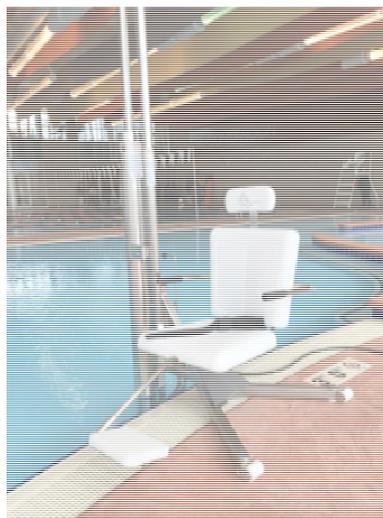
- What if I have two pools or a pool and a spa? Can I share a lift between pools?
- If I can't provide a lift at every pool, do I have to close the one(s) that has no lift?



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## Pool lift location (1009.2.1 )

- Located where water does not exceed 48 inches
  - Exception - Where the entire pool depth is greater than 48 inches
  - No more than one required to be located in an area where the water level is 48 inches maximum



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## Pool Lift Seat Location ( 1009.2.2)

- In raised position, the centerline of the seat - 16 inches minimum from the edge of the pool.
- On the side of the seat opposite the water, a clear deck space shall be provided parallel with the seat.
- Seat height – 16 – 19 inches maximum from deck to top of seat surface

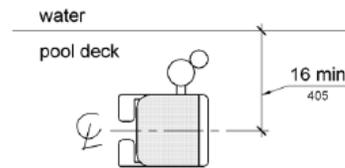


Figure 1009.2.2 Pool Lift Seat Location

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## Pool Lift Clear Deck Space (1009.2.3)

36 inches wide minimum and extend forward 48 inches minimum from a line located 12 inches behind the rear edge of the seat

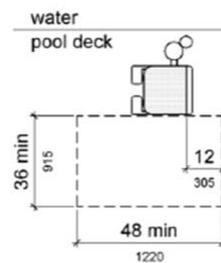


Figure 1009.2.3 Clear Deck Space at Pool Lifts

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## Pool lift (1009.2.6)

- Armrests – if provided opposite water shall be removable or fold in raised or load position
- Footrests – **must** be provided and move with seat



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## Pool Lift Operation (1009.2.7)

Capable of unassisted operation – both deck and water



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## Submerged Depth (1009.2.8)

Lift must be designed so that the seat will submerge to a water depth of 18 inches minimum below the stationary water level

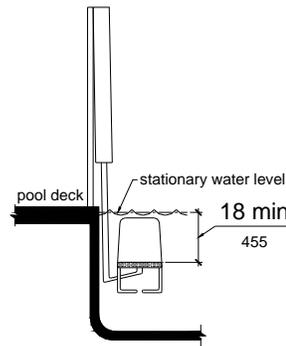


Fig 71  
Pool Lift Submerged Depth

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## Lifting capacity (1009.2.9)

Weight capacity of 300 pounds. (136 kg) minimum and be capable of sustaining a static load of at least one and a half times the rated load



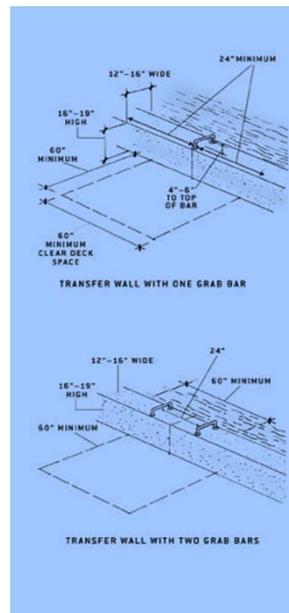
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# Transfer Walls and Transfer Systems

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## Transfer walls (1009.4.1 & 1009.4.2)

- Clear deck space - 60 inches x 60 inches, slope 1:48 maximum
- Height – 16 inches to 19 inches



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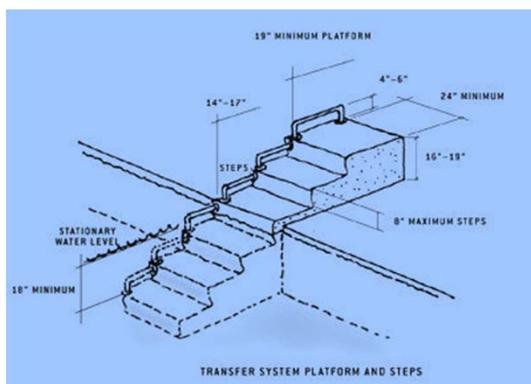
## Grab Bars (1009.4.5 )

- At least one
- Perpendicular to the pool wall and full depth of the transfer wall
- Gripping surface 4 to 6 inches above transfer walls.
- Where two grab bars - clearance between grab bars 24 inches minimum



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## Transfer system (1009.5.1)

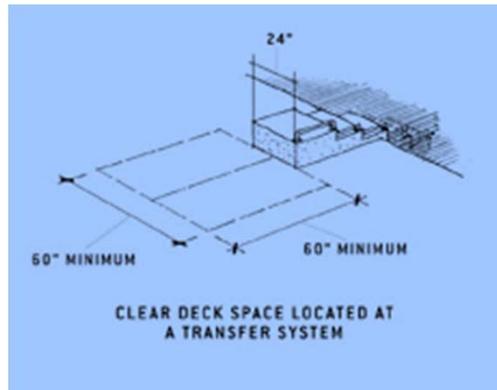


- Platform
  - 19 in min depth
  - 24 in clear width
  - 16 in to 19 in height
- Surface – not sharp and rounded edges

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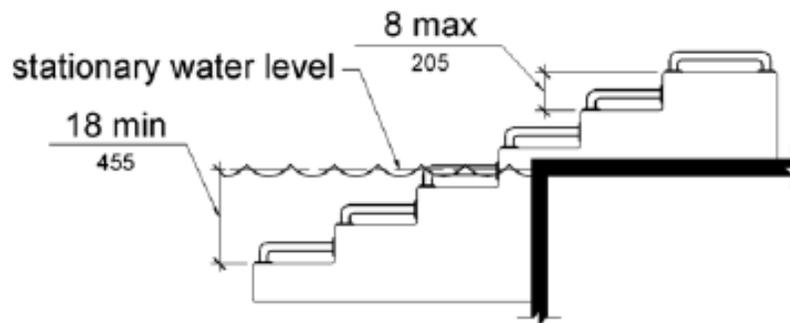
## Transfer system (1009.5.2)

- Clear space – 60 inches x 60 inches
- Centered on 24 inch width



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## Transfer system (1009.5.4)



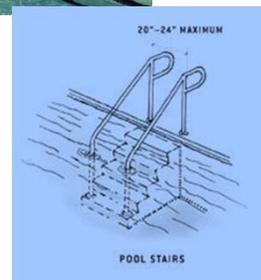
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# Pool Stairs

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## Pool stairs (1009.6)

- Comply with stairs provisions, except as modified
- Handrail width 20 to 24 inches
- Extensions not required at bottom landing



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# Spas

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## Spas (242.4)

- At least one means of entry:
  - Lift - footrests not required
  - Transfer wall
  - Transfer system
- Where provided, in a cluster, 5% but not less than one



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# Wading pools

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## Wading pools (242.3)

- At least one sloped entry - handrails not required
- Extend to the deepest part of the wading pool



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# Aquatic recreation facilities

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PERMITTED MEANS OF POOL ACCESS					
POOL TYPE	SLOPED ENTRY	LIFT	TRANSFER WALLS	TRANSFER SYSTEMS	STAIRS
Swimming (less than 300 linear feet of pool wall)	✓	✓			
Swimming (300 or more linear feet of pool wall) —two means of entry required	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓
Wave action, leisure river, and other pools where user entry is limited to one area	✓	✓		✓	
Wading pools	✓				
Spas		✓	✓	✓	

\*Primary means must be by sloped entry or lift, secondary means can be any of the permitted types.

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## Wave action pools (242.2 EX 2)

- One means of access
- Pool lift, sloped entry, or transfer system
- Clear width of handrails on slope entry does not apply



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## Leisure rivers (242.2 EX 2)

- One means of access
- Pool lift, sloped entry, or transfer system



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## Water slides (203.11)

- Access not required to the top of the water slide
- Accessible route required to edge of catch pool



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## Diving boards and raised platforms (203.14)

Accessible route not required to serve raised diving boards or diving platforms



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## Water Play Components (1008.2.3)



**Ground level access  
and transfer access to  
elevated play  
components required**

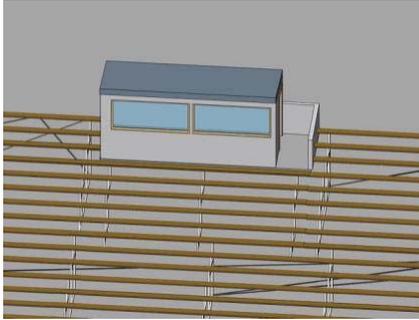


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**Other**

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## Press Boxes Exceptions (206.2.7)



**Bleachers:**  
entry at only one level –  
aggregate area of all press  
boxes 500 square feet max

**Question: Does a 500 square foot raised press box at the top of bleachers in a newly constructed public school pool aquatic facility have to be accessible?**

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## Pool deck surfaces (302, 303)



- Stable, firm, and slip resistant



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## Gate Hardware (404.2.7 Exception 2)

Access gates in barrier walls and fences protecting pools, spas, and hot tubs

Operable parts of the release of latch on self-latching devices at 54 inches maximum



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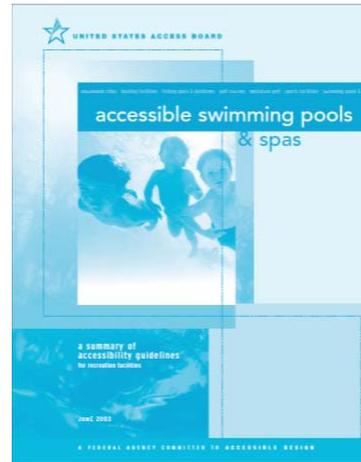
# Questions?

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## Access Board Resources

- TA Guide
- Webinars
- *Access Currents*
- Completed Research



Online Guides to the ADA /ABA Standards

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## Where to direct questions



### U.S. Department of Justice

- Implementing regulation and additional requirements
- Requirements for existing facilities – title II & III

(800) 514-0301 (voice)  
(800) 514-0383 (TTY)  
[www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)



### U.S. Access Board

- 2010 Accessibility Standards for new construction and alterations

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(800) 993-2822 (TTY)  
(202) 272-0081 (FAX)  
[ta@access-board.gov](mailto:ta@access-board.gov)  
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Accessibility Standard (ABA) - "A Refresher"***

**August 6, 2015**

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**AICP Provider Name:** Great Lakes ADA Center



**Course Title:** Swimming Pools and Spas: Open Q&A

**Course Number:** GL20150702

**Date:** July 2, 2015



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