



ACCESSIBLE AND USABLE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

ICC A117.1-2009

 American National Standard



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FOREWORD

(The information contained in this foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. As such, this foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the standard.)

Development

The 1961 edition of ANSI Standard A117.1 presented the first criteria for accessibility to be approved as an American National Standard and was the result of research conducted by the University of Illinois under a grant from the Easter Seal Research Foundation. The National Easter Seal Society and the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities became members of the Secretariat, and the 1961 edition was reaffirmed in 1971.

In 1974, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development joined the Secretariat and sponsored needed research, which resulted in the 1980 edition. After further revision that included a special effort to remove application criteria (scoping requirements), the 1986 edition was published and, when requested in 1987, the Council of American Building Officials (CABO) assumed the Secretariat. Central to the intent of the change in the Secretariat was the development of a standard that, when adopted as part of a building code, would be compatible with the building code and its enforcement. The 1998 edition largely achieved that goal. The 2009 edition of the standard is the latest example of the A117.1 committee's effort to continue developing a standard that is compatible with the building code. (When CABO was consolidated into the International Code Council (ICC) in 1998, the Secretariat duties were assumed by ICC.)

2009 Edition

New to the 2009 edition are coordinated criteria for the various types of dwelling units that provide a step-down between the unit types; technical requirements for Type C (Visitable) Units; Variable Message Signs (i.e., signs that change the information they show such as gate information in train stations and airports); better consistency of sign requirements regarding when raised characters and braille are required; location of toilet paper dispenser (more design options, recessed fixtures addressed, single point of measurement, etc.); a new chapter for a variety of types of recreational facilities; an index and margin markings that will help users find requirements and identify changes from the 2003 edition. In addition, the new standard continued to provide a level of coordination between the accessible provisions of this standard and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines (FHAG) and the newly released Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADA & ABA AG).

ANSI Approval

This Standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Accredited Standards Committee A117 on Architectural Features and Site Design of Public Buildings and Residential Structures for Persons with Disabilities. ANSI approved the 2009 edition on October 20, 2010. Committee approval of the Standard does not necessarily imply that all Committee members voted for its approval.

Adoption

ICC A117.1–2009 is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws.

Formal Interpretations

Requests for Formal Interpretations on the provisions of ICC A117.1–2009 should be addressed to: ICC, Chicago District Office, 4051 W. Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478–5795.

Maintenance—Submittal of Proposals

All ICC standards are revised as required by ANSI. Proposals for revising this edition are welcome. Please visit the ICC website at www.iccsafe.org for the official “Call for proposals” announcement. A proposal form and instructions can also be downloaded from www.iccsafe.org.

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Marginal Markings

Solid vertical lines in the margins within the body of the code indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2003 edition. Deletion indicators in the form of an arrow (➡) are provided in the margin where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted or an item in a list of items or a table has been deleted.

**Accredited Standards Committee A117 on Architectural Features and
Site Design of Public Buildings and Residential Structures for
Persons with Disabilities**

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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (R)	William Downs Meghan Walsh (Alt)
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World Institute on Disability (WID) (CU)	Hale Zukas

Individual Members

Shahriar Amiri CBO (P)

Todd Andersen AIA (P)

George P. McAllister, Jr. (P)

Jake L. Pauls, CPE (P)

Ed Roether (P)

John P. S. Salmen, AIA (P)

Kenneth M. Schoonover, P.E. (P)

Acknowledgment

The updating of this standard over the past 6 years could only be accomplished by the hard work of not only the current committee members listed at the time of approval but also the many committee members who participated and contributed to the process over the course of development. ICC recognizes their contributions as well as those of the participants who, although not on the committee, provided valuable input during this update cycle.

INTEREST CATEGORIES

Builder/Owner/Operator (BO) – Members in this category include those in the private sector involved in the development, construction, ownership and operation of buildings or facilities; and their respective associations.

Consumer/User (CU) – Members in this category include those with disabilities, or others who require accessibility features in the built environment for access to buildings, facilities and sites; and their respective associations.

Producer/Distributor (PD) – Members in this category include those involved in manufacturing, distributing, or sales of products; and their respective associations.

Professional (P) – Members in this category include those qualified to engage in the development of the body of knowledge and policy relevant to their area of practice, such as research, testing, consulting, education, engineering or design; and their respective associations.

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Individual Expert (IE) (Nonvoting) – Members in this category are individual experts selected to assist the consensus body. Individual experts shall serve for a renewable term of one year and shall be subject to approval by vote of the consensus body. Individual experts shall have no vote.

Category	Number
Builder/Owner/Operator – (BO)	6
Consumer/User – (CU)	11
Professional – (P)	15
Producer/Distributor – (PD)	7
Regulatory – (R)	7
TOTAL	46

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Chapter 1. Application and Administration

101 Purpose

The technical criteria in Chapters 3 through 9, Sections 1002, 1003 and 1006 and Chapter 11 of this standard make sites, facilities, buildings and elements accessible to and usable by people with such physical disabilities as the inability to walk, difficulty walking, reliance on walking aids, blindness and visual impairment, deafness and hearing impairment, incoordination, reaching and manipulation disabilities, lack of stamina, difficulty interpreting and reacting to sensory information, and extremes of physical size. The intent of these sections is to allow a person with a physical disability to independently get to, enter, and use a site, facility, building, or element.

Section 1004 of this standard provides criteria for Type B units. These criteria are intended to be consistent with the intent of the criteria of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines. The Type B units are intended to supplement, not replace, Accessible units or Type A units as specified in this standard.

Section 1005 of this standard provides criteria for minimal accessibility features for one and two family dwelling units and townhouses which are not covered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines.

This standard is intended for adoption by government agencies and by organizations setting model codes to achieve uniformity in the technical design criteria in building codes and other regulations.

101.1 Applicability. Sites, facilities, buildings, and elements required to be accessible shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapters 3 through 9 and Chapter 11. Dwelling units and sleeping units shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 10.

102 Anthropometric Provisions

The technical criteria in this standard are based on adult dimensions and anthropometrics. This standard also contains technical criteria based on children's dimensions and anthropometrics for drinking fountains, water closets, toilet compartments, lavatories and sinks, dining surfaces, work surfaces and benches.

103 Compliance Alternatives

Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of designs, products, or technologies as alternatives to those prescribed by this standard, provided they result in equivalent or greater accessibility and such equivalency is approved by the administrative authority adopting this standard.

104 Conventions

104.1 General. Where specific criteria of this standard differ from the general criteria of this standard, the specific criteria shall apply.

104.2 Dimensions. Dimensions that are not stated as "maximum" or "minimum" are absolute. All dimensions are subject to conventional industry tolerances.

104.3 Figures. Unless specifically stated, figures included herein are provided for informational purposes only and are not considered part of the standard.

104.4 Floor or Floor Surface. The terms floor or floor surface refer to the finish floor surface or ground surface, as applicable.

104.5 Referenced Sections. Unless specifically stated otherwise, a reference to another section or subsection within this standard includes all subsections of the referenced section or subsection.

105 Referenced Documents

105.1 General. The documents listed in Section 105.2 shall be considered part of this standard to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where criteria in this standard differ from those of these referenced documents, the criteria of this standard shall apply.

105.2 Documents.

105.2.1 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices: MUTCD-2003 (The Federal Highway Administration, Office of Transportation Operations, Room 3408, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590).

105.2.2 National Fire Alarm Code: NFPA 72-2007 (National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101).

105.2.3 Power Assist and Low Energy Power Operated Doors: ANSI/BHMA A156.19-2007. (Builders Hardware Manufacturers' Association, 355 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017).

105.2.4 Power Operated Pedestrian Doors: ANSI/BHMA A156.10-2005 (Builders Hardware Manufacturers' Association, 355 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017).

105.2.5 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators: ASME A17.1-2007/CSA B44-07 (American Society of Mechanical Engineers International, Three Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990).