

SECTION 12: ACCESSIBILITY PROVISIONS FOR THE DISABLED

12.1 General. This section provides design guidance on the application of accessibility requirements. Facilities are required to be accessible to disabled persons and shall be designed and constructed or retrofitted in accordance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) (reference 12a). All facilities shall also be designed and constructed or retrofitted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) (reference 12b) whenever the ADAAG provides equal or greater accessibility requirements than the UFAS. In general, all facilities worldwide which are open to the public, or to limited segments of the public, or which may be visited by the public in the conduct of normal business, shall be accessible to disabled persons.

12.2 Military Exclusions. Facilities which are intended for the use of, or occupancy by, or staffed by only able-bodied military personnel need not be designed to be accessible by disabled persons; however, accessibility is recommended. The term "able-bodied military personnel" is defined as all active duty military personnel. Temporary facilities, such as troop aide stations and fleet hospital mobilization units used during military conflicts, need not be accessible.

12.3 Overseas Facilities. DoD-funded facilities constructed overseas will be accessible. Facilities for which the United States contributes a portion of the construction cost but does not control design criteria (such as NATO-funded facilities) need not be accessible. Facilities being constructed by or for use by the United States under the laws, codes, rules, and regulations of another country need not be accessible. Facilities being leased by the United States in other countries should be accessible.

12.4 TMA/DMFO Compliance Requirement.

12.4.1 TMA/DMFO policy is that all spaces serving patients, staff, and visitors shall be designed to be accessible to the disabled. TMA/DMFO programs adequate net area to design all patient dressing rooms, patient bedrooms, and patient bedroom toilets as accessible spaces even though UFAS/ADAAG requires only 10 percent of these spaces to be accessible.

12.4.2 Compliance with criteria is the responsibility of the designer; certification of compliance is the responsibility of the design agent. Include a completed checklist with the S-2 Schematic Design Submission and the S-4 Final Concept Design submittal. The checklists must be accompanied by sketch layouts showing the total access-egress system on the site and within the building. Include final layouts as part of final design.

12.5 Stairways.

12.5.1 Stairway Width. The designer will review the UFAS, ADAAG, and NFPA criteria to determine the minimum clear width between handrails for each stairway adjacent to an area of rescue assistance.

12.5.1.1 For high-rise wings or building elements normally served by elevators, and in which stairways are provided primarily for emergency egress, NFPA 101 criteria will govern.

12.5.1.2 For multistory building elements remote from elevators, or wherever the building layout and proposed functional use make it obvious

that stairways will be routinely used for vertical access, ADAAG will govern.

12.5.1.2 Stairway Rise. The requirements in NFPA 101 shall govern.

12.6 Medical Device Controls. Controls for medical gases, Operating Room lights, sterilizers and similar medical equipment may be located as recommended by the equipment manufacturer(s). Compliance with UFAS reach ranges is not required for this equipment.

12.7 Visual Alarms. Provide visual alarms in common use spaces and public use spaces as defined by and in accordance with the common use and public use criteria contained in the ADAAG.

12.7.1 The design agent is responsible for interpretation of ADAAG visual alarm location.

12.7.2 Visual alarms are not required in areas used only by employees as work areas. These areas are defined as individual offices and individual work stations), mechanical, electrical and telephone closets, janitor's closets, and similar unoccupied spaces that are not common use areas nor assigned work areas. This may include other staff-only spaces within a facility.

12.7.3 Irregular strobe action can be deadly to individuals susceptible to epileptic seizures. Install visual alarms in accordance with NFPA 72, giving consideration to synchronization of visual alarm flash rates.

12.8 Interpretations and Waivers.

12.8.1 Waiver Authority. The Architectural Transportation Barriers Act permits the modification or waiver of the UFAS and the ADAAG when appropriate cause can be shown that a modification or waiver is clearly necessary. Waivers will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Requests for modifications or waivers should be sent to the military service's designated Design Agent for review. The Design Agent will forward his recommendation to TMA/DMFO for coordination of final decision by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Civilian Personnel Policy).

12.8.2 Interpretations. The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) will provide technical assistance and interpretations of the UFAS and the ADAAG directly to the Design Agents. A copy of all interpretations and waivers obtained by the Design Agents from ATBCB shall be provided to the TMA/DMFO for incorporation in the next update of this Handbook. The ATBCB has provided written interpretations to UFAS on questions posed to them. These interpretations are applicable to all TMA/DMFO projects and have been included in Appendix D.

12.8.3 Waivers. Waivers have been granted by ASD(FM&P) and are included in Appendix D for further guidance on projects where the same conditions exist.

12.9 As-built Drawings. As-built drawings provided at the completion of the project will include information on features for the disabled. Applicable drawings must be maintained in the project file along with copies of the certified checklists.

REFERENCES

- 12a. FED-STD-795, "Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards" (UFAS), latest edition.
- 12b. Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), latest edition.