Recommendations on Accessibility Standard in the Built Environment: Phase 2

Submitted to the
Minister of Justice
by the Accessibility
Advisory Board

Dedication

These recommendations are dedicated to Laurie Cranton, who passed away in March 2022. Laurie served as Chair of the Built Environment Standard Development Committee since April 2019.

Laurie was instrumental in developing the Accessibility Advisory Board's recommendations for an accessibility standard in the Built Environment. Laurie is warmly remembered as an advocate for accessibility and inspirational leader. He would often say, "we can accomplish great things if we work together." Laurie will be greatly missed, and his legacy will live on.

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Introduction

The enclosed recommendations were developed by the Built Environment Standard Development Committee and submitted to the Accessibility Advisory Board in July 2021.

The Accessibility Advisory Board reviewed, made amendments, and approved them for submission to the Minister of Justice in August 2021.

Background

Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act, enacted in 2017, recognizes accessibility as a human right and sets a goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. It enables Government to develop accessibility standards in six areas, including the built environment.

In September 2018, Government committed to developing accessibility standards in the built environment. The scope of this standard is to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility within the built environment. "Built environment" means the human-made space in which people live, work, learn and play and includes buildings, rights-of-way, and outdoor spaces. Federal infrastructure, including airports, container terminals, and buildings owned or leased by the Government of Canada, fall outside of the Built Environment Standard Development Committee (SDC) mandate.

Under the Accessibility Act, the Accessibility Advisory Board (AAB) makes recommendations to Government on standards in the built environment. In March 2019, the AAB established a Built Environment SDC to assist them with this work.

The Built Environment SDC, representing First Voice and other stakeholders from across the province, has been researching, deliberating, and consulting with the community regarding recommendations concerning this standard.

The committee has chosen to submit their recommendations in two phases. The Phase 1 recommendations were initial recommendations that identified gaps in code and safety concerns. Through the standard development process, they became more technical than anticipated, but were not a comprehensive document on their own. The Phase 2 recommendations build on these and are technical recommendations that, when combined with Phase 1, build a comprehensive package of recommendations for an accessibility in the built environment standard for Nova Scotia.

This document details the Phase 2 recommendations proposed by the Built Environment SDC. The SDC has reviewed existing standards for each area, including the Phase 1 standard recommendations that were submitted by the AAB to the Minister of Justice in August 2020, and identified areas where technical recommendations are required to ensure that Nova Scotia is accessible for a full array of disabilities.

Standard Development Process

The Built Environment SDC has met approximately every six weeks since April 2019, researching the topic areas, discussing barriers to accessibility, and drafting recommendations.

The Built Environment SDC submitted their Phase 1 recommendations to the Accessibility Advisory Board in July 2020 and has since been working on the development of Phase 2 technical recommendations.

In March and April 2021, the draft recommendations were consulted on publicly. Given the need for social distancing during a global pandemic, a series of nine online group discussions were conducted, including representation from across the province. Stakeholders were invited from multiple sectors, including parks and recreation, municipalities, post secondary education, centres for education, industry, provincial and community disability organizations, business associations, the public, and persons with disabilities.

In total 64 individuals attended the sessions. This was slightly lower than anticipated, but the conversations were rich, and the feedback was essential to the development of the enclosed recommendations.

The remaining steps in the standard development process are:

- The Accessibility Advisory Board submits recommendations to the Minister of Justice. These recommendations are made publicly available.
- Minister prepares the proposed accessibility standard, adopting the AAB recommendations in whole, in part, or with any modifications the Minister deems appropriate.
- Minister makes proposed standard publicly available for 60 days.
- Minister consults with the AAB concerning any comments received and revises proposed standard, if necessary.
- Minister recommends the accessibility standard to Governor-in-Council for approval as as regulations.

Approach to Developing Recommendations

The Built Environment SDC determined that an incremental approach was most appropriate for developing recommendations and have broken the work down into two phases.

Phase 1: Initial recommendations for each topic area, focusing on addressing gaps in existing regulations: exteriors, interiors, emergency systems, site selection, housing and residences, wayfinding and signage, parks, and recreation.

Phase 2: Technical recommendations for each topic area, focusing on creating a comprehensive recommendation package for: exteriors, interiors, housing and residences, wayfinding and signage, parks and recreation, and school and library specific recommendations.

Built Environment Standard Development Committee Recommendations

It is anticipated that accessibility standard will be implemented through a combination of amendments to the Nova Scotia Building Code, Accessibility Regulations, and accompanying Guidelines. Each of the recommendations in this report is tagged with the most appropriate instrument for implementation.

The Built Environment SDC strongly suggests the enclosed recommendations be implemented fully and unaltered using the recommended instrument.

The Built Environment SDC used a Consensus Decision Making Model to work through all of the recommendations. There was unanimous approval for all topic areas except for Housing, which passed with a majority vote.

The Built Environment SDC submits the following recommendations to the Accessibility Advisory Board.

Phase 2 Recommendations:

Exterior Approaches

1. **Regulation:** All new and renovated outdoor eating areas not attached to an indoor establishment should be a street level grade, or accessible by ramps. Eating areas attached to an indoor establishment should be wheelchair accessible by a door from inside the restaurant or by a ramp attached to a patio. Patios will include a cane detectable barrier around the edge of the eating area. The barriers around the edge of the eating area will be 70% colour contrast. The accessible route of travel will ensure that pedestrians are safely routed away from traffic. Exemptions will be considered where structural limitations apply.

2. **Regulation:** Where a curb ramp is provided on an exterior path of travel, the curb ramp must align with the direction of travel.

3. **Regulation:** Colour contrast in tactile curb cuts will be maintained as sidewalks and curb cuts age.

4. **Regulation:** Utilities must ensure that poles, guy wires, commercial signage, and other outside plant infrastructure do no create barriers or interfere with established clear paths of travel.

5. **Regulation:** Where sidewalks do not offer a clear path of travel due to either construction, delay in snow removal, or lack of sidewalk, mobility devices will be permitted in bike lanes during these specified situations only. Multi-use pathways will be considered in place of bike lanes through consultation with Active Transportation Committee or municipal staff where appropriate.

6. **Regulation:** Universal Design principles will be incorporated in all Provincial and Municipal projects during the design phase. This is of particular importance for projects involving construction in public spaces. Operations and maintenance contracts should also include Universal design principles.

7. **Building Code Amendment:** All public doors will have power doors at both the primary entrance and all accessible entrances. Automatic sliding doors are preferred, but power doors with the button mounted on the lower wall that is hand and foot activated are also acceptable.

8. **Building Code Amendment:** A power assisted door shall:
    - open to a 90-degree position within no less than 3 seconds,
    - remain in a fully open position for at least 10 seconds,
    - require a force of no more than 66 n to stop the door, except when the door is equipped with a safety sensor that automatically stops the door if there is an obstruction in the path of movement; and
    - where it opens into a route of travel, have cane-detectable guardrails or other barriers at right angles to the wall containing the door. These guardrails will be in 70% colour contrast.
    - They shall have a vertical wrung that is a maximum of 680 mm high.

    For doors that are not automatically activated, controls to open power-assisted doors shall (a) be located along the route of travel; (b) be clearly visible before reaching the door; and (c) be adjacent to a clear floor area, 1350 mm by 800 mm, that is clear of the door swing but is no further than 1500 mm from it.

9. **Regulation:** When developing emergency/ safety protocols accessibility in the built environment will be considered.

10. **Guideline:** Public buildings will ensure that measures are in place so that access to building entrances and accessible parking spaces remain free from debris, including snow, leaves, and other types of debris.

11. **Guideline:** Active transportation storage for bicycles, scooters, and other mobility devices will be accessible, user friendly, colour contrasted and have appropriate signage as per this standard.

12. **Building Code Amendment:** Pathways leading from buildings to sidewalks, roadways, and/or parking lots, shall be detectible to persons with vision loss. Tactile attention indicators, or other means of delineation shall be used to ensure a direct path of travel.

13. **Regulation:** A bench or a seating area on a path of travel should have:
    - a level and firm surface;
    - a level area next to the seating of at least 850 X 1200mm for wheelchair setting;
    - be colour contrasted with the area around it (example a while cement platform on grass lawn);
    - provide space for service animals;
    - provide space for 2 mobility aids.

    The bench or seats should be:
    - stable, attached to the grounding of the area would be advisable.
    - have a seat between 450 and 500 mm from the floor.
    - if it is a bench there should be arm rests on either side, if multiple chairs as much variety as possible should be provided (i.e.: two chairs, one with armrests, one without.)
    - seats of different widths and depths will be provided, including bariatric chairs.

14. **Building Code Amendment:** Handrails at exterior pathway and entrances will comply with CSA B651.

15. **Building Code Amendment:** *3.8.2.2. Entrances* (See Note A-3.8.2.2., NBC)
    (1) Except for service entrances all pedestrian entrances of a *building* referred to in Sentence 3.8.2.1.(1) shall be *accessible* and shall connect to an *accessible* exterior path of travel complying with Sentence 3.8.2.5.(1).

16. **Regulation:** Bus stops will follow CSA B651 standard for bus stops.

Interiors

1. **Regulation:** (3) In a *building* in which water closets are required in accordance with Subsection 3.7.2. (NBC Part 3, Division B), one or more *barrier-free universal* water closets shall be provided to the public in the entrance *storey*, unless
   (a) a *barrier-free* path of travel is provided to publicly available *barrier-free* universal water closets elsewhere in the building,
   (b) the building is less than 300 m^2 in *building area*, or the water closets required by Subsection 3.7.2. (NBC Part 3, Division B) are for *dwelling units* only.

2. **Guideline:** Accessible slab on grade ground floor entrances will be barrier free and include a maximum ¼ inch threshold. Where concerns arise regarding air and water leakage, individualized hardware solutions will be implemented where required. Options for individualized solutions may include the installation of a door sweep, silicone strips, adjustable weather stripping, the use of windscreens to protect entrances from weather, porch roofs or overhangs, or suitable alternative.

3. **Building Code Amendment:** Shared kitchen facilities that are accessible via a barrier free path of travel must have a counter that can be adapted to satisfy the requirements for a barrier free service counter in this standard, as well as all outlets, switches, and appliance and equipment controls within reach as per CSA B-651.

4. **Guideline:** Design of interior spaces will include sensory friendly spaces where possible. This includes quiet areas, adaptable lighting, and privacy.

5. **Building Code Amendment:** Water Bottle Filling Stations
   (1) Water bottle filling stations required in a storey where an accessible path of travel is required, shall
      (a) be located along an accessible path of travel,
      (b) have a minimum clear floor space of 800 mm by 1350 mm in front of it,
      (c) where it has frontal access, provide a knee clearance in accordance with sink heights as per the Accessibility Standard in the Built Environment in Nova Scotia,

(d) have a water bottle position that is not more than 1200 mm height from the floor,

(e) be equipped with controls that activate automatically, and

(f) be cane detectable.

6. **Building Code Amendment:** 3.8.2.7. Power Door Operators

(1) Except as permitted by Sentence (2) and (3), every door that is normally closed and equipped with a self-closing device shall be equipped with a power door operator that complies with Subsection 3.8.3. and allows persons to activate the opening of the door in the intended direction of travel when located

(a) in an entrance referred to in Article 3.8.2.2. including the interior doors of a vestibule when provided,

(b) within an accessible path of travel between the entrance stated in Clause (a) and the entrance door of any suites or rooms served by a corridor, and

(c) in an entrance of any washroom with an accessible fixture located within,

(2) Only the active leaf in a multiple leaf door in an accessible path of travel need conform to the requirements of this Article.

(3) Sentence (1) does not apply to the entrance door of a suite of residential occupancy and service rooms that are not accessed by the public.

7. **Guideline:** All building materials, including, but not limited to, doors and cabinetry; floor surfaces; wall surfaces and finishes; caulking; insulation; and furnishings and fixtures shall be inert; i.e., no or low off-gassing of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

8. **Regulation:** In passenger loading zones there will be a limited or no-idling requirement. Building owners or those responsible for the passenger zones must post proper signage.

9. **Building Code Amendment:** Smoking areas will be located a minimum of 4 meters from entrances and air intakes.

10. **Guideline:** Sound in Interior Spaces:

Every public corridor shall be designed and constructed to facilitate wayfinding by using acoustic treatments to differentiate main corridors from secondary corridors.

The sound transmission/reflection characteristics of finished materials along an accessible interior route where decision-making is necessary shall aurally differentiate major and secondary paths of travel.

Guidelines for designers will be provided for noise and sound levels in common areas, as well as the types of building material that may help with this.

In meeting rooms and assembly areas where sound is transmitted, all unnecessary background noise (e.g., from fans, other mechanical equipment, air diffusers, open windows, fluorescent lighting, piped in music, etc.) shall

a. be dampened;
b. include adequate sound insulation; and

be located away from rooms that are inherently noisy (e.g., copy room).

Floor finishes, wall surfaces (e.g., textured, or textured wallpaper), and ceilings (e.g., lowered) shall be selected so that occasional noise is not unduly amplified.

Except as specified, ceiling shapes shall be designed so that echoes do not occur; unless an alternate acoustical treatment is incorporated.

11. **Guideline**: Public address and call systems shall be capable of also being zoned to key areas, rather than blanketing all areas of a facility at all times.

12. **Building Code Amendment:** Anywhere that touchscreen technology is used in public buildings, including entrances of multi unit residential buildings, for wayfinding, it should be accompanied by braille, audio, or tactile options.

13. **Guideline:** Height of display shelving in both libraries and retail stores will use CSA B651 Annex A for guidance.

14. **Guideline:** Recreation and public buildings will have adequate storage for accessible equipment when not in use.

15. **Guideline:** Buildings will provide both ramps and stairs where possible.

16. **Building Code Amendment:** Emergency equipment, including eye wash stations, defibrillators, and fire extinguishers will be 900mm-1200mm from the floor.

17. **Guidelines** will be established to limit visual noise in conference rooms.

18. **Regulation:** Exemptions for accessibility requirements that require electricity or water will be made where buildings do not have access to these services.

Housing

1. **Building Code Amendment:** All units in new and renovated multi-unit residential buildings with 4 or more units that are 3 or more stories and have ground floor or elevator access will be adaptable and will be hard wired for visual alert and emergency alert systems. In addition to being adaptable, buildings with 20 or more units will also include at least 1 accessible unit. If a building has more than 50 units, at least 1 in 50 units will be accessible. Accessible units will include a roll in shower.

2. **Regulation:** Within one year of this standard coming into force, Government of Nova Scotia will work with Accessibility Canada to research a solution for the identified problem of the lack of accessible and affordable housing in Nova Scotia. This work will explore the following:

    - Current market for accessible housing.
    - Intersectionality with affordable housing.
    - Products available from manufacturers.
    - Education for builders and landlords.

    This work will be done in consultation with persons with disabilities, Deaf, and neurodivergent persons and Accessibility Advisory Board and a final report will be made publicly available that outlines specific actions that government will take to increase access to accessible, affordable housing in Nova Scotia.

3. **Guideline:** Adaptable units may include lever handles on all doors and faucets, additional space for turning radius, and accessible roll in showers with a shower seat.

4. **Building Code Amendment:** Accessible multi – unit residential buildings will have an accessible waste management system that is on a barrier free path of travel.

Parks and Recreation

1. **Regulation:** Government of Nova Scotia will develop, implement, and communicate a ranking and categorization system for accessible provincial, municipal, and non-profit parks and trails that will assist people in planning recreation experiences, keeping the user experience at the forefront. The system will be available on the website that the Government of Nova Scotia created during Phase 1 Accessibility Standard in the Built Environment.

2. **Regulation:** Accessible sections of public and non-profit trails, parks and outdoor recreation facilities will include accessible signage and viewpoints that clearly outline directionality, points of interest, emergency information and accessible amenities available. Signage will comply with the Signage Standards in the Accessibility in the Built Environment Standard. This will include accessible technology and communications that can connect to mobile devices where possible. Where technology is used, complementary wi-fi will be provided.

3. **Regulation:** Government of Nova Scotia will develop and implement a parks and recreation accessibility educational program. To accompany this program, there will be financial incentives introduced for users, builders, owners, managers, and trail coordinators to ensure trails, beaches, municipally owned pools, parks and other recreation facilities include accessible amenities that maximize the use of facilities, such as accessible paths of travel, accessible washrooms and change areas, accessible equipment, charging stations for electronic mobility devices etc.

4. **Regulation:** Maintenance of accessible trails, parks, beaches, community gardens, and other outdoor spaces will be clearly prioritized in provincial, municipal, and non-profit Recreational Master Plans, Operational Plans, Budgets.

5. **Regulation:** Government of Nova Scotia grants and funding opportunities available to all provincial user groups and sport organizations for new trails, parks, campgrounds, and other recreational facilities will include a requirement for accessibility. Where this is not possible, an application must be made for an exemption that clearly outlines the reasons why the user group or organization is proposing not to make the facility accessible.

6. **Regulation:** All new and renovated public and private campgrounds will include at least 10% accessible camping sites and accessible washrooms. Accessible sites will be located next to accessible washrooms. Where this is not possible, an application must be made for an exemption that clearly outlines the reasons why the user group or organization is proposing not to make the facility accessible.

7. **Regulation:** Each county will ensure at least one accessible trail, playground, park and recreation public space is fully accessible where these facilities exist. Where possible, the accessible spaces should be located near transit routes, and barrier free path of travel from the transit stop and drop off point to the accessible space. These spaces will be part of the municipal accessibility plan for each municipality, town, and village.

8. **Guideline:** Community gardens will provide accessible garden beds. Accessible garden beds should be raised and the top of the bed at a height of between 650 and 700 mm.

   Community gardens will provide pathways between beds of 920 mm and pathways should be flat or of a slope of 1 in 20 or less. At the end of each garden bed should be a worktable for repotting. This should be the same height as the top of the bed and be at least 480 mm deep and 800 mm wide. These tables could come out of the side of the bed and be able to be placed up and folded down when not in use. If the latter option is chosen the release to lower the table should be able to be used by gardeners independently with a control that can be operated with a closed fist.

   Trays should be provided for gardeners using a wheelchair to carry their items from the worktable to the area of the bed they are planting in.

   Community gardens should provide access to accessible water filling stations for both gardening and hydration for individuals.

9. **Regulation:** Indoor and outdoor recreational facilities will provide space for service animals while their owners participate in activities. This will include access to water.

10. **Regulation:** Accessible parks and outdoor spaces will provide water filling stations that are accessible as per this standard.

11. **Regulation:** Accessible parks, trails, and outdoor spaces must provide an accessible washroom as per this standard as part of the requirement for an accessible space.

Wayfinding and Signage

Wayfinding and Signage is recommended as a complete regulatory package.

1. Appropriate pictograms

- Government of Nova Scotia will work with persons with disabilities to develop accessible icons and symbols that will be standardized for signage in Nova Scotia. Beyond pulling from the ISO, the Government of Nova Scotia will select a series of progressive and culturally sensitive pictograms, for example the symbol of access to be a person in motion.
- Symbols and pictograms that are not universally recognized will be accompanied by plain language text.
- Accessible signage in Nova Scotia will use gender neutral symbols for elevators, stairs, washrooms, and symbols of access.
- Arrows should be used consistently throughout a system of signage. Where a number of destinations are located in the same direction, they should be grouped together on a sign and share a single arrow. The position of arrows on a sign in relation to the location name should correspond with the direction in which it is pointing. Where an arrow points to the left, it should be positioned to the left of the name and where an arrow points to the right, it should be positioned on the right of the name.
- For signage related to roadways, road authorities, designers, and agencies shall follow the Uniform Traffic Control Devices of Canada Manual (UTCDC) published by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC). Examples of these signs are; regulatory signs, warning signs, guide and information signs, freeway signs, and pedestrian crossing signs.
- A guide to the Nova Scotia pictograms will be provided free of charge for use in signage across the province.

2. Appropriate language and content

- Signs will be comprehensive and clearly written, short and simple, consistent with a grade 6 reading level.
- Information will be displayed clearly.
- Avoid abbreviations where possible.
- Align wording on left.
- Use combination upper and lower case characters (not all caps)
- A maximum of three languages will be included on each sign.
- The word “handicapped” will not be permitted on any signs and will be removed from all existing signs in Nova Scotia and will be replaced with the word “accessible.”

3. Design and Build Details

- Pictogram to exist in field of vision and to be at least 150 mm in height.
- All symbols and pictograms need to be accessible and should therefore be colour contrasted by at least 70 per cent to the surface of the sign and accompanied by braille placed below the pictogram. Further information is provided in Colour and Brightness Contrast.
- All tactile text to be accompanied by braille directly below text.
- Raised and tactile elements (pictograms, tactile text and braille) to be raised 0.8 mm from the sign surface and to have soft rounded edge vs 90 degree.
- Braille dot base diameter: 1.5 mm
- Distance between corresponding dots in adjacent cells (centre-to-centre): 6.1 – 7.6 mm
- Distance between any two dots in the same cell (centre-to-centre): 2.3 – 2.5 mm
- Distance between corresponding dots from one cell to the cell directly below (centre-to-centre): 10 – 10.1 mm
- Use uncontracted braille for signs that have 10 words or less and contracted braille for signs with more than 10 words.

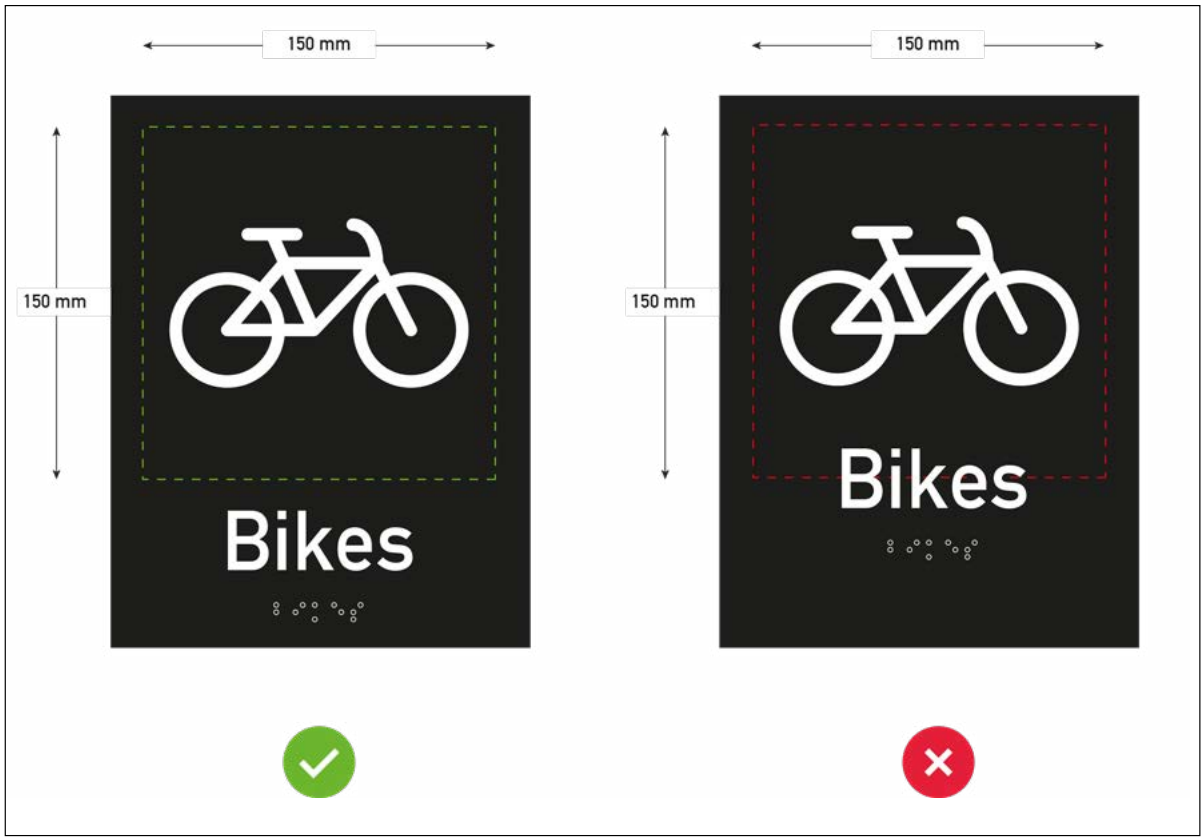


Image of two signs with the symbol of a bicycle, the text "Bikes" and braille underneath. The first picture has a green check mark underneath to show that the bicycle icon is separate from the text below it. The second picture has a red X underneath to show that the bicycle icon is too close to the text and braille below it.

- Braille should be located directly below or adjacent to the corresponding print and separated from it by at least 10 mm. If the text is on multiple lines, the braille equivalent should be placed below the entire print text.
- Measured from the baseline of the braille text, braille should be located a minimum of 1,015 mm and a maximum of 1,525 mm above floor level to ensure a reader never has to bend over to touch braille type.
- For signs, use Arabic numerals and sans serif fonts.
    - The following table provides recommendations on the size of lettering ("character") to use depending on the height of the sign and the distance from which it will be read.

Distance Legibility	
Letter Height (mm)	**Legible Viewing Distance (mm)**
25	7,500
50	15,000
75	22,500
100	30,000
150	45,000

Title of Table reads Distance Legibility

The following is the appropriate letter height (in millimetres) to the legible viewing distance (in millimetres).

25 to 7,500

50 to 15,000

75 to 22,500

100 to 30,000

150 to 45,000

- The height of signs will be calculated as per the distance legibility table.

4. Installation of signs

- Be consistent in the placement of signs. Place signs at decision-making points along routes of travel, including entrances and exits, and mount signs at the same height throughout a building.
- Install overhead signs 2050 mm from finish floor.
- Clear minimum headroom of 2030 mm.
- Install wall mounted signs 1350 - 1500 mm from centre line to finished floor.

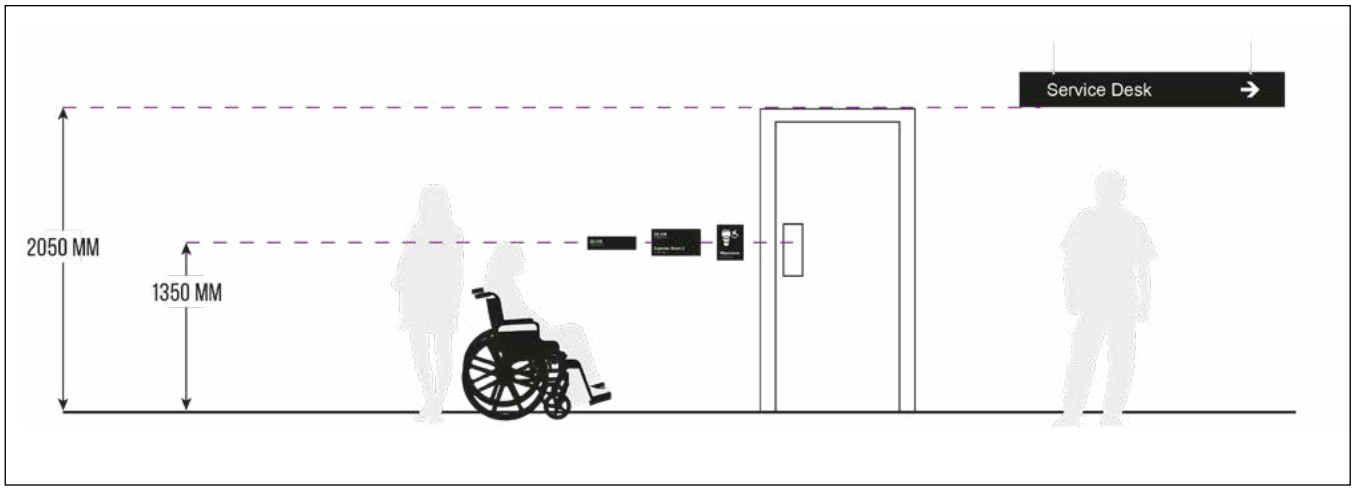
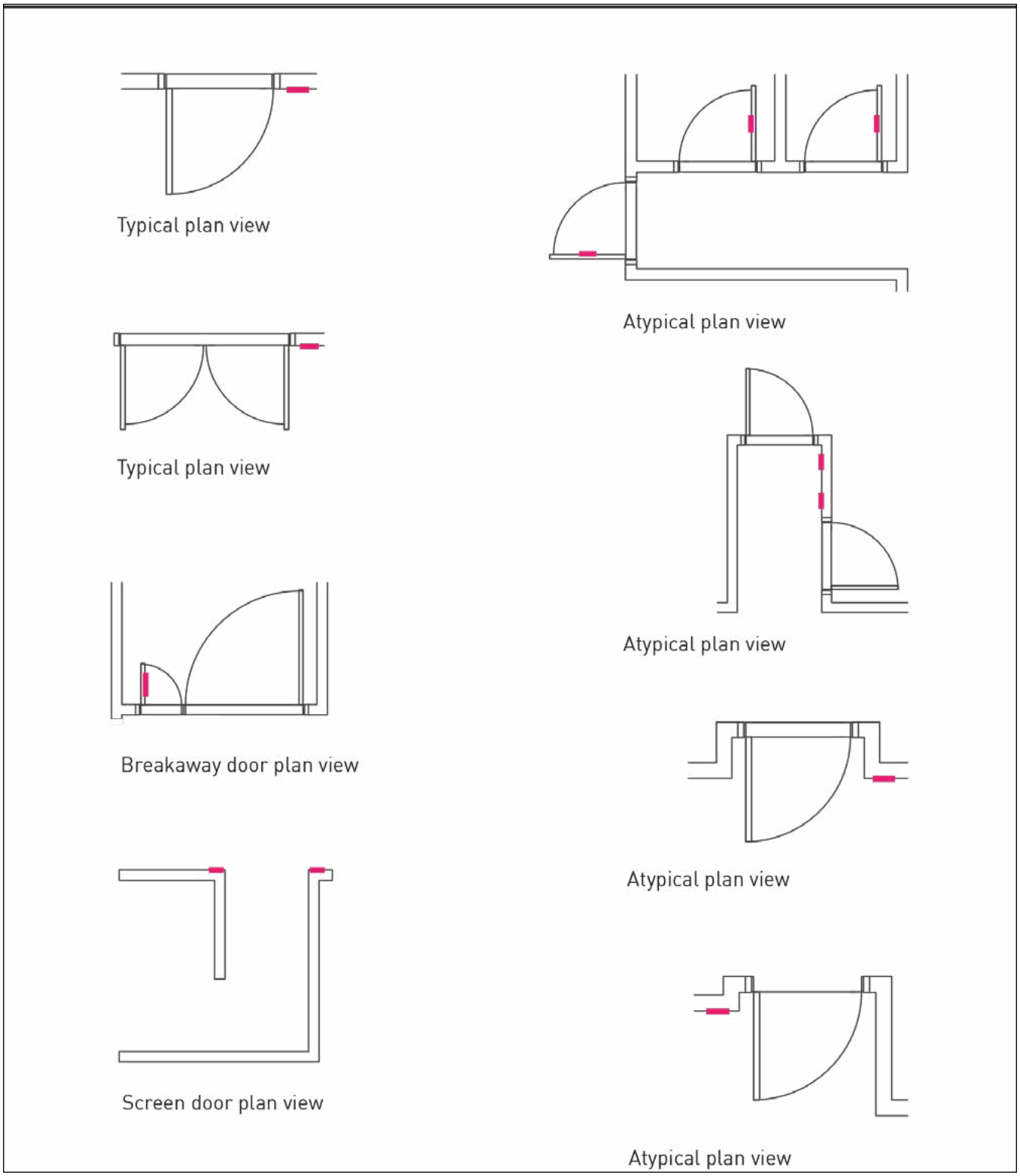


Image shows a wheelchair in the centre and a door to the right of it, with a image of a man standing to the right of the door. There are sign images on the wall to the left of the door showing that they are located at 1350 millimetres from the floor. A sign with the text Service Desk is above the image of the man showing that is located 2050 millimeters from the floor.

- Install on wall on latch side of door at 140-160 mm from door jamb.
- Lower mounting heights may be appropriate in facilities intended primarily for the use of children, such as schools.
- If wall space is not available adjacent to a door latch, mount the sign on the nearest adjacent wall. A clear wall area spanning at least 75 mm should surround the sign.
- Where double doors or no door is present (i.e.: washroom or stairwell), there should be a wall mounted sign installed on either side of the entrance.



There are eight images of door openings with a red indicator in each showing where wall signs should be mounted.

- Install in well illuminated location that is minimum 200 Lux.
- Sunlight and glare will be considered during the planning of signage location.
- Install in a place where a person reading the sign does not become an obstruction.
- Install in a place where there are no obstructions either directly blocking the sign or impacting sight lines from a distance for the intended audience and ensure management plan to maintain clearance under signs.
- Install against high contrast surroundings.
- Wall mounted signs to be accompanied by projecting blade signage above entrance.

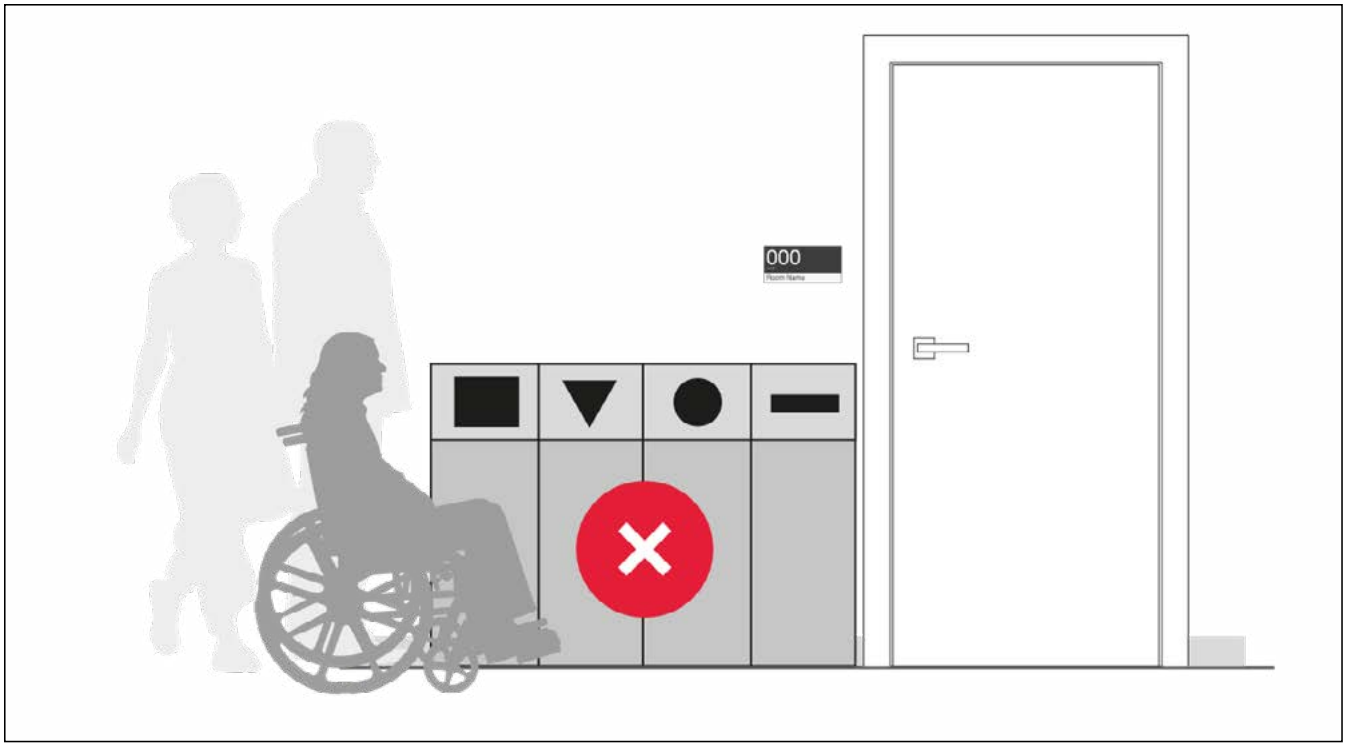


Image shows two individuals walking and one in a wheelchair, all beside a series of waste and recycling receptacles, with a sign above this and a door to the right. There is a red X over the waste and recycling receptacles to indicate that they should not be placed there.

5. Illumination of Signs

- Sign lighting should not create shadows or glare. Use matte and non-glare finishes to ensure a glare-free surface.
- The surface should be smooth and illuminated to at least 200 lux but not strongly backlit.
- To achieve the best contrast, use LED signs that are white, yellow, green or light blue on a black background.
- Avoid using red on a black background, which is unreadable on LED signs for most people impacted by blindness, particularly those who are colour blind.

6. Audible signs

- When practical, audible signs will be used in addition to visible signage. Audible signage should be automatically activated using technologies but where this is not possible, it may be manually activated by a button or control.
- Audible signs will be simple to use. They should be audible only when required (i.e., to the user only, not to all passing people) and silent when necessary.
- Audible signs will be also use an induction loop.

7. Electronic Signs

- Information presented on electronic signs will also be made available in an alternative format, such as audio or tactile.
- The design requirements for electronic signs must comply with the technical requirements in this Accessible Signage Standard.

8. Types of Signs

(a.) Parking

- Provide clear directional signage indicating the accessible pedestrian path of travel from entry of parking lot to designated accessible and limited mobility parking spaces.
- Ensure parking signage is a visible height and size for the intended audience, which can include people in vehicles, mobility devices, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Provide clear directional signage indicating the location and path of travel to ticket machines.
- Ensure signs are visible while vehicles are parked in spaces.
- Ensure that signs at garage entrances and canopy at drop off indicate vertical clearances. Should be reflective sign with safety markings.
- Signage indicating areas for safe passenger drop-off.
- Pedestrian pathway to have directional signage for pedestrians.

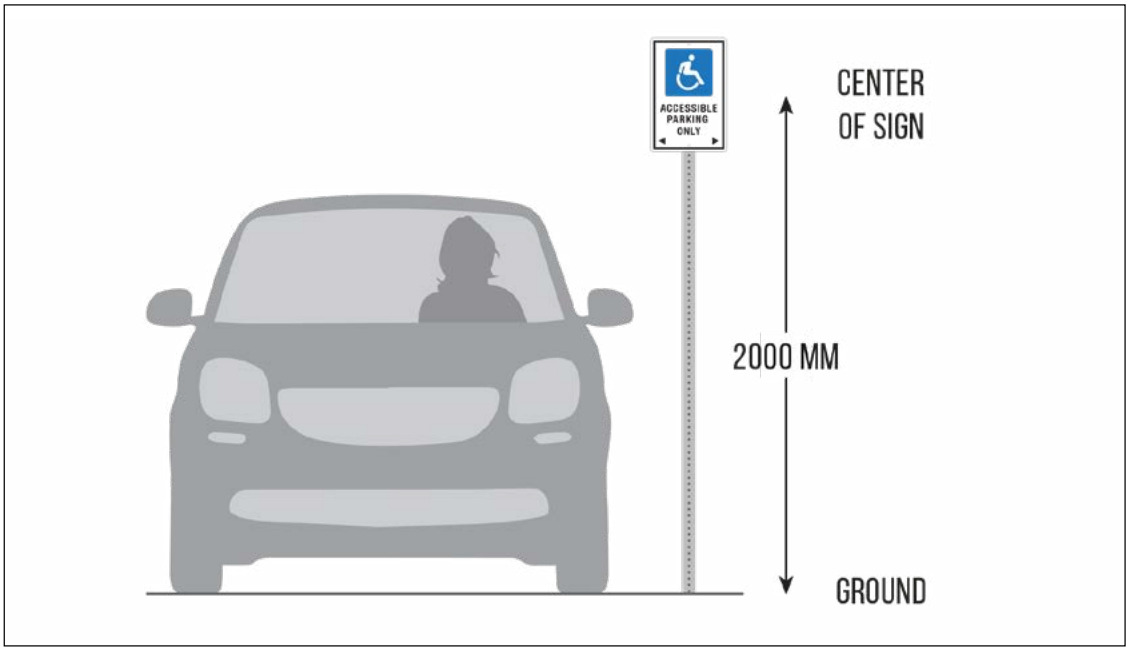


Image shows a car and to the right there is an accessible parking only sign showing that the centre of the sign is 2000 millimeters from the ground.

(b.) Entrance

- Provide clear directory and directional signage from the entry of the parking lot to accessible building entrance.
- Clearly marked pedestrian crossings.

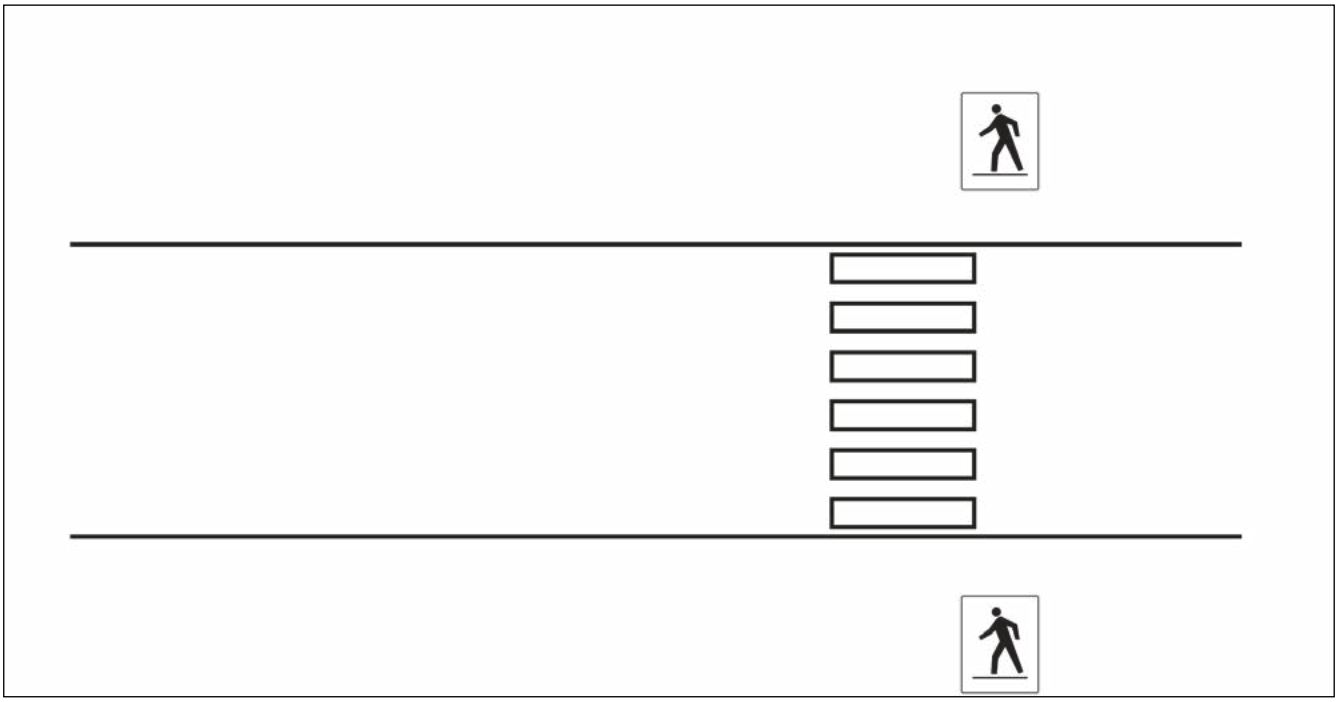


Image shows a street with a pedestrian crossing in the middle and two crosswalk signs on either side of it.

- If main entrance is not accessible, provide appropriate signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance.
- Tactile signage will be provided where dog relief area exists.

(c.) Vertical circulation

- Ramps to have directional and ID signage with pictograms.
- Elevator locations must be clearly indicated with directional signage throughout the facility – from the entrances and other key areas within the building on each floor.
- Elevators and stairs with doors to include wall mounted and blade signage including pictogram. Wall mounted signs to be tactile and 70% colour contrasted.
- If stairwell doesn't have door include sign on wall at either side of entry.

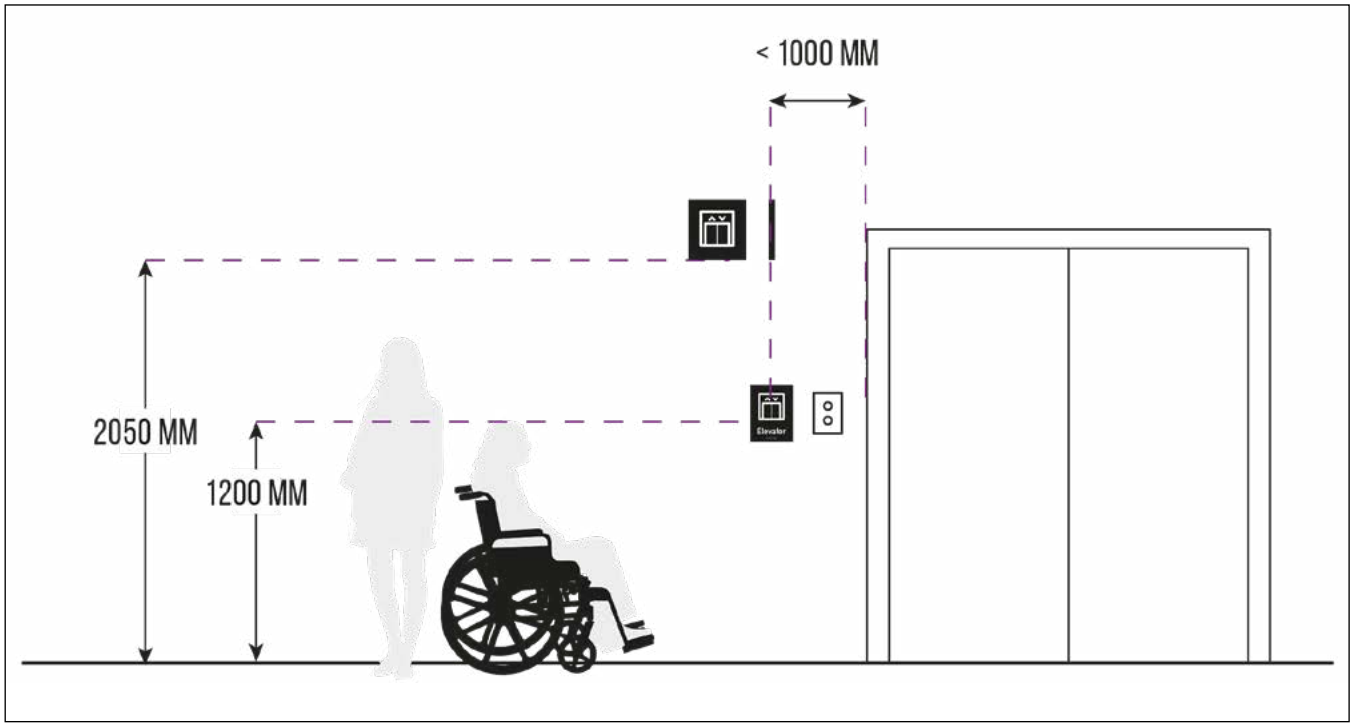


Image shows a wheelchair in the middle with an individual standing to the left with elevator doors to the right. It shows two different signs indicating an elevator, one 1200 millimeters from the floor and another 2050 millimetres from the floor.

(d.) Welcome Signs

- Provide identification signage indicating the purpose or function of a desk or counter.

(e.) Directional Signs

- Directories should be provided outlining occupants. Directories should not include directional signs.
- Directional signs to include arrows providing directional guidance within any size of building, and located where they are most visible, generally overhead and perpendicular to the path of travel.
- Ensure size of letters and symbols are legible from reasonable viewing distance, see legibility chart in section 3.
- Ensure contrast with surrounding environment.
- Blade signage is used to supplement overhead and wall mounted signage.

(f.) Room ID

- Doors and openings that lead to public spaces should be identified by tactile signage. All room identification signs to be wall mounted with room number in braille.
- Permanent rooms, including back of house signs, and key facilities to include tactile room number, name, or occupant name. Back of house rooms would include mechanical, electrical rooms. Key facilities would include social, fitness rooms as well as main building services (mail room).
- Room numbering should be done in a logical, intuitive manner to help aid in wayfinding. Even numbers on one side, odd numbers on the other side. First numeral should indicate the floor level.
- Room numbers will be in the top left corner.
- Wall mounted signs to be accompanied by projecting blade signage above entrance.

(g.) Amenities

- For all amenities where a door is present such as washrooms, stairwells, rest areas, elevators there will be a tactile pictogram and name wall mounted signs.
- Where no door is present for amenities two (2) wall mounted signs will be installed on either side of the entrance.

(h.) Information Directories

- Directories that provide information about a building's layout and services will be placed near accessible entrances. If a building requires directories on multiple floors, they will be placed in a consistent location on each floor.
- Directories should include raised print as well as print lettering, with characters at least 16 mm in height. They should also include braille.
- Directories will incorporate a tactile map that is readable by sight and touch. This should illustrate the layout of the floor on which the directory is located, as well as the principal paths of travel to features and services on the floor.
- Use directional TWSIs or textural contrasts in floor materials, detectable by a long cane and underfoot, to lead individuals directly from the main entrance to the building directory. In multi-storey buildings, they should be used from the elevator to the floor directories.

(i.) Emergency Evacuation Signs

- Evacuation instructions will be posted as per the Phase 1 Emergency Systems section of this Standard.
- Emergency exit and area of refuge to have blade signs and wall mounted signs for maximum visibility and will indicate if the emergency exit is accessible.
- Clearly identify location of closest accessible emergency exit throughout building.

(j.) Trails and pathways

- Provide exterior wayfinding connecting visitors from parking to trail entrance.
- Pedestrian crossways shall be identified with vertical signage and clear marking where paving exists.
- Trail markings and directional signs to assist with wayfinding along the pathway.
- Signage will state what accessible amenities are available, as well as the slope, distance, and difficulty level of trails.
- Interpretive signs to be written in simple language and legible at a grade 6 reading level.
- Interpretive signs to be delivered in visual, tactile and audible format that incorporates accessible technology.

(k.) Washrooms

- Washroom signage will include technology to alert when space is occupied that is accessible to persons with disabilities, Deaf, and neurodivergent persons.

Schools and Public Libraries

1. **Regulation:** School specific recommendations will apply to all public and private grade schools, colleges, and universities.

2. **Building Code Amendment:** Auditoriums, classrooms, staff rooms, administrative and reception areas will meet the CSA B651 standard. Tiered classrooms and auditoriums will have one accessible pathway to the upper tier.

3. **Regulation:** Schools with playgrounds will build accessible playgrounds and an accessible path of travel from the school to the playground as per this standard when building new or replacing existing play structures.

4. **Regulation:** The intercom system for schools will be accessible and will provide text-based option. Existing systems will be retrofitted.

5. **Building Code Amendment:** School cafeterias will be accessible. This includes counter heights, colour contrasted and/ or tactile indication on floors to direct people from entrance to food counters and to accessible seating areas.

6. **Building Code Amendment:** A minimum of 5% of seating will be accessible and the location will be dispersed equitably throughout auditoriums.

7. **Regulation:** A minimum of 5% of seating will be accessible, including workstations and desks with adjustable heights, and the location will be dispersed equitably throughout classrooms.

8. **Regulation:** Induction loop or assistive classroom technologies will be included in all schools.

9. **Building Code Amendment:** Large auditoriums, areas with stages or areas where public gatherings take place, such as concerts, graduation, special events, will have a stage that is accessible by ramp or lift and a barrier free path of travel from the accessible seating area to the stage.

10. **Building Code Amendment:** Laboratories will include 5% accessible sinks and counters. A clear path of travel between counters will be in accordance with CSA B651.

11. **Building Code Amendment:** Libraries will include visual fire alarms placed where they can be viewed from all areas of the library. A clear path of travel will be provided between shelving.

12. **Regulation:** Accessible seating will be provided in multiple places throughout the library. Accessible computer stations will be available.

13. **Guideline:** Outdoor classrooms will be accessible to all students with particular attention to the placement of outdoor classrooms to avoid noise distractions and shall have an accessible pathway on a stable firm surface leading from the school to the classroom with a slope not exceeding 1:20. Accessible seating options will be provided.

14. **Guideline:** In addition to meeting the accessible standards related to washrooms, school washrooms will include a screened entrance, automatic flush toilets, automatic taps, and automatic paper towel dispensers. All washroom accessories, including grab bars and light switches, will be at a height that is accessible to the persons intended.

15. **Building Code Amendment: A**ll new and renovated multi-level schools will have either an accessible elevator or an accessible hydraulic lift large enough for both a wheelchair and an attendant to ride together. Preferably this system will not require a key or code to operate.

16. **Regulation:** Schools and libraries will include rest and relief areas for service animals.

Glossary of Terms:

Accessible Seating

- Is located on a level, firm, stable surface
- Offers direct, unobstructed access to seating
- Is located on a level area and does not obstruct circulation routes
- Has clear signage and is identifiable
- Contrasts visually with surrounding surfaces
- Incorporates clear spaces for people using wheelchairs, scooters or strollers so they can sit alongside one another and with their companions
- Provides a clear space at the end of the seating for a service dog or other animal to rest
- Offers a variety of seating options to suit different people: seats with and without arm rests, seats with backrests, and fixed and moveable seats
- Ensures seats positioned or linked in a row are all of the same style

Accessible Path of Travel

A path of travel that includes a continuous, unobstructed way of pedestrian passage by means of which an area may be approached, entered, and exited, and which connects the area with an exterior approach (including sidewalks, streets, and parking areas), an entrance to the facility, and other parts of the facility.

Accessible Unit

Refers to a unit in a multi unit residential building that complies with the Nova Scotia Building Code section 3.8.3.23.

Adaptable Unit
Refers to a unit in a multi unit residential building that complies with the Nova Scotia Building Code section 3.8.4.

Barrier Free
Barrier-free design strives to make the built environment accessible to and useable by all persons, including persons with disabilities, Deaf, and neurodivergent persons. It promotes integration and independence through universal design that is safe, functional and dignified for everyone.

Colour Contrast
The difference in colour and brightness between an object and its background.

Direction of Travel
The course or line along which a person or thing moves, points, or lies.

Mobility Device
Means any manual or electric wheelchair, scooter, boarding chair, walker, cane, crutch, prosthesis or other aid that is specially designed to assist a person with a disability with a need related to mobility.

Recreation Facility
Includes Recreation centres and halls, pools, arenas, athletic fields, parks, and playgrounds and trails, enhanced schools for community use, and other facilities that promote sport and physical recreation.

Seven Principals of Universal Design

The 7 Principles of Universal Design, as defined by the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, are:

1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple and intuitive use
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance for error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use

Visual Noise

An environment that is visually distracting and chaotic; such as flowered wallpaper or decorations with very bright patterns.

Wayfinding

Information systems, including signage or tactile or physical pathways, that guide people through a physical environment and enhance their understanding and experience of the space. This can include words, pictures, visuals, auditory, or tactile indicators.

Recommendations on Accessibility Standard
in the Built Environment: Phase 2

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