

# Improving Building Design for Persons with Low Vision

## National Institute of Building Sciences

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# Low Vision Workshop

## Existing Standards and Design Guidance

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# Entrances

- If steps – also a ramp or signage to nearest accessible location
- 36” Clearance
- Threshold edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” or less or beveled edge  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” or less
- Handles – no higher than 48”
- If automatic door closer – 3 sec. timing

# Entrances continued....

- Carpeting & mats –
  - max ½” high or less
  - low pile
  - tightly woven
  - secured along edges

# Ramps

- Slope 1:12
- Longer than 6' – railings on both sides
- 36" clearance
- Non-slip surface
- No more than 30" rise between landings
- Landings 5' long and level

# Route of Travel

- No Stairs
- Firm, slip-resistant surface
- 36" wide
- Protruding objects detectable using a cane
  - Within 27" of ground
  - Above 80"
  - Or protrude less than 3" from wall

# Rooms & Spaces

- Carpeting
  - low pile
  - tightly woven
  - securely attached along edges
- Circulation paths through public spaces
  - all obstacles cane detectable
  - 27" from floor or higher than 80"
  - Or protruding less than 4" from wall

# Emergency Egress

- Both flashing lights & audible signals

Missing: Light level requirements



# Signage for Goods & Services

- Mounted with center line 60" AFF
- On wall adjacent to latch side of door
- Characters (Room #s, RRs & Exits)
  - Raised
  - Sized between 5/8" and 2" high
  - High contrast

# Signage

## Directional & Informational

- If above 80" AFF – letters 3" high minimum
- Must comply with legibility reg. unless temporary or building directory
- Non-glare finish, egg shell or matte

# Vertical Circulation Stairs

- Uniform treads sizes & riser heights
- Nosing overhangs minimal
- Handrails on both sides

# Vertical Circulation Elevators

- On accessible routes
- Automatically self leveling
- Call buttons
  - Centered 42" AFF
  - Min.  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter
- Auditory signals
- Protective door reopening device

# Additional standards

Additional standards can be found among voluntary guidelines for public buildings such as the Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibitions,

And in grant requirements from such organizations as the NEA, which has a checklist & an Office of AccessAbiltiy.