



U.S. Access Board



Budget: \$7.3 million (FY 2010)

Staff: 27

- Executive Director's Office
- General Counsel's Office
- Technical & Information Services

Access Board Programs

- Guidelines and standards development
 - Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
 - Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
 - Telecommunications Act of 1996
 - Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998
- Technical assistance and training
- Research
- ABA enforcement

ABA Enforcement

- Investigation of complaints under the Architectural Barriers Act
- Applies to Federally funded facilities (post offices, transit facilities, public housing, schools, courthouses, jails)
- About 75 cases opened each year

Rulemaking Authority

- New construction and alterations
 - Studies have shown that designing buildings for accessibility from the beginning adds less than 1% to the total construction cost of a new facility
- Guidelines not enforceable until adopted by standard setting agency

ADA and ABA Rulemaking Authority

- Access Board's authority only extends to the fixed items and equipment of a facility (i.e., items and equipment fixed to the facility through bolts, plumbing, or other structural elements)
- Other agencies have authority over non-fixed or free-standing equipment

Information and Communications Technology Rulemaking Authority

- Develop and maintain accessibility standards for electronic and information technology *procured* by the Federal government
- Administrative processes for complaints by individuals with disabilities and civil action against a Federal agency to seek injunctive relief

Telecommunications Act Rulemaking Authority

- Develop and maintain accessibility guidelines for telecommunications devices and other products that have a telecommunication service capability
- Enforced by FCC – no private right of action

Required Rulemaking Process

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
 - Published in Federal Register
 - Public comment period – minimum 60 days by Executive Order
- Final Rule
 - Published in Federal Register

Required Rulemaking Process

- Regulatory Assessments required at proposed and final rule stages
 - Submit to Office of Management and Budget for review
 - 90 day review process

Our Rulemaking Process Enhancements

- Extensive public input and involvement
 - Information meetings
 - Lengthy comment periods
 - Public hearings
- Based on consensus where possible
 - Advisory committees
 - Regulatory negotiation committees
- Use of draft rules

Advisory Committees

- 12 committees since 1993 representing 299 organizations



Completed Rulemakings

- ADA Accessibility Guidelines (1991)
Supplements:
 - state and government facilities (1998)
 - children's environments (1998)
 - play areas (2000) and recreation facilities (2002)
- Transportation Vehicles (1991)
- Telecommunications Access (1998)
- Electronic & Information Technology (2000)
- Updated ADA-ABA Guidelines (2004)

Rulemaking in Development

1. Outdoor Developed Areas
2. Passenger Vessels
3. Public Rights-of-Way
4. Transportation Vehicles
5. Information and Communications Technology
6. Emergency Transportable Housing
7. Medical Diagnostic Equipment
8. Shared Use Paths
9. Classroom Acoustics

Technical Assistance

- Publications and guides
- Online tutorials
- Technical assistance - 14,000 – 15,000 inquiries each year

References | Help

United States Access Board
Play Area Accessibility Online Training

Application of Play Area Guidelines
Play Components
Soft Contained Play Structures
Guidelines for Accessible Routes
Guidelines for Accessible Surfaces
Additional Guidelines for Accessibility

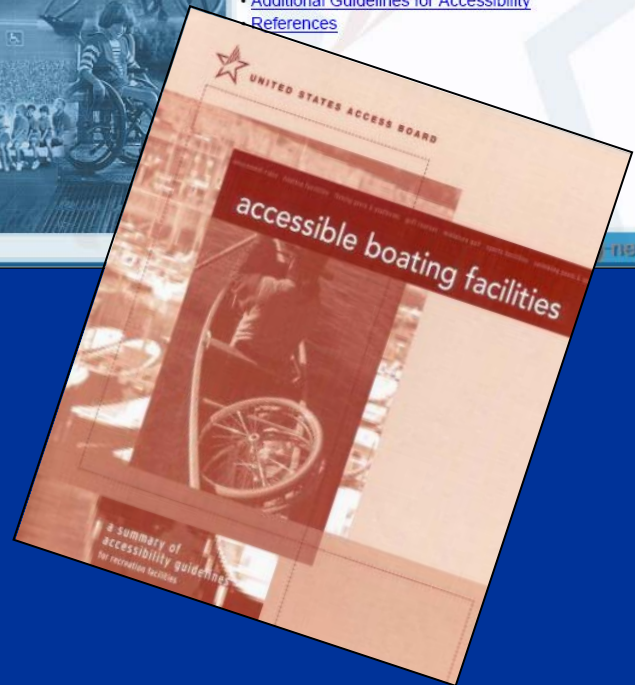
MAIN MENU

Please select a training or reference section:

- [Application of Play Area Guidelines](#)
- [Play Components](#)
- [Soft Contained Play Structures](#)
- [Guidelines for Accessible Routes](#)
- [Guidelines for Accessible Surfaces](#)
- [Additional Guidelines for Accessibility](#)

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Training

- Sessions on all guidelines and standards
- Tailored to each audience
- 80 – 125 sessions each year across the country and abroad



Research

Supports development of guidelines and guidance materials



Current projects include a major study on human measures and research on outdoor surfaces

Airport Focus Issue

- Provide technical assistance to designers and others on new airports, new terminals, and major renovations of existing terminals
- Develop on-line technical assistance on the ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines
- Work with others on technical assistance
- Develop rulemaking where needed

New Initiatives

- News subscription
- RSS feed
- Regulations.gov
- Webinar series
- On-line guide to the ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines



www.access-board.gov



- All Board publications
- Guidance material
- Links to resources
- Submit ABA complaints
- Sign-up for newsletter

UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD