Question of the month:

Q. If OSHPD or any Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) has approved a specific condition, and if the project has been reviewed by an access specialist or a CASp is that condition guaranteed to be in full compliance with the CBC and ADA?

R. Unfortunately not always. AHJ’s plan review is intended to ensure compliance with applicable codes. However, sometimes items are overlooked or misinterpreted during plan review and non-compliant conditions get approved and constructed. When we become aware of such deficiencies the correct course of action is remediation. We must remember that ADA laws are enforced by the Department of Justice—DOJ or the Department of Transportation—DOT and not by the local building officials. Therefore, even if we have obtained acceptance by all parties involved in the review process, if a complaint is filed and the built condition is in violation of the ADA laws, then it should be fixed.

Announcements:

2013 CBC has been published. Remind your design professionals to obtain their copy. It will become effective January 2014.