

Taken to Access

FPS
Physical Access
Compliance Program

Volume 4, Issue 3 * March 2, 2015

Question of the month:

Q. In the October 2014 Newsletter it was stated that a request for clarification to the US Access Board had been submitted regarding what constitutes a protruding object. Has there been a response? Is a wall mounted computer considered a protruding object even if not located along a circulation path?

R. Yes. Even when located within a room, depending on how a person may navigate the room, the element could be considered a protruding object. Using the same example from the October publication, due to the computer being mounted along the path to the guest seating, the computer is considered a protruding object and reconfiguration of the room is suggested. When the computer is located along a circulation path, a clever solution (used at Sutter Lakeside) involves providing a cane detectable element below the computer monitor console. See below.

We recently received a request to provide specific ADA or CBC clearance requirements for bariatric wheelchairs. There are none. The ADAS and CBC provide minimum requirements for clear floor space and maneuvering clearances in general based on pre-determined dimensions. Per 2013 *CBC section 11B-102—Dimensions for Adults and Children—The technical requirements are based on adult dimensions and anthropometrics*. However, we cannot determine how often anthropometrics data is updated (particularly related to bariatric) and how relevant it is to technical requirements established in the latest code cycle. Hence, it's likely that if while designing new spaces only minimum code requirements are taken into consideration, many specific needs will not be met.

When designing new facilities, we recommend that bariatric wheelchair access to public spaces such as consultation rooms, conference rooms and toilet rooms be taken into account. While it may not be cost effective to specify 4'-0" doors to all rooms, provisions could be made to design a percentage of the rooms as bariatric spaces. Keep in mind, more advanced devices are becoming available providing more options for people with mobility limitations. If we can safely accommodate those devices, then we must ensure that they can access the services we're providing.



A standard chair seat ranges in size from 20" to 24" wide by 16" to 18" in depth. Bariatric chair seat dimensions vary from 26" to 30" wide by 20" deep. The overall width from wheel to wheel can vary from 30" wide for a standard chair to a range of 36" to 40" for a bariatric chair. When other accessories are added, such as IV poles or oxygen tanks, the width can easily exceed 42"! Most doors in outpatient facilities are standard 36" doors with clear openings of 32" to 34" making passage difficult for a bariatric chair user.

