

TAKEN TO ACCESS

Don't be afraid to ask!

Many of you have read all the steps of every PAC Process and have now become experts on ABRP preparation, accessibility plan reviews and funding requests. But as we move into the actual removal of barriers phase, more process will be written and implemented. Often, questions come up that help you understand the processes but also help FPD PAC fine tune certain elements. We urge you to contact our group with your questions, comments and suggestions as we believe that it will require everyone's ideas and suggestions to make the Accessibility Compliance Program a success. Below we are showcasing one of our most commonly asked questions. We will continue to include some of these in future publications for the benefit of all.

- Q. I received accessibility plan review comments and the access specialist has issued comments regarding rooms that are off limits to the public and patients. Why did the reviewer include those areas as the Consent Decree clearly does not include them?
- R. **The project is an alteration and the scope is not limited to barrier removal only. All construction done within the identified "area of work" is required to comply with all applicable codes of new construction, including employee areas and the accessible route per CBC 1114.1.2.**

SCARY SIGNS!!

Signage installation whether in new projects or as part of barrier removal must comply with both 2010 ADA Standards and 2010 CBC. The emergency regulations passed by the California Building Standards Commission which clarify sign mounting location and height became effective on August 1, 2012. However these regulations only addressed minimal conflicts between the ADA and CBC. As mentioned in the August newsletter, many items remain in the 2010 ADA Standards that are more restrictive than the 2010 CBC and design teams must continue to insure compliance with both. The merging of 2010 ADA and CBC will not be complete until the 2013 CBC is published in July of 2013 and will become effective in January of 2014.

In an effort to insure full compliance with 2013 CBC, FPD PAC has suggested that signage projects related to barrier removal be postponed until 2014. This means that signage barriers which were previously categorized as "low hanging fruit" and as such were supposed to be removed by the end of 2012, now have to be removed by the end of 2014. New construction projects however must address signage and insure full compliance with current code. When projects are submitted for Accessibility Plan Review (APR), the submittal package must include signage information. In other words, there is no extension until 2014 for signage related to new construction projects. Below are a few things to remember:

- Architects are required to provide sufficient detail in their working drawings showing compliance with CBC 1117B.5, 1117B.6, 1127B.3, 1133B.4.3, 1011.3 and all relevant 2010 ADA Standards. When construction documents show compliance with all applicable codes in sufficient detail no signage shop drawings are required.
- Tactile and visual requirements apply to designation of permanent spaces and at exit doors. Visual only requirements apply to directional and informational signage. Examples of tactile requirements include restrooms entry signs, room number signs, room names not likely to change, floor levels, exit access/discharge and area of rescue/assistance.
- Signs that are exempt from the code requirements listed above include temporary signs, building menus, directories, addresses, company names and logos.
- For other means of egress signs and identification provisions adopted by the State Fire Marshall and DSA—AC see CBC chapter 10.
- Evacuation signage is regulated by the State Fire Marshall (SFM) and in general accessibility asks that evacuation maps be clear and readable and comply with directional and informational signage requirements of 1117B.5.1 item 2. Raised characters and Braille are not required on SFM required signs. Signage designers shall be careful not to incorporate the tactile exit signage requirement (Exit Stair Down for example) into the same sign when installed adjacent to a stairwell door. Accessible signage is required at enclosed stairwells but it's a separate requirement than those required by the SFM.

As always, we remind you that this list like others in previous publications are issued with the intent to provide general guidelines and best practices. This is a summary of signage items that FPD PAC and access specialists address regularly and is not be considered a check off list that would eliminate proper and thorough code review. We hope that by sharing we can all be more aware of signage accessibility compliance.