

Taken to Access

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Question of the month:

Q. We have ordered taupe colored detectable warnings. The tiles meet the dome size and spacing criteria. Can we install these tiles and not purchase yellow tiles if we provide a black strip separating the truncated domes from the adjacent surface as permitted by the exception under section 705.1.1.3?

R. Unfortunately not. The exact wording states: Where the detectable warning surface does not adequately contrast with adjacent surfaces, a 1 inch wide black strip shall separate yellow detectable warning from adjacent surfaces. It is assumed that the lack of contrast is due to the adjacent surface being too close in color to the mandated yellow detectable warnings. The 1 inch black strip is not intended to replace the yellow truncated dome color requirement.

Announcements:

Our Accessibility Architect position is currently vacant. In the interim, please submit your code inquiries to Susan Fuentes at Fuentes@sutterhealth.org

All applications for Accessibility Plan Review continue to be processed by Michelle Austin. Michelle can also provide updates on all ongoing reviews. AustinM@sutterhealth.org

TRUNCATED RELATIONSHIPS – DOMES

FPS PAC receives numerous questions pertaining to “truncated domes” requirements. Clarification is often needed regarding what is considered a detectable warning, where and why it’s required, and what technical criteria has to be met. Per 2013 CBC Section 11B-106, a Detectable Warning is defined as a standardized surface feature built in or applied to walking surfaces or other elements to warn of hazards on a circulation path. Detectable warnings shall consist of a surface of truncated domes which are to comply with dome size, dome spacing, contrast, resiliency, color and location requirements per section 11B-705.1. Division 2—Scoping Requirements, Section 247 of 2013 CBC lists the different areas where detectable warnings are required:

- 11B-247.1.2.1 Platform Edges
- 11B-247.1.2.2 Curb Ramps
- 11B-247.1.2.3 Island or Cut-through Medians
- 11B-247.1.2.4 Bus Stops
- 11B-247.1.2.5 Hazardous Vehicular Areas
- 11B-247.1.2.6 Reflecting Pools
- 11B-247.1.2.7 Track Crossings

The sections underlined reflect the most common locations where detectable warnings requirements are applicable within Sutter Health facilities. 11B-705 provides technical requirements under each category. Dome size and spacing and contrast requirements are consistent across all 7 categories. The resiliency or sound on cane contact requirement and color requirement are exempt at Curb Ramps and Islands or Cut-through Medians. But that exception is **not** provided under Hazardous Vehicular Areas. Therefore, the color Yellow conforming to the FS 33538 of Federal Standards 595C and the sound on cane contact or resiliency **must** be provided at all locations where a walk crosses or adjoins a vehicular way and the walking surfaces are not separated by curbs, railings or other elements between the pedestrian and vehicular areas (for example: passenger loading zones with zero curb conditions).

2010 CBC section 1133B.8.5 provides requirements for detectable warnings at hazardous vehicular areas and specifically references section 1121B.3.1, Item 8(a) for additional requirements which are specific to width, surface texture, resiliency and color. Therefore, the color yellow and sound on cane requirements at Hazardous Vehicular Areas are also applicable to projects permitted under the 2010 CBC. Curb ramps requirements are listed under section 1127B.5 but unlike the passenger loading zone section, there is no reference there to the Transportation Facilities section, hence it’s concluded that the color and resiliency requirements do not apply to curb ramps.

We recognize that code variances in technical requirements can be confusing and create non-compliant conditions. As such, a BIN is forthcoming to clearly establish Sutter’s preference of using yellow domes throughout.