

### OVERVIEW

The Department of Justice published revised regulations for Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in the Federal Register on September 15, 2010. The regulations adopted revised accessibility standards called the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. These 2010 Standards set minimum requirements – both scoping and technical – for newly designed or altered State and local government facilities as well as public accommodations, and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

### EFFECTIVE DATE: March 15, 2012

#### Government Facilities (Title II):

Construction begins on March 15, 2012 or later

#### Public Accommodations or Commercial Facilities (Title III):

March 15, 2012 if:

**THE DATE** the last application for a building permit or permit extension is certified to be complete by a state, county, or local government is after March 15, 2012;

**THE DATE** the last application for a building permit or permit extension is received by a state, county, or local government is after March 15, 2012, where the government does not certify completion applications; OR

**THE START** of physical construction or alteration is after March 15, 2012, if no permit is required.

### EXEMPT SIGNS

The following types of signs are exempt from these regulations:

Temporary (7 days or less) signs, building directories, menus, seat and row designations in assembly areas, occupant names, building addresses, and company names and logos.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained at the following websites:

[www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)

[www.access-board.gov/ada](http://www.access-board.gov/ada)

### SIGN CATEGORIES

**Room & Space Identification:** Must comply with tactile & visual requirements

**Wayfinding, Regulatory and Informational:** Must comply with visual requirements

**Overhead:** Must comply with visual requirements

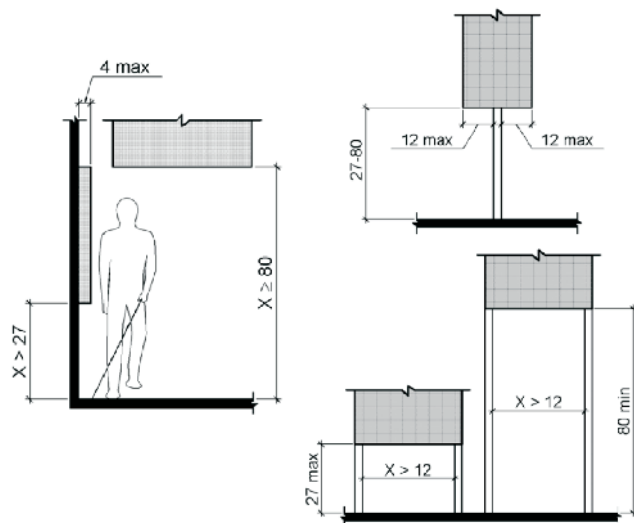
**Accessible Parking Identification:** Must have accessible symbol and meet mounting requirements

### ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Accessible parking spaces must have a sign that is 60" above grade or finished floor to the bottom of the sign and the sign must contain the International symbol of accessibility.

### SIZING CONSIDERATIONS

**Signs Projecting 4" or More:** The bottom of the sign must be 27" or less a.f.f. or the bottom must be at least 80" a.f.f.

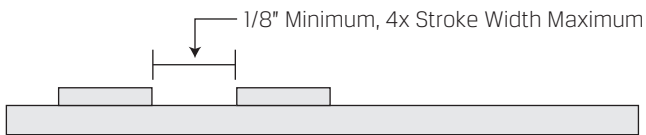


**Post-Mounted Objects:** Free-standing objects mounted on posts or pylons shall overhang circulation paths 12" maximum when located 27" minimum and 80" maximum above the finish floor or ground. Where a sign is mounted between posts or pylons and the clear distance between the posts or pylons is greater than 12", the lowest edge of such sign shall be 27" maximum or 80" minimum above the finish floor or ground.

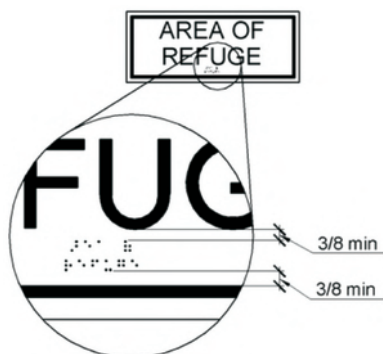
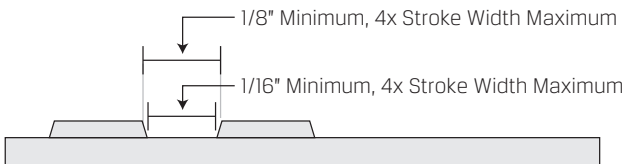
### TACTILE REQUIREMENTS

- Sans Serif letter style
- Uppercase letters
- 5/8" Minimum Character Height, 2" Maximum; if tactile and visual characters are separated, tactile characters can be 1/2" high
- Characters raised 1/32" minimum from surface of sign
- Width of an uppercase "O" shall be 55% minimum and 110% maximum of the height of an uppercase "I"
- Stroke thickness of the uppercase "I" shall be 15% or less of the height of the uppercase "I"
- Line spacing is 35% of the letter height minimum, 70% maximum
- Text is repeated in Grade 2 Braille below tactile copy
- Space between letters & other raised elements to be as shown below

Top View of Sign with Rectangular Cross Section of Characters  
1/8" Minimum, 4x Stroke Width Maximum

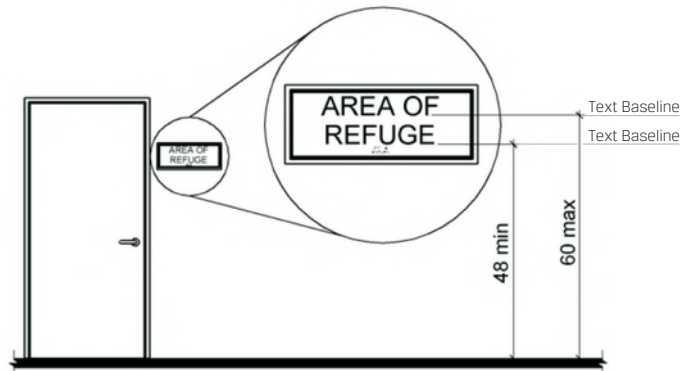


Top View of Sign with Angled Cross Section of Characters

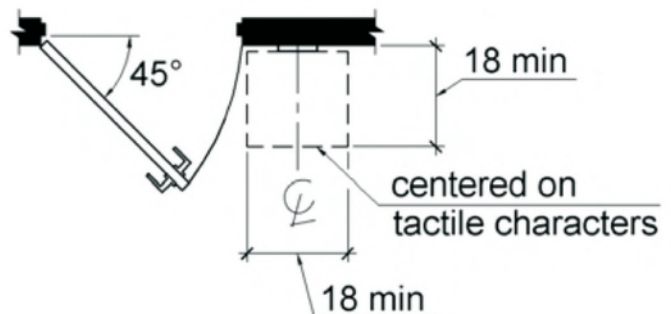


### MOUNTING: Tactile Signs

- Tactile Characters shall be located 48" above finish floor minimum (measured to the lowest tactile character), 60" maximum (measured to the baseline of the highest tactile character)
- Sign is to be mounted on the wall on the latch side of the door
- Where a tactile sign is provided at double doors with one active leaf, the sign shall be located on the inactive leaf
- Where a tactile sign is provided at double doors with two active leaves, the sign shall be located to the right of the right hand door
- Where there is no wall space at the latch side of a single door or at the right side of double doors, signs shall be located on the nearest adjacent wall

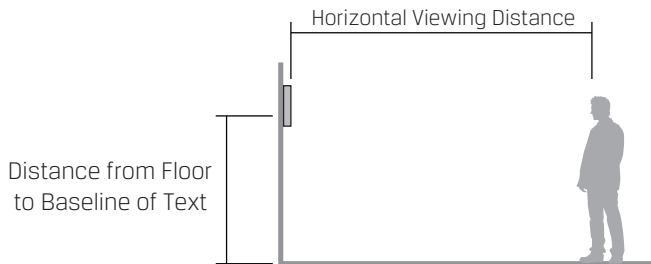


- Signs containing tactile characters shall be located so that a clear floor space of 18" minimum by 18" minimum, centered on the tactile characters, is provided beyond the arc of any door swing between the closed position and 45 degree open position



### VISUAL REQUIREMENTS

- Sans serif or serif letter style; characters shall not be italic, oblique, script, highly decorative, or of other unusual forms
- Uppercase, lowercase or a combination of both
- Finish of characters and background shall be non-glare
- Character shall contrast with their background; industry recommendations are 70% contrast
- Width of an uppercase "O" shall be 55% minimum and 110% maximum of the height of an uppercase "I"
- Stroke thickness of uppercase "I" shall be 10% minimum and 30% maximum of the height of an uppercase "I"
- Line spacing is 35% of the letter height minimum, 70% maximum
- Visual characters shall be minimum 40" above the floor
- See chart below for acceptable letter heights

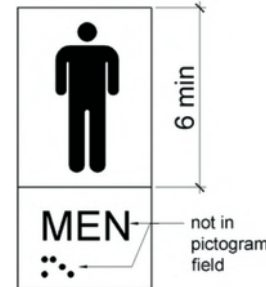


Visual Character Height		
Distance from Floor to Baseline of Text	Horizontal Viewing Distance	Minimum Character Height
40" to 70"	Less than 6 feet	5/8"
	6 feet or more	5/8" + 1/8" per foot of viewing distance above 6 feet
Above 70" to 120"	Less than 15 feet	2"
	15 feet or more	2" + 1/8" per foot of viewing distance above 15 feet
Above 120"	Less than 21 feet	3"
	21 feet or more	3" + 1/8" per foot of viewing distance above 21 feet

### PICTOGRAMS

**Pictogram:** A pictorial symbol that represents activities, facilities, or concepts.

- Pictograms shall have a minimum field height of 6 inches; characters and braille shall not be located in the pictogram field



- Finish of pictogram and background shall be non-glare
- Pictograms shall contrast with their background
- Pictograms shall have text descriptors located directly below the pictogram field

### SYMBOLS OF ACCESSIBILITY

- Finish of symbol and background shall be non-glare
- Symbols shall contrast with their background



International Symbol of Accessibility



International Symbol of TTY  
Public TTYs shall be identified by the International Symbol of TTY. Directional signs indicating the location of the nearest public TTY shall be provided at all banks of public pay telephones not containing a public TTY.



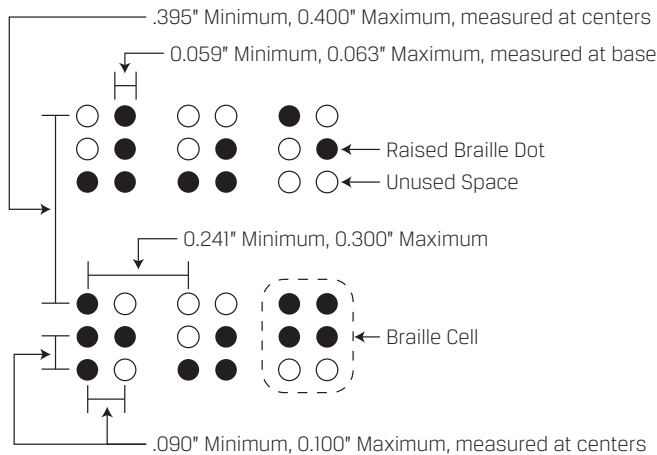
Volume Control Telephone




International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss  
Assistive listening signs shall include the International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss

### GRADE 2 BRAILLE

Braille is a system that changes latin characters to a series of raised dots to be used by people with visual impairments. Grade 1 Braille translates one character per braille "cell" while Grade 2 Braille uses symbols for common letter combinations (e.g. "ing" or "st"), thus requiring fewer cells. Where Braille is used on signs, the ADA requires Grade 2 Braille.



- Braille shall be Grade 2
- Braille shall be positioned below the corresponding text
- Braille shall be 3/8" minimum from any other raised text or raised elements (borders, symbols, etc.)
- Braille dots shall be domed or rounded 
- Dot height is to be between 0.025" and 0.037"
- Though the text must be in uppercase, the Braille shall be translated as Title Case (e.g. Translate "Word", not "WORD")

### STATE & LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

This information is a summary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and it reflects the federal requirements. Individual states, counties & cities may have more restrictive requirements in their building codes & ordinances.

### SERIF VS. SANS SERIF

In typography, serifs are semi-structural details on the ends of some of the strokes that make up letters and symbols. Sans serif fonts are letter styles without these details.



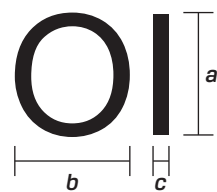
Sans Serif Letter Style Examples

Arial Futura Helvetica

Serif Letter Style Examples

Times Garamond Lucida

### CHARACTER & STROKE WIDTHS: Tactile



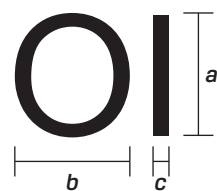
Character Width:

**b** must be between 55% and 110% (inclusive) of **a**

Stroke Width:

**c** must be less than or equal to 15% of **a**

### CHARACTER & STROKE WIDTHS: Visual



Character Width:

**b** must be between 55% and 110% (inclusive) of **a**

Stroke Width:

**c** must be between 10% and 30% (inclusive) of **a**

### INACCESSIBLE AREAS

Entrances and restrooms that are not accessible must have signs directing to the nearest accessible entrance or restroom.

Revised 01.30.2017

This information is intended as a general summary of the Americans with Disabilities Act as it relates to signs. No warranty is expressed and Poblocki Sign Company cannot assume liability for errors, omissions and any damages resulting from the use or interpretation of this information.

### SAMPLE FONTS

The following fonts & weights meet both the Tactile and the Visual requirements of the ADA. Note that this is just a representative sample and is not intended to be a complete list.

#### ARIAL REGULAR

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
1234567890

#### FUTURA BOOK

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
1234567890

#### HELVETICA REGULAR

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
1234567890

#### MYRIAD PRO REGULAR

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
1234567890

#### NEWS GOTHIC MEDIUM

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
1234567890

#### UNIVERS 57 CONDENSED

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
1234567890

Text Baseline Height Above Floor: <b>40" to 70"</b>	
VIEWING DISTANCE	MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHT
≤ 6 feet	5/8"
7 feet	3/4"
8 feet	7/8"
9 feet	1"
10 feet	1-1/8"
11 feet	1-1/4"
12 feet	1-3/8"
13 feet	1-1/2" *
* add 1/8" for each additional foot of viewing distance	

Text Baseline Height Above Floor: > <b>70" to 120"</b>	
VIEWING DISTANCE	MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHT
≤ 15 feet	2"
16 feet	2-1/8"
16 feet	2-1/4"
18 feet	2-3/8"
19 feet	2-1/2"
20 feet	2-5/8"
21 feet	2-3/4"
22 feet	2-7/8" *
* add 1/8" for each additional foot of viewing distance	

Text Baseline Height Above Floor: > <b>120"</b>	
VIEWING DISTANCE	MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHT
≤ 21 feet	3"
22 feet	3-1/8"
23 feet	3-1/4"
24 feet	3-3/8"
25 feet	3-1/2"
26 feet	3-5/8"
27 feet	3-3/4"
28 feet	3-7/8" *
* add 1/8" for each additional foot of viewing distance	