

What You Need to Know About DOJ's 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

It's been a long time coming, but as of March 15, 2012, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) is requiring State and local governments (Title II) and public accommodations and commercial facilities (Title III) to comply with the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design. DOJ adopted revised, enforceable accessibility standards setting minimum requirements – both scoping and technical – for newly designed and constructed or altered facilities. The 2010 ADA Standards includes updates on technical and scoping requirements for assistive listening systems, visual alarms, and TTY's as well as new standards for hotel access. What follows is a brief summary of some highlights of the new requirements.

Section 219 and 706 Assistive Listening Systems

Audible Communication.

The *1991 Standards* requires assembly areas, where audible communication is integral to the use of the space, to provide an assistive listening system if they had an audio amplification system or an occupant load of 50 or more people and have fixed seating.

- The 2010 Standards (section 219) require assistive listening systems in spaces where communication is integral to the space and audio amplification is provided and in courtrooms.
- The required percentage of receivers declines as the size of the facility increases. These changes also require at least 25%, but no fewer than two, of the receivers to be hearing-aid compatible. Assembly areas served by an induction loop assistive listening system will not have to provide hearing-aid compatible receivers.
 - **Receiver Hearing-Aid Compatibility.** The 2010 Standards (Section 706.3) require hearing aid compatible receivers to interface with telecoils in hearing aids through the provision of neckloops. The standards provide an advisory noting that receivers that are not compatible include earbuds, earphones and headsets that must be worn over the ear.

The minimum number of receivers required of facilities can be found on page 77 of the “2010 Standards for Accessible Design,” table 219.3.

http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAStandards_prt.pdf

Table 219.3 Receivers for Assistive Listening Systems

Capacity of Seating in Assembly Area	Minimum Number of Required Receivers	Minimum Number of Required Receivers Required to be Hearing-aid Compatible
50 or less	2	2
51 to 200	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats*	2
201 to 500	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats* (20 for 500 seats)	1 per 4 receivers* (5 must be neck loops for 500 seats)
501 to 1000	20, plus 1 per 33 seats over 500 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*
1001 to 2000	35, plus 1 per 50 seats over 1000 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*
2001 and over	55 plus 1 per 100 seats over 2000 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*

* Or fraction thereof.

- **Mono Jacks, Sound Pressure, Etc.** The 2010 Standards (section 706) require assistive listening systems to have standard mono jacks. These Standards also specify sound pressure level, signal-to-noise ratio, and peak clipping level.
- **Signs.** (Section 216.10) Each covered assembly area must provide signs at each auditorium to inform patrons that assistive listening systems are available. However, assembly areas that have ticket offices or ticket windows may display the required signs at the ticket window.

Sections 224 and 806 Transient Lodging Guest Rooms

Guest Rooms with Communication Features. The revisions of the 2010 Standards (section 224.4) make no substantive change from the 1991 Standards with respect to the number of guest rooms required to provide communication features. The revised provisions do limit the overlap between guest rooms required to provide mobility features and guest rooms required to provide communication features. The 2010 Standards require that at least one guest room providing mobility features must also provide communications features. At least one, but not more than 10%, of the guest rooms required to provide mobility features can also satisfy the minimum number of guest rooms required to provide communication features.

The 2010 Standards (section 215.4) requires that transient lodging guest rooms with communication features be equipped with a fire alarm system which includes permanently installed audible and visible alarms in accordance with NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code. Guest rooms with communication features are also required (section 806.3.2) to be equipped with visible notification devices that alert room occupants of incoming telephone calls and a door knock or bell.

Section 217.4.2-217.4.8 TTY's. The 2010 Standards requires that a building or facility provide at least one public TTY:

- on each floor that has four or more public telephones, and in each telephone bank that has four or more telephones or in an exterior site;
- where at least one public pay telephone is provided at: a public rest stop, emergency roadside stop, or service plaza, a hospital emergency room, a hospital recovery room, or a hospital waiting room, an entrance to a bus or rail facility;
- In airports, where four or more public pay phones are located in a terminal outside the security areas, in a concourse within the security areas, or a baggage claim area in a terminal.

For more information about the ADA, including the 2010 ADA Standards, visit DOJ's website www.ada.gov.