

**Most rooms are up to code when constructed, so why do people with disabilities continue to have access issues?**

Some problems may arise during renovations, while others are created accidentally through the shifting of everyday objects in the workplace.

Don't forget that chairs, floor fans, book bags, extension cords, and other little items can be barriers to those who cannot easily avoid them or move them.

Additionally, someone with a visual impairment may not be aware of



objects protruding from walls or hanging from a ceiling. These objects may be signs, hanging shelves, door closing mechanisms, wall fans, etc. Regulations vary depending on circumstances, so be certain to check for specific requirements.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS**

While architectural regulations are based on measurements for people using wheelchairs, they are also applicable to people walking with crutches, canes, and guide dogs. Small pieces of furniture and other objects temporarily placed in the "path of travel" should be considered as possible barriers.

**Doorways**

Minimum of 32" wide.

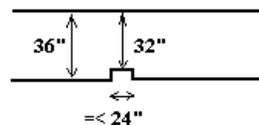
**Aisles**

The laws make little direct reference to aisles. Therefore, the following dimensions are based on passing space and turning radius.

**Path of travel** (*free of obstructions*)

36" width for a continuous passage less than or equal to 200 feet.

32" width at a point (as long as the point does not exceed 24").



48" width for a person in a wheelchair to pass a person walking.

60" width for two wheelchairs to pass.

**Turns**

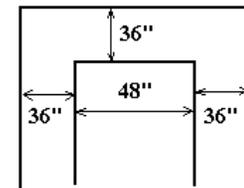
**360°** 60" x 60".

**90°** from one continuous passageway to a second continuous passageway: 36" x 36".

**180°** (around an obstacle such as a table or wall):

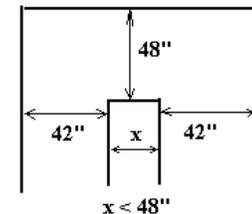
*Scenario 1*

If the obstacle is 48" or greater, each passageway is 36".



*Scenario 2*

If the obstacle is less than 48", the parallel passages are 42" and the perpendicular passage is 48".



## Accessible Workstations

ADA mandates that 5% of fixed seating (or parking) in any facility be made handicapped accessible.

Therefore, if there are 1 - 20 seats available 1 must be made accessible; if there are 21 – 40 seats, 2 must be accessible, etc.

### Tables/Counters

While there are discrepancies between the ADA, CMR-521, and ACL recommendations, the following dimensions describe a reasonable desk/countertop.

Height <sup>1</sup>	27”
Tabletop	28-34”
Depth	18-36”
Width	36-60” <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> measure from floor to under the table

<sup>2</sup> depends on workstation

### Computers

If visitors to your area are expected to use a computer, a larger monitor (19” - 26”) and large letter keypad decals may be sufficient accommodations for anyone with a moderate visual impairment. More advanced screen magnification technologies are available, but users without special training will probably avoid such software.

*For more information, contact:*

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# CAN I GET TO YOU?

Checking the accessibility of your  
room, lab or office



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