



Accessible Solutions

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Introduction

This space is normally to inform you about our company but as a service we want to inform you about a new law that went into effect September 1, 2003. SB193 requires that if you are on a road with two or more lanes and are approaching an emergency vehicle stopped on the roadside with its lights flashing, you must: (1) Vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle if it's safe to do so; (2) Slow down if it's not safe to change lanes. You must reduce your speed to at least 20 mph below the posted limit if the speed limit is 25 mph or higher. If you're on a freeway with a 60-mph speed limit, you need to slow to 40 mph before passing; (3) Slow down to 5 mph if the speed limit is lower than 25 mph. Failure to do so may result in a fine up to \$200.00. To date there have been no media campaigns so motorists learn about it from co-workers who have been cited on their way to work.
(Source: Fort Worth Star Telegram)

Technical Memo 03-02 issued June 6 by TDLR

Toilet Room and Bathrooms

Both TAS 4.22.2 and TAS 4.23.2 state that "doors shall not swing into the clear floor space required for any fixture". This provision is intended to apply to all doors in a toilet room or bathroom including toilet stall doors; however, the reference to clear floor space only applies to the accessible fixtures. Doors are not prohibited from swinging into the floor area at inaccessible fixtures in a toilet room or bathroom.

The above referenced TAS requirements also apply to single user toilet rooms and bathrooms. However, as allowed by TAS 2.2 Equivalent Facilitation, TDLR will permit doors to encroach into the clear floor space at accessible fixtures in single user toilet rooms and bathrooms provided there is 30"x48" of clear floor space beyond the arc of the door swing that allows someone in a wheelchair to travel clear of the entry door. This alternative design provides substantially equivalent usability and is acceptable as an equivalent facilitation, but a Variance Application is no longer required.

Technical Tip

TAS Section 4.3.10 Egress is explained further in 4.1.3(8)(a)(ii) where exits required by building/fire codes must be accessible. This is for new construction. Remember that first time finish-out and an addition are considered new construction and may require ramps rather than stairs to accommodate changes in level from floor to accessible routes.

From the "Did You Know" Dept.

1. A female Kangaroo is called a Flyer
2. A camel has 3 eyelids
3. Smelling bananas and/or apples can help you lose weight

Source: SNAPPLE.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Does a Church have to be accessible?

Yes, to the maximum extent required by Administrative Rule 68.30

How many exam rooms in a doctor's/dentist office are required to comply with the Standards?

All exam rooms must be accessible per TAS 4.1.1(a).

Is an apartment complex project required to comply with TAS?

Generally, only the leasing office of the apartment complex must comply (i.e. the area of public accommodation). If, however, the complex is constructed utilizing public funds, then the entire facility must comply with applicable TAS.

Where are visual alarms required?

Visual alarms are required when a facility is equipped with an emergency warning system. At a minimum, visual appliances are required in restrooms, meeting rooms, hallways, lobbies, and other common use areas.

NEED A WEEKEND GET-AWAY???

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|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Stock Show & Rodeo—San Antonio | February 6-22 | • Dogwood Trails Festival-Palestine | March 19-21, 26-28, Apr 2-4 |
| • Mardi Gras! - Galveston | February 13-24 | • Strawberry Festival—Poteet | April 2-4 |
| • Jaycees Rattlesnake Roundup-Sweetwater | March 12-14 | • Western Heritage Classic—Abilene | May 6-9 |