

2013 California Building Code Accessibility Provisions as Alternate Means and Methods

PR 13-03

Revised: October 3, 2013

Division of the State Architect (DSA) Procedures document processes or a series of steps that DSA staff and/or external stakeholders must complete to fulfill one or more administrative requirements of DSA's plan and construction review programs.

PURPOSE: California Government Code Section 4450 (f) and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 11B, Section 1101B.1(2): provide regulations governing the use of alternative design and technologies for projects under the jurisdiction of the Division of the State Architect (DSA).

This Procedure provides instruction on utilizing an option for the use of select accessibility provisions from the 2013 California Building Code, Chapter 11B and related sections as alternate means and methods for projects that have been reviewed and approved under the 2010 or earlier editions of the California Building Code.

See Section 4 for the applicability of this procedure to your existing project.

BACKGROUND: The 2013 California Building Code was approved by the California Building Standards Commission on January 24, 2013 with an effective date of January 1, 2014.

The 2013 California Building Code accessibility provisions, found in Chapter 11B and related sections, utilized the guidelines from the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards as their model code. A number of technical requirements previously expressed as absolute dimensions in both the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards and prior editions of the California Building Code were changed to dimensional ranges in the 2013 California Building Code. The dimensional ranges establish reasonable tolerances for field conditions while maintaining the required levels of accessibility.

For projects with DSA-approved construction documents based upon the 2010 or prior editions of the California Building Code, the 2013 CBC accessibility requirements for the building and facility elements noted in Table 1 of this procedure may now be used as pre-approved Alternate Means and Methods in lieu the comparable provisions of the 2010 or prior CBC.

DEFINITIONS: The following definitions apply to terms used in this document:

ARCHITECT, ENGINEER– an abbreviated use of the term Design Professional in General Responsible Charge

DESIGN PROFESSIONAL IN GENERAL RESPONSIBLE CHARGE – the architect or engineer in general responsible charge of the project, as listed on Line 22 or 24 of form [DSA 1](#)

DSA APPROVAL - While all portions of the construction documents may contain a DSA identification stamp, this stamp is not the approval. The DSA approval is indicated by a letter to the district. This letter clarifies that the approval is limited to Structural Safety, Fire/Life Safety and Accessibility.

The DSA approval letter states: *"Buildings constructed in accordance with approved drawings and specifications will meet minimum required standard given in Title 24, California Code of Regulations, for structural, and fire and life safety...and...certifies*

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that the drawings and specifications are in compliance with State regulations for the reasonable accommodation of the disabled."

DSA APPROVED CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS – portions of plans, specifications, addenda, deferred submittals, revisions, and construction change documents (CCDs), duly approved by DSA, that contain information related to, and affecting Structural Safety, Fire/Life Safety, and Accessibility

PROJECT INSPECTOR – an inspector who is certified by, and specifically approved by, DSA to provide competent, adequate and continuous construction inspections for the project

1. **Conditions for Use of 2013 California Building Code Accessibility Provisions as Pre-approved Alternative Means and Methods:**

- 1.1. DSA review and approval of the project's DSA approved construction documents was based upon their compliance with the accessibility provisions of the 2010 or earlier edition of the California Building Code.

2. **Duties of the Design Professional in General Responsible Charge**

- 2.1 **Completion of Form DSA 140** - Architect or Engineer shall complete submit Form [DSA 140](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/Forms.aspx) (which can be found on the DSA website at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/Forms.aspx>.) as follows:

- Indicate CCD number, DSA file number, DSA application number and date of submission at top of form;
- Complete Items 1 through 4 with the required project information;
- Complete Item 5 with the signature of the Design Professional in General Responsible Charge;
- Complete Item 6, "Brief Description of Construction Change," with the following language: "Use of 2013 California Building Code Accessibility Provisions as Preapproved Alternative Means and Methods."
- Complete Item 7, "List of Attachments," with the following language: "Table 1 – Alternate Means and Methods for Accessibility Elements with Explicit Requirements Under 2010 and Prior California Building Codes," and list the applicable item "Ref" numbers from Appendix A, Table 1.
- Complete Item 8, "List of DSA Approved Documents affected by this CCD."

- 2.2 **Submission of Form DSA 140** - Architect or Engineer shall submit form DSA 140 to the DSA Regional Office overseeing the project in accordance with IR A-6, Construction Change Document Submittal and Approval Process. The DSA Regional Office will review and indicate approval by stamping the first page of the form and entering Access reviewer initials.

- 2.3 **Distribution** - Architect or Engineer shall provide the contractor and the project inspector with copies of the DSA approved form DSA 140 with attachments.

3. **SUBMISSION**

- 3.1 **Submittal of Form DSA 140:** This form shall be sent to the DSA Regional Office with the construction oversight authority for the project in accordance with IR-A6, Construction Change Document Submittal and Approval Process.

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3.2 Electronic Submittal to DSABox: For projects utilizing the DSABox, form DSA 140 may be uploaded electronically; for DSABox instructions see [DSABox External User Guide for Active Construction Projects](#) for the availability of this option. All documents submitted to DSABox shall be in PDF format.

4. APPLICABILITY OF PROCEDURE PR 13-03:

4.1 This Procedure is applicable to and may be utilized for projects with DSA Approved Construction Documents based upon the 2010 or prior editions of the California Building Code.

APPENDIX

Appendix A – Alternate Means and Methods for Accessibility Elements with Explicit Requirements Under 2010 and Prior California Building Codes

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Appendix A – Alternate Means and Methods for Accessibility Elements with Explicit Requirements Under 2010 and Prior California Building Codes

In lieu of applying the provisions of the 2010 or prior California Building Codes, the comparable technical requirements and dimensions from the 2013 California Building Code accessibility provisions listed in Table 1 below may be used as Alternate Means and Methods for projects that have been reviewed and approved under the 2010 or earlier editions of the California Building Code.

Select the applicable item in the table and enter its “Ref #” into Item 7 of the CCD (form DSA 140).

Table 1 – Alternate Means and Methods for Accessibility Elements with Explicit Requirements Under 2010 and Prior California Building Codes

Ref #	Description of Element	Application of 2013 CBC Accessibility Provisions with Code Reference
1	Level Floor and Ground Surfaces	In lieu of the 2 percent (1:50) maximum slope required under previous codes, floor and ground surfaces may be 2.083 percent (1:48) maximum slope under the 2013 CBC; see Chapter 11B - Various Sections.
2	Accessible Route to Press Boxes	An accessible route to press boxes shall not be required in bleachers that have points of entry at only one level, provided that the aggregate area of all press boxes is 500 square feet maximum; see 11B-206.2.7 - Press Boxes Exception 1.
3	Accessible Route to Press Boxes	An accessible route shall not be required to free-standing press boxes that are elevated above grade 12 feet minimum, provided that the aggregate area of all press boxes is 500 square feet maximum; see 11B-206.2.7 Press Boxes Exception 2.
4	Ramp Landing Dimension at Change in Direction	In lieu of the 72 inches minimum dimension for both upward and downward travel directions, intermediate ramp landings may be 60 inches minimum by 72 inches minimum in the direction of downward travel from the upper ramp run, see 11B-405.7.4 Change in Direction and Figure 11B-405.7 Ramp Landings.
5	Van Parking Stall and Access Aisle – Dimensions	In lieu of providing a 9-foot-wide by 18-foot-long van accessible parking space with an 8-foot-wide by full-length access aisle, a 12-foot-wide by 18-foot-long van accessible parking space with a 5-foot-wide by full-length access aisle may be provided in compliance with 11B-502.2 Vehicle Spaces.
6	Accessible Parking Space Identification Signs	In lieu of being centered on the space it serves, a parking identification sign may be located either immediately adjacent to the parking space or within the projected parking space width at the head end of the parking space. Signs may also be permanently posted on a wall at the interior end of the parking space, see 11B-502.6.3 - Location.
7	Parking – Size of ISA	In lieu of providing an International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) with absolute 36-inch by 36-inch dimensions as the ground surface identification at accessible parking spaces, a 36-inch minimum by 36-inch minimum ISA may be provided in compliance with 11B-502.6.4 - Marking.

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Ref #	Description of Element	Application of 2013 CBC Accessibility Provisions with Code Reference
8	Handrail Clearance	In lieu of an absolute 1½ inches space, the clearance between handrail gripping surfaces and adjacent surfaces may be 1½ inches minimum; see 11B-505.5 - Clearance.
9	Handrails with Non-Circular Cross Sections	In lieu of handrails with gripping surfaces with nominal cross-sectional dimensions of 1¼- to 1½-inch, handrail gripping surfaces with non-circular cross sections may be provided in compliance with 11B-505.7.2 - Non-Circular Cross Sections.
10	Handrail Extensions	Handrail extensions shall not be required for continuous handrails at the inside turn of switchback ramps; see 11B-505.10 - Handrail Extensions Exception 1.
11	Drinking Fountain	Drinking fountains may be provided in compliance with 11B-602 - Drinking Fountains.
12	Water Closet Location	In lieu of an absolute dimension of 18 inches, accessible water closets may be located with their centerline 17 inches minimum to 18 inches maximum from the adjacent sidewall or partition; see 11B-604.2 - Location and Figure 11B-604.2 Water Closet Location (a) Wheelchair Accessible Water Closets.
13	Water Closet Rear Wall Grab Bar	In lieu of a continuous 36-inch minimum length rear grab bar at the wall behind a water closet, the rear grab bar may be 24 inches long minimum, centered on the water closet, where the wall space does not permit a length of 36 inches minimum due to the location of a recessed fixture adjacent to the water closet per 11B-604.5.2 - Rear Wall Exception 1.
14	Water Closet Rear Wall Grab Bar	In lieu of a continuous 36-inch minimum length grab bar at the rear wall of a water closet, where an administrative authority requires flush controls for flush valves to be located in a position that conflicts with the location of the rear grab bar, then the rear grab bar may be split or shifted to the open side of the toilet area per 11B-604.5.2 - Rear Wall Exception 2.
15	Toilet Paper Dispenser Location	In lieu of being located within 12 inches of the water closet and 36 inches maximum from the wall behind it, toilet paper dispensers may be located 7 inches minimum to 9 inches maximum in front of the water closet measured to the centerline of the dispenser; see 11B-604.7 – Dispensers, and Figure 11B-604.7 - Dispenser Outlet Location.
16	Ambulatory Accessible Compartment	In lieu of an absolute width of 36 inches at ambulatory accessible water closet compartments, the width may be 35 inches minimum and 37 inches maximum in compliance with 11B-604.8.2.1 - Size.
17	Grab Bar Spacing from Adjacent Wall or Partition	In lieu of an absolute 1½-inch spacing where a “L” or “U” shaped grab bar is used, the space between the walls and grab bar may be 1½ inches minimum for a distance of 6 inches on either side of the inside corner between two adjacent wall surfaces; see 11B-609.3 - Spacing Exception 2.
19	Shower Seat Height	In lieu of an absolute mounting height above the shower floor of 18 inches, the top of shower seats may be 17 inches minimum and 19 inches maximum above the bathroom finish floor; see 11B-610.3 - Shower Compartment Seats.

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Ref #	Description of Element	Application of 2013 CBC Accessibility Provisions with Code Reference
20	Shower Compartment Seat Dimensions	In lieu of other rectangular or L-shaped seat dimensions for accessible shower compartments, shower compartment seats may be provided in compliance with 11B-610.3 - Shower Compartment Seats.
21	Installation Height of Signs with Tactile Characters	In lieu of an absolute mounting height above the finish floor of 60 inches, measured to the centerline of the sign, signs with tactile characters may be located 48 inches minimum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the lowest Braille cells and 60 inches maximum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the highest line of raised characters; see 11B-703.4.1- Height Above Finish Floor or Ground , and Figure 11B-703.4.1 - Height of Tactile Characters Above Finish Floor or Ground.
22	Signs – Raised Characters Proportions	In lieu of a width-to-height ratio of 60 - 100 percent, raised characters on signs may be selected from fonts where the width of the uppercase letter “O” is 60 percent minimum and 110 percent maximum of the height of the uppercase letter “I”; see provisions for raised characters at 11B-703.2.4 - Character Proportions.
23	Signs – Visual Characters Proportions	In lieu of a width-to-height ratio of 60 - 100 percent, visual characters on signs may be selected from fonts where the width of the uppercase letter “O” is 60 percent minimum and 110 percent maximum of the height of the uppercase letter “I”; see the provisions on visual characters at 11B-703.5.4 - Character Proportions.
24	Geometric Symbols on Toilet and Bathing Facilities Doors	In lieu of an absolute mounting height above the finish floor of 60 inches, measured to the centerline of the symbol, geometric symbols may be mounted at 58 inches minimum and 60 inches maximum above the finish floor or ground surface measured from the centerline of the symbol; see 11B-703.7.2.6 - Toilet and Bathing Facilities Geometric Symbols.
25	Bench Seat Height	In lieu of an absolute height of 18 inches above the finish floor, the top of a bench seat surface may be 17 inches minimum and 19 inches maximum above the bathroom finish floor; see the provisions for the benches at 11B-903.5 - Height.