

# Guidance for ADA Compliance

The ADA does not require Accessible Pedestrian Signals and Pedestrian Pushbuttons to be installed. However, installation of the APS needs to be addressed in the planning process for the project. If APS and Ped Buttons are to be installed or are existing, they must comply with the PROWAG and the MUTCD. (Where pedestrian signals are provided at pedestrian street crossings, they shall include accessible pedestrian signals and pedestrian pushbuttons complying with Sections 4E.08 through 4E.13 of the MUTCD. See R209.1) See Note 1 regarding Curb Ramps and Sidewalks.

## Alterations

Existing pedestrian signals shall comply with R209.1 when the signal controller and software are altered, or the signal head is replaced. See R209.2

## Protruding Objects

Where objects are mounted on free-standing posts or pylons and the objects are 2.25 ft. minimum and 6.7 ft. maximum above the finish surface, the objects shall overhang pedestrian circulation paths 4" maximum measured horizontally from the post or pylon base. The base dimension shall be 2.5" thick minimum. Where objects are mounted between posts or pylons and the clear distance between the posts or pylons is greater than 1.0 ft., the lowest edge of the object shall be 2.25 ft. maximum or 6.7 ft. minimum above the finish surface. See R402.3.

## Reach Ranges

Where a forward reach is unobstructed, the high forward reach shall be 4.0 ft. maximum and the low forward reach shall be 1.25 ft. minimum above the finish surface. Forward reach over an obstruction is not permitted. See R406.2.

Where a clear space allows a parallel approach to an element and the side reach is unobstructed, the high side reach shall be 4 ft. maximum and the low side reach shall be 1.25 ft. minimum above the finish surface. An obstruction shall be permitted between the clear space and the element where the depth of the obstruction is 10" maximum. See R406.3.

## Clear Space

Surface of clear spaces shall be firm, stable and slip resistant and must comply with R302.7. The running slope shall be consistent with the grade of the adjacent pedestrian access route and cross slope of 2% maximum. See R404.2

Clear spaces shall be 2.5 ft. minimum by 4.0 ft. minimum. See R404.3. See Note 2.

## Pedestrian Signal Phase Timing

All pedestrian signal phase timing shall comply with section 4E.06 of the MUTCD and shall be based on a pedestrian clearance time that is calculated using a pedestrian walking speed of 3.5 ft. / second or less. See R306.2.

1. **Curb Ramps** - When there are pedestrian elements being planned for installation and/or that are existing, we must ensure there are no physical barriers. Therefore, curb ramps and a clear space must be installed. This is something that should be addressed within the project planning process to make sure that the ADA process was addressed. If the intersection is within a rural area where there is no pedestrian activity and an APS or pushbutton is not necessary, please follow adequate procedures to make a note in the file and have that particular area added into the ADA Transition Plan to be re-evaluated at a later date.

**Sidewalks** - Installing signals does not trigger installing sidewalks unless the project includes adding curb ramps that will tie into a non-compliant sidewalk that would further cause non-compliance. In this case, sidewalks must be addressed, whether we add this to the scope of the project or we work with the municipality toward compliance which could include adding to their transition plan. Sidewalks should be addressed within the project planning process to make sure that the ADA process was addressed. This includes consideration for new sidewalks and/or bringing existing sidewalk into compliance. If this process was addressed but sidewalks were deemed un-necessary, document the project file and continue the project without any additional ADA Modifications.

2. **R302.7 Surfaces.** The surfaces of pedestrian access routes and elements and spaces required to comply with R302.7 that connect to pedestrian access routes shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant and shall comply with R302.7.

**R302.7.1 Vertical Alignment.** Vertical alignment shall be generally planar within pedestrian access routes (including curb ramp runs, blended transitions, turning spaces, and gutter areas within pedestrian access routes) and surfaces at other elements and spaces required to comply with R302.7 that connect to pedestrian access routes. Grade breaks shall be flush. Where pedestrian access routes cross rails at grade, the pedestrian access route surface shall be level and flush with the top of rail at the outer edges of the rails, and the surface between the rails shall be aligned with the top of rail.

**R302.7.2 Vertical Surface Discontinuities.** Vertical surface discontinuities shall be 13 mm (0.5 in) maximum. Vertical surface discontinuities between 6.4 mm (0.25 in) and 13 mm (0.5 in) shall be beveled with a slope not steeper than 50 percent. The bevel shall be applied across the entire vertical surface discontinuity.

**R302.7.3 Horizontal Openings.** Horizontal openings in gratings and joints shall not permit passage of a sphere more than 13 mm (0.5 in) in diameter. Elongated openings in gratings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.

**R302.7.4 Flangeway Gaps.** Flangeway gaps at pedestrian at-grade rail crossings shall be 64 mm (2.5 in) maximum on non-freight rail track and 75 mm (3 in) maximum on freight rail track.