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**NC ACCESSIBILITY CODE**  
2012 NC Bldg Code Ch. 11  
2009 ICC/ANSI A117.1  
**Mandatory:** 1 Jun 2012

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#### 2010 ADA STANDARDS:

- Mandatory 3/15/12
- Copy available: [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)

#### Individual Highlights

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## Automatic Door Actuator Location

There are many who believe that automatic doors are a code requirement, which they are not.

**Q:** I am reviewing a university project that shows the exterior door actuator on a sidewall about 10' from the entrance door. It seems that by the time a person reaches the door after pressing the button it would begin closing. I have been unable to find a code reference or diagram that shows the required location for the door actuator control. Do you know of a code requirement, ADA or ICC A117.1 requirement or DOI opinion that covers this situation?

**A:** The basic requirement is that the door actuator control s be located outside the swing of the door that it operates, and that it allow sufficient time for the person to navigate through the door; otherwise, it does not work. ANSI 105.2.4 Power Operated Pedestrian Doors references ANSI/BHMA A156.10-1999 as the standard to use in this situation. DOI does not have a copy of the standard to see if there is a set distance for the door actuator control from the door swing. Design sense tells the following in location, the door actuator control shall be:

1. Beyond the swing of the door that it operates [ANSI 404.3.5], and
2. The timing of the door opening shall be extended accordingly if the location of the door actuator control is placed beyond the swing of the door [ANSI 404.2.3], and
3. If the door actuator control is placed at a vestibule entrance or exit, it shall activate the doors in sequence. [ANSI 404.2.5]

Keep in mind that automatic doors may be used to resolve non-compliant push/pull situations at doors. Also, some new actuators have vertical bars that allow actuation from the toe push point all the way up to the more familiar hand push pad location.

## NCBC 1108.2.9 Accessible Bars

Accessible dining areas have become more of an issue of late. Whether it is because more of us are dining out or because the requirement in the **2012 NCBC** is split between two pages – who knows?

Either way, once again, some of the pertinent language that used to be in the **2004 NC Accessibility Code** is tucked away in the IBC Commentary for this section and is what seems to be creating some misunderstandings.

**NCBC 1108.2.9** requires that

all dining and seating areas be accessible. There are exceptions addressing mezzanine seating and sports facilities, but that is not the focus of this article.

**NCBC 1108.2.9.1** states that *Where dining surfaces for the consumption of food or drink are provided, at least 5 per cent but not less than one, of the dining surfaces for seating and standing spaces shall be accessible and be distributed around the facility and located on a level accessible by an accessible route.*

If accessible seating is located adjacent to the bar area, and the service provided at the seating area is the same, then the bar area is not required to be made accessible. [See **IBC Commentary 1108.2.9**]

If, however, there is a different service provided at the bar (such as a Sushi bar sometimes does in preparing sushi on-site), then accessible seating is required at the bar unless there is similar service provided at the adjacent tables.



*"The code intends that the accessible portion be integral with the remainder of the counter."*



## Reception Counter Access

Earlier newsletters have discussed the use of **ANSI 904** for reception counters [Vol 2, Issue 5]. That issue briefly touched on the 36" minimum length and the 36" maximum height AFF required by **ANSI 904.3.1**.

Where check writing services or similar functions occur at the counter, **ANSI 904.4.3** refers you back to **ANSI 902.3** for a 28" minimum to a 34" maximum counter height.

The issue that keeps popping up is this: that the accessible portion of the counter is required to be located where a person would logically approach the counter to do business, to ask for information, to pay a bill, to check out, to do whatever function is required at the counter if that person were an able-bodied person.

Just because the person doing that same business, or asking for information, or

paying a bill, or checking out, or doing whatever function is required at the counter is a person with a disability does not mean that it is acceptable to have the accessible portion of the counter at the end or around the corner of the counter.

The code intends that the accessible portion of the counter be integral with the remainder of the counter. Design accordingly, please.

## 2009 NCBC 1103.2.3 Exam Room Lav

This is another one of these questions that seem to pop up now and again.

**Q:** Are there any exceptions to ANSI's 606.3 for private physicians' exam rooms? Can those lavatories be 36 inches instead of the 34 inches required by ANSI 606?

**A:** A lavatory in a medical exam room is addressed under 2009 NCBC 1103.2.3 and is not required to be accessible as it is considered a place of work equipment. The height may be 36" or whatever is comfortable for the physician. In larger medical offices, it may be cost-effective to consider the option of designing a portion, say 5 %, of the exam room lavatories at the accessible height of 34 inches. This way, if an on-staff physician develops a temporary or permanent injury, becomes disabled, or the practice hires a physician with a disability which needs accommodation, the exam room lavatories do not require any alterations that may disrupt the practice at an inconvenient time.

The decision whether to do so or not then becomes a design choice between the designer and the building owner or the tenant.

## Which Access Codes are We Using???

Somehow this question keeps popping up again and again...

**Q:** Now that it is 2012, which code are we under. **2012 NCBC - Chapter 11** with **ANSI 117.1 2009** or **2010 ADA Standards** or both of them?

**A:** NC is using: **2012 NCBC - Chapter 11** which references **ANSI 117.1 2009**  
USDOJ is using: **2010 ADA Standards**

Local AHJs have to enforce **2012 NCBC + 2009 ANSI A117.1** on non-city or county-related projects.

Local AHJs have to comply with both **2012 NCBC + 2009 ANSI A117.1** and the **2010 ADA Standards** for any city or county-related projects. There may be minor differences.

# Accessible Rinsing Showers at Pools

- Q:** We are working on a new outdoor in-ground pool project that includes men's and women's restrooms and an outdoor rinse shower. If this facility is required to be accessible, what do we need to provide for the health department rinse shower located on the exterior wall of the restroom building?
- A :** The facility is a common use area and is required to be accessible. 2012 **NCBC 1103.1** does require that *Sites, buildings structures, facilities, elements and spaces, temporary or permanent, shall be accessible to persons with physical disabilities.* For situations that are not specifically addressed in either the **NC Building Code** or in **ANSI**, both **NC Admin Code Section 105.1** and **ANSI 103** permit the use of alternate material where the alternates provide equivalent or greater access and are approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

In this particular case, the **US Access Board** [www.access-board.gov] has specifically addressed the issue of outdoor rinse showers in their **Outdoor Developed Areas Guidelines**. The easy way to locate the information on *rinsing showers* once you find the document is to press Control F, then when the search window opens in the upper left, type in *rinsing*, and that word will be hi-lited throughout the document.

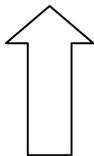
While grab bars are not required since there is no need to make any transfer, as in a transfer shower, it may be prudent to add a bar at an accessible height for someone to grasp onto while rinsing feet off, since the surface below is likely to be slippery. This is not a requirement, however. The typical requirement is a minimum 60" by 60" pad centered on the shower head. The outdoor rinsing shower should be located so that the shower pedestal or the wall with the shower head is at the rear end of the space. The Guideline text does state the following:

**1011.7 Outdoor Rinsing Showers.** Outdoor rinsing showers shall provide at least two fixed shower heads. One fixed shower head shall be 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum and 54 inches (1370 mm) maximum above the ground surface, and one fixed shower head shall be 72 inches (1830 mm) minimum above the ground surface.

**EXCEPTION:** A hand-held shower spray unit complying with 608.6 shall be permitted instead of the fixed shower head 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum and 54 inches (1370 mm) maximum above the ground surface.

The reference is to the 2010 ADA Standards Section 608.6, which is similar to 2009 ANSI 608.5.

Remember, since this is an alternate method, use of the above will require approval by the local authority having jurisdiction.



## 1/4" Constr Tolerance

**ANSI 104.2** addresses issues concerning construction tolerance for all dimensions typically used within the standard. The language states:

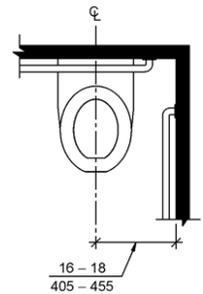
**104.2 Dimensions.** *Dimensions that are not stated as "maximum" or "minimum" area absolute. (check this wording?) All dimensions are subject to convention industry tolerances.*

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, **Dominic Marinelli, United Spinal Associates**, gave a seminar at the **McKimmon Center in**

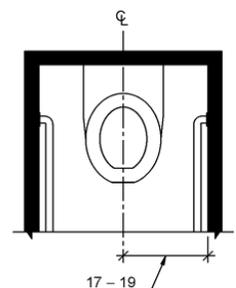
**Raleigh** at which he presented a day long romp through the **2012 NC Building Code** and **2009 ANSI A117.1** provisions. One of the items that **Dominic** commented on – and he is a member of the **A117 Committee** – so his ear would be closer to those making these statements, is that the **US Access Board** guidance on construction tolerance for water closets is as follows:

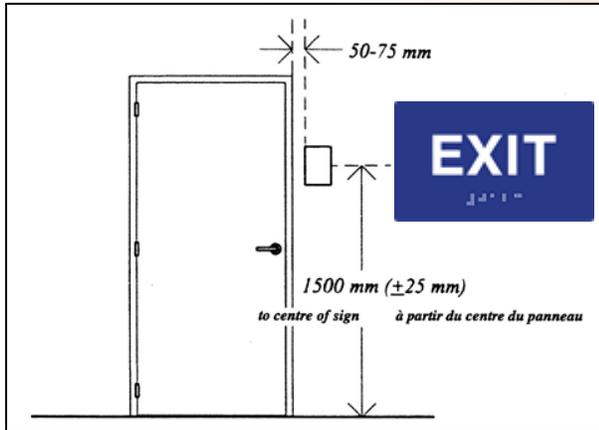
**The construction tolerance on the water closet centerline is 1/4" maximum.**

This is the maximum centerline tolerance for **ANSI 604.2** for either Accessible Water Closets



or Ambulatory Water Closets.





Even in Canada, the signage is required!  
Note the French and the metrics.



The Turney Evo, by the Swedish company Autoadapt, offers their accessible seat for use in the driver's seat. It is controlled with a handheld remote which can adjust the position of the seat, once inside the vehicle.



## App E107.2 Tactile Exit Signage at Stair Door

Remember that **2004 NCAC**

**NOTE 2** on Page 115 that required an **EXIT** sign at the entrance to a stairwell door since it was a permanent room? Well, the requirement did not go away just because the code changed two years ago. But where are the signs?

The original **NCAC 18.1.1** requirement has now become tucked away into the 2009 and now the 2012 Appendix E107.2. This section requires that permanent rooms be identified with

tactile signs identifying the spaces. Since exit stairs are considered permanent rooms, the sign is required on the strike jamb side of the entrance door going into the stair well.

A complying exit door will have an exit sign over the door as well as the tactile one mounted **per ANSI 703.4.5**. This will allow someone with visual impairments to find the exit and exit the building.

## NCBC 3409.8.3 Stair Lifts

On August 11, 2011, the **NC Building Code Council** approved the use of stair lifts in alterations of churches, religious entities, and private clubs.

The revised **NCBC 3409.8.3** language will be in the **2015 NC Building Code**. However, anyone wishing to use a stair lift before that time may do so by making a request to the local Authority Having

Jurisdiction under the **2012 NC Administrative Code Section 102.5 Interim Use of Approved Codes**.

Keep in mind that the stair lift, in the down position, cannot obstruct the required egress width.

A handout is provided on the **Access Update** webpage for your convenience with the specific code language and information.

## Submitting Requests for Interpretation

When submitting requests for interpretation, sometimes it is necessary to become a little bit of a mind reader in order to determine exactly what the requesting individual is asking about. Oh yes, you are familiar with the project, because you have

agonized or puzzled over it for a while, but for the Code Interpretation Consultant it becomes an instant pop quiz every time an e-mail is opened or the phone rings. Now, in between two code editions, it becomes a real challenge to determine

what you are looking for. This information would be helpful:

1. Year edition of code being used (2009/20012).
2. Year edition of ANSI Std. being used (2003/2009).
3. If residential (or not):
  - a. Occupancy type (specific classification, if possible)
  - b. Type of dwelling unit (A or B).
  - c. Whether dwelling units are for rent or for sale.
4. A plan, if you have one (pdf or jpeg).
5. The entire plan (not what you think we need to see).

This will make it so very much easier. Thank you!