



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:

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Single Family Development CBU's

The previous issue of this newsletter detailed a USPS-NCDOI-ANSI agreement regarding access to mailboxes in common use areas in single family developments. The agreement was intended to be applicable to all exterior common use mailboxes throughout the state. Since then, USPS HQ in Washington, DC has indicated that a Task Force will be formed to address access to CBU's across the entire US as well as North Carolina. The previous joint agreement has been rescinded. The procedure detailed below will be enforced for access to Cluster Box Units (CBUs) in single family subdivisions throughout North Carolina until NCDOT has been notified of a decision by the USPS Task Force.

For exterior CBU's in single family developments only: [in effect until USPS Task Force resolution]

1. Provide accessible parking or passenger loading zone at CBU location.
2. Provide accessible route to the CBU (provide all the way around, if double-sided).
 - a. Provide clear floor area in front of the CBU – 30" x 48" [NCBC 1104.2 requires 48" minimum path of travel]
 - b. Provide 60" maneuvering space to be able to get into the clear floor space.
3. No reach ranges to CBU required.

NOTE:

- Item 2b required as the approach may be from the left/right, but if the individual is right-handed (or the reverse), s/he has to be able to turn around to operate the mechanism on the box.
- Provision of a 60" turning area at both ends of the CBU may be substituted for the 60" maneuvering clearance in front the CBU or on both sides of a 2-sided CBU.
- Keep in mind that interior common use mailboxes continue to be required to be accessible per NCBC App E105.4.

Parking Sign Mounting Heights

Q: For years, our firm has been mounting parking signage using the attached sketch that originally reflected the requirements for signage mounting heights in the 1999/2002/2004 NC Accessibility Code (the old Vol. I-C). Recently we were told that this detail does not work. There is no similar detail in the ANSI A117.1 standard. Have the requirements changed?

A: The 2009 ANSI A117.1 – Section 507.2 clarifies that the measurement *shall be 60" minimum above the floor of the parking space, measured to the bottom of the sign*. The requirement has been interpreted to mean 60" to the bottom of the lowest sign that is provided. Since there are no longer any Condition 1 or Condition 2 situations, if you wish to maintain the same diagram that you have been using, I would suggest replacing the Condition 1 and Condition 2 dimensions with a single 60" dimension measured to the bottom of the lowest sign (the Maximum Penalty Sign).

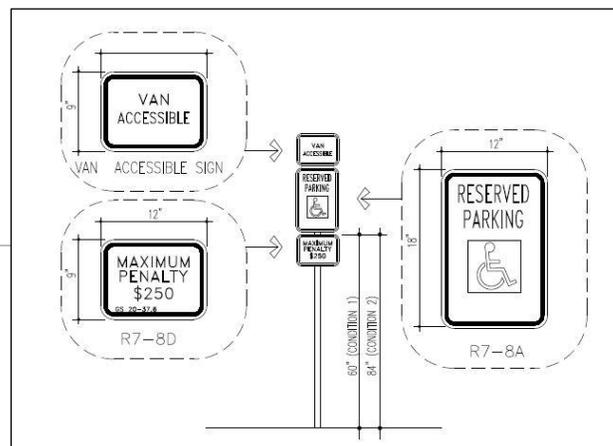


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NURSES' STATION



Nurses' Stations

It is always nice to know that readers look back over the previous newsletters to compare answers for similar situations.

Q: Would a Nurse's Station not meet the definition of an Employee work area 1103.2.3? I have read **NCBC 1104.3.1** and **ICC A117.1 - 904**. People don't check out at a Nurse's Station. Does one of your Newsletters address this?

A: Nurse's stations have not been covered in the newsletter yet. Consider that a nurse's station or a nurses' station is not much different than a receptionist's desk, to begin with, just more detailed. From the employee side, **NCBC 1103.2.3** is applicable in both cases (nurses' station and receptionist's desk). That means an employee is required to be able to approach, enter the space and exit the work space. A nurses' station has many more functions though.

Employee Work Areas. In the case of the nurses' station, it is also the common work area for many other hospital staff members who have to retrieve records, annotate charts, observe monitors, and write orders. As a result, **NCBC 1104.3.1** ensures that the employee common use circulation paths within the nurses' station have the accessible route that is required. Consider that some of these employees may bring equipment with them that cannot obstruct the hospital corridor while patient records are being checked. For example, there may be lab technicians with their carts, technicians with portable ex-ray machines and EKG technicians with EKG machines. As a result, the design of the area behind the counter maybe larger to allow for that circulation. Also, since the nurses' station is typically staffed round-the-clock on shifts, the desk is a common use work surface that is required to be accessible.

- ANSI 902 work surfaces.
- ANSI 403.5 for accessible route.

Reception/Information Functions. The side of the nurses' station open to the hospital corridor has several functions: this is where visitors come to inquire about patients; where patients come to inquire about – well, almost anything – and where general information is dispensed to the outside world. 'When is a test scheduled for Mr. Brown?' 'When is Dr. Sarakai returning from rounds?' 'How does my mother order dinner?' 'Is it all right if we gown the 2-year old to take her in to see her dad in Isolation?' Occasionally, personnel transporting patients to and from Radiology or some other department simply have to sign the patient out and back in at the nurses' station. Hospital personnel may make inquiries from both sides of the counter.

- ANSI 904.3 for a service counter.

Overall, the requirements end up being not too much different between a nurses' station and a receptionist's desk. It is a matter of looking more closely at the uses on both sides of the desk/counter in order to determine how to design or inspect the plan

NCBC App. E105.3 Vending Machines

Did you know that **NCBC App E105.3** addressed vending machines along with depositories, change machines and similar equipment?

The requirements are simply that – where provided – *at least one of each type of machine* comply with the **2009 ANSI A117.1**. This means *clear floor spaces, height and have*

*operable parts within reach ranges in accordance with Section **ANSI 309**...* [IBC Commentary]

Think self-service-machinery:

- library book returns
- laundry change machine
- soda machine

