



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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Standard for Measuring Required Accessible Slopes And/or Other Required Accessible Features

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin is intended to clarify the requirements for the fine grading, paving, concrete placement, and inspection procedures of required accessible sloped areas, as well as the requirements for other required accessible features.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

1. The California Building Code Chapters 11A and 11B establish general requirements for the maximum allowable slopes in required accessible paths of travel and parking areas. The required slopes and cross-slopes shall be maintained along the entire handicapped accessible area and shall not be limited to an overall conformance of the slope based on the total elevation change divided by the total length.
2. The measurements of the slope shall be made using a 24" level with a digital readout. The number and location of tests shall be at the discretion of the field inspector. There shall be no vertical displacements of 1/4" or greater beneath any 24" length being field verified for slope conformance.
3. At the request of the permit holder, the above measurements may be made using a 48" level or straight edge. There shall be no vertical displacements of 1/4" or greater beneath any 48" length being field verified for slope conformance.

Resolution of Disputed Situations

1. Experience has shown that it is not always possible for the authority having jurisdiction and the person constructing the project to come to agreement on accessibility requirements. The cause of this lack of agreement may be ambiguity in the requirements, ambiguity in the approved plans, or questions of acceptable tolerances. The approach below is not intended to substitute for inspection by the jurisdiction, but is a method which may be used to resolve disputed situations.
 - a. For accessible features deemed dimensionally non compliant, the permit holder may elect to have the licensed professional in responsible charge submit a document with his or her professional stamp and signature indicating justification for a finding of reasonable dimensional/construction tolerance and request the Building Official to determine whether or not the

tolerance is reasonable and acceptable. The authority to allow dimensional or construction tolerances for field (not design) conditions is based on regulation in both California Building Code §1101B.4 and Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, ADAAG §3.2. Further, the Building Official is responsible for interpreting acceptable conventional building industry tolerances (CBC §104.2.1).

REFERENCES

California Building Code Chapter 11A
California building Code Chapter 11B
American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines Chapter 3

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