

Texas Government Code, Chapter 469 and the Texas Accessibility Standards relate to non-ambulatory and semi-ambulatory disabilities, sight disabilities, hearing disabilities, disabilities of coordination, and aging.



- Detectable warnings surfaces on curb ramps warn persons with visual impairments or those that are temporarily distracted that they are entering a hazardous vehicular area.



- Volume controls help persons with hearing impairments as well as someone trying to make a call in a noisy airport.



- A hi-lo drinking fountain serves persons in wheelchairs and those who have difficulty bending or stooping.

People of all ages and abilities benefit from environments that are inclusive and accessible.

In conjunction with the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, TDLR has developed an "Access for All" decal.



The decal is distributed upon request by TDLR for newly constructed buildings and facilities when inspected and found to be in substantial compliance with the Texas Accessibility Standards.

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

P. O. Box 12157
Austin, TX 78711

Technical Information:

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(877) 278-0999 (Toll Free in Texas)

(512) 539-5669

(512) 539-5690 (Fax)

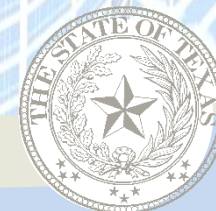
(800) 735-2989 (Relay Texas – TDD)

(800) 735-2988 (Relay Texas – Voice)



www.tdlr.texas.gov

Architectural Barriers



The following buildings and facilities are subject to compliance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 469 and the Texas Accessibility Standards:

- **Public Buildings and Facilities**

A building or facility used by the public that is constructed, renovated, or modified, in whole or in part, on or after January 1, 1970, using funds from the state or a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state;

- **State Leases**

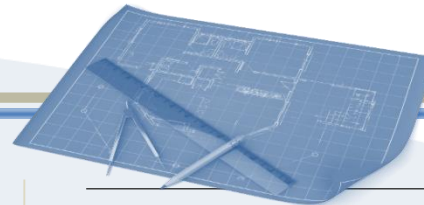
A building leased for use or occupied, in whole or in part, by the state under a lease or rental agreement entered into on or after January 1, 1972;

- **Public Accommodations**

A privately funded building or facility that is defined as a "public accommodation" by Section 301, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12181), and its subsequent amendments, and that is constructed, renovated, or modified on or after January 1, 1992;

- **Commercial Facilities**

A privately funded building or facility that is defined as a "commercial facility" by Section 301, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12181), and its subsequent amendments, and that is constructed, renovated, or modified on or after September 1, 1993.



REGISTERED ACCESSIBILITY SPECIALISTS

A person may not perform a plan review or inspection function of the department unless the person is a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS).

In addition to passing an exam and attending the Texas Accessibility Academy, an applicant seeking departmental certification as a RAS must meet any one of the following minimum qualifications:

(A) a degree in architecture, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture, or equivalent, and a minimum of one year experience related to building inspection, building planning, accessibility design or review, accessibility inspection, or equivalent; or

(B) eight years experience related to building inspection, building planning, accessibility design or review, accessibility inspection, or equivalent; or

(C) four years experience related to building inspection, building planning, accessibility design or review, accessibility inspection, or equivalent, and certification as an accessibility inspector/plans examiner granted by a model building code organization.



PLAN REVIEWS AND INSPECTIONS

All plans and specifications for the construction of or for the substantial renovation or modification of a building or facility must be submitted to a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) for review if:

- (1) the building or facility is subject to this chapter; and
- (2) the estimated construction cost is at least \$50,000.

The owner of a building or facility is responsible for having the building or facility inspected for compliance with the standards and specifications adopted by the commission under this chapter not later than the first anniversary of the date the construction or substantial renovation or modification of the building or facility is completed.

DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

The architect, registered interior designer, landscape architect, or engineer who has overall responsibility for the design of a constructed or reconstructed building or facility shall submit the plans and specifications to a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) not later than the 20th day after the date the person issues the plans and specifications.

TDLR must report to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, or another appropriate licensing authority the failure of a design professional to submit or resubmit in a timely manner plans and specifications to the department.

The mission of TDLR is to honor the trust of all Texans, ensure public safety and consumer protection, and provide a fair and efficient licensing and regulatory environment at the lowest possible cost.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The Texas Architectural Barriers Act was first adopted by the Texas legislature in 1969.
- The 2012 edition of the Texas Accessibility Standards became effective March 15, 2012.
- Compliance with the Texas Accessibility Standards is required in addition to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- The U.S. Department of Justice administers compliance with the ADA and the 2010 ADA.
- TDLR administers compliance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 469 and 2012 TAS.
- Building and facility owners have an obligation to comply with both state and federal accessibility laws and standards.