



Accessible Stadiums

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires **new** stadiums to be accessible to people with disabilities so they, their families, and friends can enjoy equal access to entertainment, recreation, and leisure.

This document highlights key accessibility requirements of the ADA that apply to new stadiums. Other accessibility requirements, such as those for parking lots, entrances, and rest rooms, also apply but these are the same as for other buildings. Compliance with all the accessibility requirements is essential to provide a basic level of access for people with disabilities.

To obtain a copy of the requirements for new stadiums and other facilities, contact the Department of Justice ADA Information Line at (800) 514-0301 voice or (800) 514-0383 TDD.

Key Features of Accessible Stadiums

Seating

- **Wheelchair accessible seating is required. At least one percent of the seating must be wheelchair seating locations.** Each wheelchair seating location is an open, level space that accommodates one person using a wheelchair and has a smooth, stable, and slip-resistant surface.
- **Accessible seating must be an integral part of the seating plan** so that people using wheelchairs are not isolated from other spectators or their friends or family.
- **A companion seat must be provided next to each wheelchair seating location.** The companion seat is a conventional seat that accommodates a friend or companion.
- **Wheelchair seating locations must be provided in all areas** including sky boxes and specialty areas.
- **Removable or folding seats can be provided in wheelchair seating locations for use by persons who do not use wheelchairs** so the facility does not lose revenue when not all wheelchair seating locations are ticketed to persons who use wheelchairs.
- **Whenever more than 300 seats are provided, wheelchair seating locations must be provided in more than one location.** This is known as dispersed seating. Wheelchair seating locations must be dispersed throughout all seating areas and provide a choice of admission prices and views comparable to those for the general public.

- **Wheelchair seating locations must be on an accessible route** that provides access from parking and transportation areas and that connects to all public areas, including concessions, restaurants, rest rooms, public telephones, and exits.
- **Wheelchair seating locations must provide lines of sight comparable to those provided to other spectators.** In stadiums where spectators can be expected to stand during the show or event (for example, football, baseball, basketball games, or rock concerts), all or substantially all of the wheelchair seating locations must provide a line of sight over standing spectators. A comparable line of sight, as illustrated in the figure below, allows a person using a wheelchair to see the playing surface between the heads and over the shoulders of the persons standing in the row immediately in front and over the heads of the persons standing two rows in front.

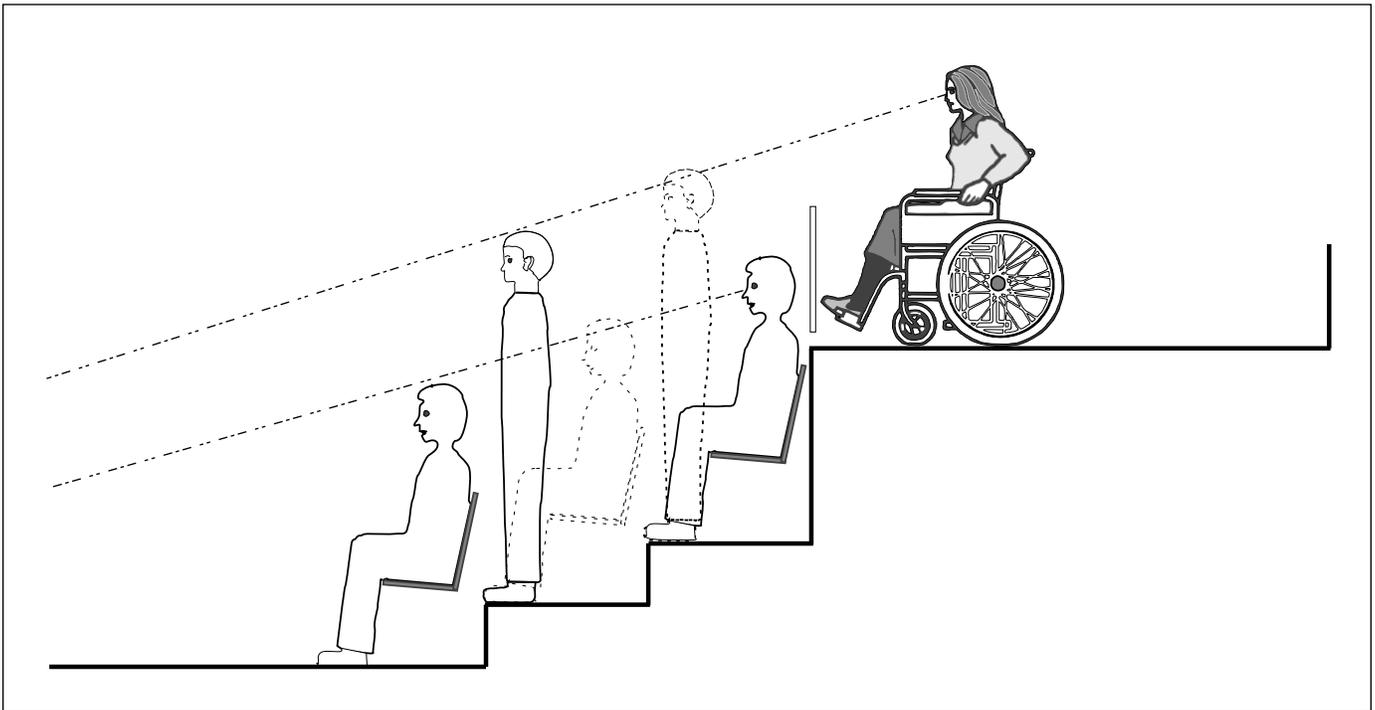


Figure Showing Comparable Line of Sight for Wheelchair Seating Location

- In addition to wheelchair seating locations, **at least one percent of all fixed seats in all seating areas must be aisle seats with no armrest, or with a removable or folding armrest**, on the aisle side. These seats accommodate people who have a mobility disability but who wish to use a seat that is not a wheelchair seating location.
- **An accessible route must connect the wheelchair seating locations with the stage(s), performing areas, arena or stadium floor, dressing or locker rooms, and other spaces used by performers.**

Concessions

- **All concessions**, including food service areas, restaurants, and souvenir stands, **must be accessible.** For example, lowered counters must be provided where goods are provided and where cash registers are located. Condiments and self-serve food items must be provided within reach of a person using a wheelchair.

Access to playing fields, lockers, and spaces used by players and performers

- **An accessible route must provide access to all public and common use areas** including the playing field, locker rooms, dugouts, stages, swimming pools, and warm-up areas. The accessible route provides access for the public, employees, and athletes using the facility.

Assistive Listening Systems

When audible communications are integral to the use of a stadium, assistive listening systems are required for people who are hard of hearing. These systems amplify sound and deliver it to a special receiver that is worn by the spectator, or to the spectator's hearing aid, depending on the type of system that is used.

- **The stadium must provide receivers for the assistive listening system.** The number of available receivers must equal **four percent of the total number of seats.**
- **Signs must be provided to notify spectators of the availability of receivers** for the assistive listening system.

Other Accessible Features

Accessible Parking Spaces

- When parking spaces are provided, **accessible parking spaces for cars and accessible parking spaces for vans are required.** Accessible parking spaces must be the closest parking spaces to the accessible entrances and must be on an accessible route to the entrances.

Accessible Drop-Off and Pick-Up Areas

- **If passenger drop-off areas are provided, they must be accessible** and an accessible route must connect each accessible drop-off area with the accessible entrance(s). Curb ramps must be provided if the drop-off area is next to a curb.

Accessible Entrances

- **At least fifty percent of the entrances must be accessible.** Those that are not accessible must have signs that direct the public to the nearest accessible entrance.
- **Accessible entrances that have turnstiles must provide an accessible gate or door.**

Rest Rooms

- **Each public and common use (including employee) rest room must be accessible.** This includes rest rooms in work areas and rest rooms located in sky boxes and suites.

Public Telephones

- **Each bank of public telephones must have one or more wheelchair accessible telephones and these and other public telephones must have the ability to amplify the volume at the handset.** A sign must identify telephones equipped with amplification.
- **At least one public TDD** (telecommunications device for persons who are deaf or who have speech impairments) **must be provided.** Signs must identify the location of the TDD and provide direction from other telephone banks.
- For each bank of public telephones with three or more units, at least one telephone **must be equipped with a shelf and electrical outlet** to permit a person to use a portable TDD.

Water Coolers or Drinking Fountains

- **Drinking fountains must accommodate people who use wheelchairs and people who stand** but have difficulty bending or stooping. Half of the units must be wheelchair accessible and the others must accommodate standing users.

Visual Alarms

- Where audible fire alarms or emergency notification is provided, **flashing lights are required in public and common use areas**, including toilet and bath rooms, locker rooms, and along public corridors.

Signs

- Signs that identify permanent rooms and spaces, such as those identifying rest rooms, exits or room numbers, must have Braille and raised letters or numbers so that they may be read visually or tactually (by feeling the characters with one's fingers). They must also meet specific requirements for mounting location, color contrast, and non-glare surface. Signs that provide direction to, or information, about functional spaces must only comply with requirements for character proportion, character height, and finish and contrast between the characters and background.

ADA Information Line

For more information about the ADA's design and construction requirements, contact the Department of Justice's toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (Voice) and 800- 514-0383 (TDD). Detailed requirements can be found in the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The ADA Standards and other useful technical assistance documents are available from the ADA Information Line.

The Americans with Disabilities Act authorizes the Department of Justice (the Department) to provide technical assistance to individuals and entities that have rights or responsibilities under the Act. This document provides informal guidance to assist you in understanding the ADA and the Department's regulations.

This guidance document is not intended to be a final agency action, has no legally binding effect, and may be rescinded or modified in the Department's complete discretion, in accordance with applicable laws. The Department's guidance documents, including this guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities beyond what is required by the terms of the applicable statutes, regulations, or binding judicial precedent.