



ICC NEWS RELEASE

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ICC releases update to building accessibility standard

ICC A117.1 provides greater accessibility to buildings for persons with physical disabilities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The International Code Council (ICC) released an update to the 2009 [ICC A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities standard](#) that provides greater accessibility to buildings for persons with physical disabilities and incorporates new elements of building design. The 2017 standard is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) American National Standard and was developed through a consensus-based process that brings together all the stakeholders, including disability-rights groups, code officials, product manufacturers, design professionals, and facility owners and managers.

The ICC A117.1 standard helps achieve uniformity in the technical design criteria in building codes that allow a person with a physical disability — such as the inability to walk, blindness or deafness — to independently get to, enter and use a facility. The standard is intended for adoption by government agencies and organizations.

“ICC staff worked tirelessly to shepherd the 2017 version of the accessibility standard through the approval process. We’re pleased to present this updated standard, which takes into account the latest technology, such as powered wheelchairs and electric vehicles,” said ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO.

This updated edition of the standard continues to meet or exceed provisions with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and the Fair Housing Design Guidelines. The standard includes:

- Enhanced dimensions for clear floor space, turning space, and accessible routes for new buildings and additions.
- Provisions incorporating many of the latest public right-of-way criteria for curb cuts, blended transitions, detectable warnings, diagonal parking and street parking.
- New provisions to improve safety for accessible routes through parking lots, and to address accessibility at electric vehicle charging stations.
- New provisions to facilitate the charging of powered wheelchairs in areas such as accessible hotel rooms and wheelchair seating in assembly spaces.
- New provisions for water bottle filling stations, and spaces for sign language interpreter stations and video booths.

- A new section addressing classroom acoustics to reduce the intrusion of noises from outside the classroom and improve room acoustics.

To learn more about the new standard, visit <https://www.iccsafe.org/icc-asc-a117/>.

About the International Code Council

The [International Code Council](#) is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets [choose the International Codes](#).

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