

602.2

Clear Floor Space at Drinking Fountains



CHANGE TYPE: Deletion

CHANGE SUMMARY: Two exceptions that previously allowed for a parallel approach to existing drinking fountains have been deleted.

2009 STANDARD:

602 Drinking Fountains

602.1 General. Accessible drinking fountains shall comply with Sections 602 and 307.

602.2 Clear Floor Space. A clear floor space complying with Section 305, positioned for a forward approach to the drinking fountain, shall be provided. Knee and toe space complying with Section 306 shall be provided. The clear floor space shall be centered on the drinking fountain.

Exceptions:

1. Drinking fountains for standing persons.
2. Drinking fountains primarily for children's use shall be permitted where the spout outlet is 30 inches (760 mm) maximum above the floor, ~~and a parallel approach complying with Section 305 is provided, and the clear floor space is centered on the drinking fountain, is provided.~~
3. ~~In existing buildings, existing drinking fountains providing a parallel approach complying with Section 305, centered on the drinking fountain, shall be permitted.~~
4. ~~Where specifically permitted by the administrative authority, a parallel approach complying with Section 305, centered on the drinking fountain, shall be permitted for drinking fountains that replace existing drinking fountains with a parallel approach.~~

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Exceptions 3 and 4 were deleted from the standard in an attempt to harmonize with the revised ADA and ABA AG, which does not allow a parallel approach to drinking fountains in existing facilities. If these exceptions were not removed, the A117.1 standard would have been less stringent than the federal law and these exceptions would have led to potential problems for people who relied upon the standard when evaluating compliance with accessibility requirements.

These two previous exceptions provided blanket exemption for both new replacement and existing drinking fountains that are not necessarily based on technical infeasibility. Both of these exceptions potentially conflict with the requirements of Section 202.4 (Alterations Affecting Primary Function Areas) of the revised ADA and ABA AG, as well as Sections 605 and 605.2 (Alterations Affecting an Area Containing a Primary Function) of the International Existing Building Code (IEBC). Each of these two documents already provides exceptions for existing drinking fountains. However, instead of providing a blanket exemption, these two documents require that the design be looked at based on the issues of whether it is technically infeasible and at the level of work that is being done.