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No Shortage of Opinions

Groups Weigh In on Proposed ADA Rules

The effected and affected did not miss their opportunity to express their concerns about the proposed revisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility regulations and guidelines (2004 ADAAG) issued in June by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Thousands of pages of comments were submitted to DOJ in response to its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking prior to the August 18 deadline. Among the issues getting the most attention were: the proposed safe harbor for qualifying businesses, the criteria for what constitutes a barrier, “retroactive application” of the standards, reach range reduction and the “triggering” date for the new rules.



This woman, reaching for items within the current 54" reach range, demonstrates that reduced reach range could enhance her access to items.

The 1% Safe Harbor

In its notice, DOJ proposed “a qualified small business has met its obligation to remove architectural barriers where readily achievable for a given year, if, during that tax year, the entity has spent an amount equal to at least one percent of its gross revenue

See **Proposed 2004 ADAAG**, page 4

ADA Amendments Act Signed into Law

Provides a More Detailed Definition of a ‘Disability’

A bill detailing a broader definition of “disabilities” covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law by President Bush on Sept. 25, 2008. The ADA Amendments Act of 2008, which will take effect Jan. 1, 2009, is in response to Supreme Court decisions that have narrowed the definition of disability, according to bill sponsor Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA).

“The protections afforded under [the ADA] have been eroded and the result is that people with serious conditions like epilepsy or diabetes could be forced to choose between treating their conditions and forfeiting their protections under the law,” said Harkin, the chief author of the 1990 law. “That is not what Congress intended when we passed the law, and this bill is the right fix.”

Since the ADA became law in 1990, a series of court decisions

See **ADA Amendments Act**, page 10

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Study Highlights the Need for New Housing Policy in US

60% Chance that a House Built in 2000 Will House a Person with a Disability

A “build it and they will stay” policy would be wise with today’s growing number of older people and people with disabilities who want to remain in their own homes, a new University of Florida (UF) study finds.

By planning ahead, homes built now with features that meet the needs of people who have difficulty getting around will prevent more costly retrofitting in the future and perhaps avoid the trauma of moving to a retirement home, said Stan Smith, director of UF’s Bureau of Economic and Business Research and the study’s lead author.

“With the aging of the baby boomers, it’s pretty clear that the number of people who absolutely need these features to continue living in their own homes will rise substantially over the next several decades,” he said. “Unfortunately, there are relatively few single-family houses that will be able to accommodate them.”

Fewer than 10 percent of new homes have features that make them accessible to people who have trouble getting around, despite the large and growing need for those accommodations, said Smith, whose study is published in the summer issue of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. “When accessibility features are designed and built into the initial construction, they are very inexpensive in most cases,” he said. “It’s far more costly once a house is built to widen doorways, remove steps or add bathrooms on the ground floor of a two-story unit.”

Without such features, older people and people with disabilities not only face greater risk of injury but have more difficulty entering and leaving their house, adding to feelings of social isolation and loneliness, Smith said.

“If people can no longer live comfortably and safely in their homes, they may be forced to enter an assisted living facility or nursing home, which can be extremely expensive,” he said. “People can very quickly go through their life savings in a nursing home, and once their assets are depleted they may have to go on Medicaid, with the tab being picked up by the public.”

Working with Stefan Rayer, a research analyst at UF’s Bureau, and Eleanor Smith, executive director of Concrete Change, Smith applied a technique he developed to estimate the probability that a single-family dwelling built in 2000 will house at least one disabled resident during its expected life span. “To our knowledge, this is the first study to project the future number of households that will have a disabled resident and the first to estimate the likelihood that a new house will have at least one disabled resident during its lifetime,” said Smith, whose team prepared low, medium and high estimates and projections.

The mid-range projection predicts that by 2050 more than one in five households – 21 percent – will have a resident with a physical disability that makes walking and climbing stairs difficult, and 7 percent will have someone unable to get around without help, he said.

Furthermore, over a dwelling’s lifetime, as people move in and out with changes in ownership, the odds leap to 60 percent that it will house at least one resident who has difficulty moving around and 25 percent that it will shelter someone who cannot get around without help, according to the researchers’ analysis. And when the odds of having visitors with disabilities — such as elderly parents — are taken into account, they found, these numbers rise to 91 percent for those with mobility problems and 53 percent for those requiring help.

Already, nearly one-third of Americans over age 65 – 31 percent – have some sort of mobility impairment, and with aging and population

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Access Board's Roffee Retires

Lawrence W. Roffee, Executive Director of the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) for two decades, retired from federal service in August. During his tenure, he oversaw considerable expansion of the Access Board's mission and services.

When he joined the Board in 1988, its work focused primarily on federally funded buildings. With passage of the ADA in 1990 and other laws however, its mission grew to encompass access to much of the built environment nationwide as well as, transportation vehicles, and telecommunication and information technologies. Roffee implemented programming measures and reforms enabling the Access Board to meet its growing responsibilities including writing new guidelines and standards in these areas and delivering guidance and training on them to a much wider audience. He also spearheaded efforts to make the Access Board a leading technical resource on accessible design both nationally and abroad.



Lawrence Roffee

"It has been a true honor to lead the Board during such an exciting and pivotal time in its history," Roffee noted at a meeting of the Board in July. "I am deeply grateful to the many exceptional and dedicated people at the Board and beyond I have had the privilege to work with over the years. Looking back at what we have accomplished together is as rewarding as it is humbling." David Capozzi, Director of the Board's Office of Technical and Information Services, will serve as acting executive director until a successor is named.

DOJ and Spy Museum Reach Agreement

This past summer, the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC reached a settlement agreement under the Americans with Disabilities Act with the US Department of Justice (DOJ).

Over a period of 24 months, the museum has agreed to make the following changes:

- Provide tactile maps of the museum and

floor plan that visitors can borrow;

- Provide a qualified audio describer for any requested museum audiovisual presentation, computer interactive, or exhibit;
- Provide a qualified reader to read labels in all exhibitions;
- Provide a representative sample of objects, models, and/or reproductions of objects to communicate the main themes of the exhibitions for tactile examination, accompanied by audio description.
- Provide captions for all audiovisual, audio-only, and computer interactive programs unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the content of the exhibits, public programs, and other offerings or result in an undue burden. In the latter event, it will provide scripts or wall text to communicate the audio narration or ambient sounds; and
- Offer sign language and oral interpreter services and realtime captioning, on advance request, for all public programs.

Institute for Human Centered Design Receives NEA's Leadership in UD Award

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Office for AccessAbility has awarded its 2008 Leadership in Universal Design award to the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD), formerly Adaptive Environments (see announcement on page 5). This award will fund the creation of an international web-based universal design case study collection.

"The new UN Treaty on the Human Rights of People with Disabilities offers an ideal policy framework for igniting attention and action," according to the Institute's Executive Director Valerie Fletcher. "The growing audience needs quick and easy access to state-of-the-art case studies that illustrate good examples for a diverse audience of advocates, clients, designers and builders."

With the collection of case studies available anywhere anytime, an entity planning to build a new school or health center or to renovate an historic cultural facility would have access to information about inclusively designed precedents, according to IHCD. The case study website will be fully accessible.

For more information, visit: www.humancentereddesign.org

"...Looking back at what we have accomplished together is as rewarding as it is humbling."

Lawrence W. Roffee,
Executive Director,
Access Board

Proposed 2004 ADAAG, from page 1

in the preceding year on measures undertaken in compliance with barrier removal requirements.”

Several commenters blasted the proposal. The Disabilities Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) noted, “A blanket formula is inherently less fair and less effective than the current case-by-case determination for whether an action is readily achievable.”

The comments from the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) on the 1 percent safe harbor reflected the concerns of several business groups. It noted that the gross revenue percentage safe harbor for a qualified small business is “too high and unfair” to certain businesses. “Those public accommodations which resell products at relatively low margin will be subjected to a much greater burden. . . . For example in 2007, gross profits as a percentage of total sales fell to less than 1 percent. . . the 1 percent safe harbor would have required the business to spend the equivalent of 170 percent if its gross profits on barrier removal measures.”

What Constitutes a Barrier?

Several business organizations challenged the DOJ proposal that the 1991 ADAAG – the current standards for accessible design in new construction – would be the determination of what constitutes a barrier in existing facilities. “Effectively, this new regulation will hold exist-

ing buildings essentially to the same standard as new construction,” according to the National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR). “This is an apparent departure from the intent of the compromise established by Congress in the ADA which allowed a reasonable approach to access in existing buildings while requiring a high level of access in new construction. In short, the goalposts are being moved in this rulemaking proceeding, and it would be fundamentally unfair and inequitable to require public accommodations to remove ‘barriers’ in existing facilities that would only now be considered barriers by reference to the changed Accessibility Guidelines.”

NCCR suggested that guidance be taken from the model, state and local building codes, whose changes are not intended to apply retroactively and do not require design changes to existing facilities that met the applicable codes when they were built or last altered.

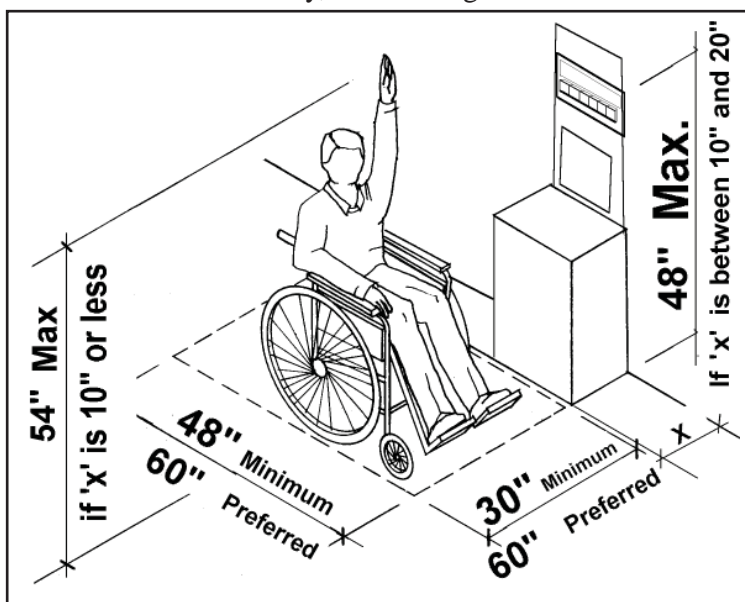
Compliance with 1991 v. 2004 ADAAG

DREDF objected to DOJ’s suggestion that elements in existing facilities that are in compliance with the 1991 Standards not be required to meet the proposed 2004 Standards. Calling the 1991 standards “outdated,” DREDF wrote that the 2004 Standards represent important advances in access for people with disabilities. “We urge the Department – in lieu of the absolute safe harbor now proposed – to adopt the 2004 ADAAG as the benchmark for the presence of barriers, but adopt the interpretation that previous barrier removal and compliance efforts may be considered as one factor in the analysis of what constitutes readily achievable barrier removal or program access.”

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) stated in its comments that, “Property owners have spent over 16 years making accessibility improvements to their facilities as part of ‘good faith’ efforts to comply with the ADA. Forcing a nationwide reassessment of existing facilities, and requiring work done in accordance with the current ADA Standards to be redone, simply because the new construction standards have been revised, would be contrary to any concept of ‘good faith.’”

“A blanket formula is inherently less fair and less effective than the current case-by-case determination for whether an action is readily achievable,”

Disabilities Rights Education and Defense Fund



In the proposed 2004 ADAAG, the maximum reach height is 48”.

GERMANY

German Government Launches UD Initiative

The German government has launched an initiative to document the production of innovative products for older people including innovation strategies, product and service development, design school projects, and a universal design network. The initiative includes:

- Regional and cross-sector workshops and forums to educate small and medium size companies about the senior citizen market;
- Government-sponsored training opportunities, in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce and the public institutions, to increase the number of new companies founded by senior citizens;
- A collection of “best practice” examples of promising business ideas to provide senior citizens with ideas and encourage them to make the jump toward independence;
- Design competitions in educational institutions to provide inspiration for the type of products and packaging that are attractive and usable by people of any age group; and
- A traveling exhibition aimed at the public at large to show successful examples of products and ideas that transcend the generations.

The initiative will initially run until 2010. For more information, visit: www.UniversalDesign.com. “Newsletter Extras.”

GERMANY

Quality Mark: Excellent! Universal Design

Three organizations have come together to develop a universal design certification for user-friendly products. Internationales DesignZentrum Berlin,

German Design Council (Rat für Formgebung) and TÜV NORD CERT have together developed the “Excellent! Universal Design” quality mark. The certification criteria include: self-explanatory, easy to handle and universally usable for all ages. Designers, engineers and testers of different age groups try out the products. Organizers say that products receiving the



Excellent! Universal Design quality mark

quality mark are guaranteed to be user-friendly. The certification is open to companies involved in such industries as household equipment, computers, photography, entertainment and communications technology, furniture, transportation and packaging. For more information, visit <http://www.idz.de/en/sites/1369.html>

UNITED STATES

Adaptive Environments is now the Institute for Human Centered Design

Adaptive Environments Inc. of Boston has officially changed its name to the Institute for Human Centered Design. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to complete the change that has been underway for five years. “It began with the tag-line, ‘human centered design,’ in 2003,” says Executive Director Valerie Fletcher. “Then we called the public portion of our programs – the showroom, resource center/library and lecture series - the Institute for Human Centered Design when we opened our new space last year. It’s now time to move everything we do under the new name.” For more information, contact: www.humancentereddesign.org

GERMANY

Universal Design Awards 08 Presented

The award winners of the inaugural “universal design award 08” were presented during the CeBIT consumer products show in Hannover, Germany in March. This competition intends to serve as an inspiration to designers and manufacturers to focus more strongly on the “new simplicity” in the design of their products. The awards went to functional and aesthetic products, architecture and services that are specially designed for use by “all” people.

The 131 submissions received from 18 different countries were tested by an international jury of experts. The competition entries were also displayed publicly at a consumer tradeshow and visitors were able to cast their votes for their own personal favorites.

“The way in which the two juries rated the entries was convincing proof that the opinions of the experts and those of the consumers do not yet agree; only three of the entries were chosen as winners by



Organizers say that products receiving the quality mark are guaranteed to be user-friendly.

The Long View

Law School Adopts a Holistic Approach to Accessibility

by Denise McGiffin Hofstedt

Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC has long prided itself in serving the needs of all of its students.

In the late 1980s when a residence hall/student center on the Law Center's campus was being built, Law Center officials, including Therese Stratton, now Assistant Dean, insisted that the

facility comply with the not yet in effect Americans with Disabilities Act standards. They welcomed the accessibility features offered by the proposed guidelines for the diversity it encouraged.

Like many schools, they have for years accommodated the

needs of students with disabilities one student at a time. Two years ago the Law Center created the Office of Disability Services and hired a coordinator dedicated to serving the needs of students with disabilities on the law school campus. But they haven't stopped there.

In early 2008, spurred by a student's expressed concern about opportunities for improved accessibility, school leaders quickly made operational and facility changes to enhance campus accessibility. The effort started them thinking about

going beyond the minimums of accessibility codes to become more proactive and adopting a more holistic approach to the issue.

In April, the Law Center leadership began formally exploring the idea of incorporating universal design into its facilities and programming.

"As an institution of higher education, we thought that it was important to make this a learning experience both for us professionally and for the students academically," says Marianne Huger, Associate Director of Disability Services, Georgetown Law Center. "Therefore, we knew we would like to involve various staff members and students on the project. We wanted to find a consultant who shared our views of accessibility but that could provide a more comprehensive understanding to help us make decisions that would last to the future."

The Law Center hired Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc. to make a presentation on universal design and conduct a tour of key areas on campus with a group of students and staff. "It was an interactive event that had facilities staff sharing their challenges, students with disabilities sharing their experiences and everybody offering solid solutions," says John P.S. Salmen, AIA, President of UD&C and Publisher of *Universal Design Newsletter*. "It awakened everyone to what is possible with universal design."

Among the issues discussed during the presentation were:

- The importance and practicality of providing integrated seating for students who use mobility devices. It was suggested to disperse accessible seating positions to provide students more flexibility and choice. Also, to raise and relocate some desks to provide more convenient movement within the classroom.
- How helpful good signage is and the difficulties of keeping it up to date.
- Making food service items more reachable through vertical facing of products on shelves and providing more maneuvering space within self-service areas.
- The convenience and value of automatic doors.
- The importance of providing 36" clear width aisles in the bookstore to ensure access.

See **The Long View**, page 7



A lecture hall teaching well before the initiative.

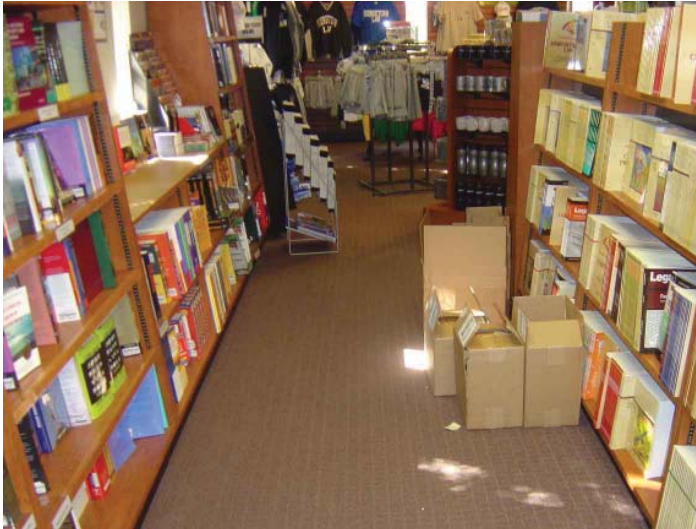


A reconfigured lecture hall teaching well allows more maneuvering space.

The Long View, from page 6

Many of the changes identified during the process have already been implemented and are making a difference.

According to Stratton, "The simple act of letting the bookstore personnel know that it is not acceptable to use the aisles for stock storage" has



Some of the enhancements in the book store were a matter of educating staff about the impact of storing stock in the aisles.

made the store more user friendly for everyone.

Perhaps the most appreciated changes have been in the classrooms, says Huger. "Students have commented specifically on how much they

have appreciated the classroom changes that we made -- raising desks and moving them forward. I have been so happy that all members of the Law Center community that I have spoken to have been so receptive to the changes we are making. It is exciting," she says.

The signage changes made as a result of the initiative have improved the ever important wayfinding on the busy urban campus that hosts a steady flow of visitors and prospective students throughout the year. Stratton says that one of the most fundamental changes that has come as a result of the presentation has been the approach of the staff members who participated in the universal design tour. "Those who went on the walk-through have now become some of the strongest advocates and regularly quote what they learned."

Stratton is intent on building on the knowledge gained in this process. "There is much more to do," she says. "But at the very least, I hope we can arrange an annual meeting with students with interest in this area so we can continue to engage the community in the quest for a better, more universally designed campus." □



"Those who went on the walk through have now become some of the strongest advocates and regularly quote what they learned."

Therese Stratton,
Assistant Dean
Georgetown
University Law
Center

DESIGN TIP

PROBLEM: What's the difference between using a 6-inch, 2-foot or 4-foot digital level to measure slope?

TIP: The shorter the level, the more variations in the readings. At Universal Designers & Consultants, we like the 2-foot bar because it approximates the span between front and back and side to side bearing points of a wheelchair or walker. We find that with the vagaries of the way the rules are written that it is necessary to average at least three measurements in each direction on all parking spaces, access aisles, ramps and curb ramps.

We find the 2-foot level critical, and the discussion of tolerances/averages is based on the fact that

the standards call for rise over run, which implies overall rise v. overall run, and not incremental dimensions. People sometimes use 6-inch levels which can produce wildly divergent readings, especially on concrete or bituminous exterior surfaces.

Question submitted by: Richard Duncan, Housing Works/ R.L. Mace Universal Design Institute, Housingworks2@earthlink.net □



Slope meter in action

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the environment.”



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www.lutron.com/stanza



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* Stanza is the only guestroom light control system designed to support the principles of Universal Design. The Principles of Universal Design, Copyright © 1997 NC State University, The Center for Universal Design.

Adjustable Height Training Tables

The X Series of adjustable height portable tables from Sedia Systems is designed to meet the requirements of reconfigurable classrooms and training rooms. The tables come in a variety of powder coat colors, leg options and edge finishes. The choice of bases include: T leg, C leg or four leg. The tables can be ordered with electric or manual height adjustment capabilities, folding legs, lock-able castors, nesting flip tops, modesty panel and wire management.



Portable training tables

Drafting Tools: Triangle, Protractor, Ruler

3L has developed a collection of comfortable to use drafting tools. Its triangle has a patented, ergonomic grasp that makes it easy to hold, pick up and move around. Made of hard-wearing polycarbonate, it features a double-sided calibration. The 3L Gripable Protractor includes



Comfortable to use drafting tools

a raised, ergonomic grasp which makes it stable yet easy to move when compared to traditional protractors. The 3L 20 cm Ruler features a patented and unique friction principle. When a user presses down on the ruler, a built-in rubber strip grips the surface and the ruler locks itself firmly in place; by releasing pressure the ruler can be easily repositioned. The rulers are produced in hard-wearing material and are available from the Institute for Human Centered Design.

Hand Dryer Recess Kit

The Xlerator Hand Dryer from Excel Dryer Inc. claims to dry hands in 10-15 seconds, “delivering three times faster hand drying performance.”

Available with a with Recess Kit, it can be installed in a recessed position so that it is not a protruding object, obstructing users. The sensor-activated Xelerator reports 80 percent less energy is necessary to operate the machine than conventional dryers. The dryer has been Green Spec approved and qualifies for LEED credit. It comes in a variety of finishes, including: white Thermoset, white epoxy painted, graphite texture painted, chrome plated, and brushed stainless steel.



Sensor activated hand dryer

(Training Tables)
Sedia Systems
866.892.6130
www.sediasystems.com

(Drafting Tools)
Institute for Human Centered Design
www.ihcdstore.org

(Hand Dryer)
Excel Dryer Inc.
PO Box 365
East Long Meadow, MA 01028
413.525.4531
413.525.2853
800.255.9235
www.exceldryer.com

Housing Policy, from page 2

growth the proportion is expected to go up, Smith said. “The number of people with disabilities is expected to rise faster than the population as a whole, more than doubling between 2000 and 2050.”

The most important accessibility features are at least one entrance with no steps, a full or half bathroom on the first floor and 32-inch interior door widths instead of the standard 28-inch widths, Smith said. Additional features include

electrical outlets within easy reach, accessible showers and bathroom grab bars, he said.

Although the study did not include short-term disabilities, someone who breaks a leg skiing and is temporarily on crutches or in a wheelchair also would benefit, along with people whose elderly parents move in for brief stays, Smith said.

For more information, visit: www.UniversalDesign.com, “Newsletter Extras.”

Proposed 2004 ADAAG, from page 4

Reach Range

The proposed standards reduce the side reach range from a 54" to 48", thus making the front and side reach height the same. Retailers and restaurateurs object to the change, citing the expense of moving "billions of elements."


Supporting the change was Little People of America Member Tricia Mason, a former member of the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board). Commenting on her own behalf, Mason expressed support for the uniform reach range, which was adopted in the ICC/ANSI A117.1-1998 Standard on Accessible and Useable Buildings & Facilities. She noted that the 48-inch reach range has allowed her a "greater level of independence."

"Over the past decade, this change has gradually increased the number of new and altered facilities that allow me to independently reach the operable parts on ATMs, credit card readers on fuel pump dispensers, elevator buttons, airport check-in kiosks, light switches, etc.," wrote Mason. "However, it will not be until ADAAG is adopted as a federal rule that I can count on accessible and usable public buildings as I travel within my own community and from one state to another."

Triggering Event and Date

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) expressed concern about DOJ's position that if part of an element covered under the element-by-element safe harbor is replaced,

the alteration requirement is triggered under the proposed standard. "It provides a disincentive for upgrading currently compliant areas of [a] business with equipment and fixtures that more efficiently use resources – like water and energy – and improve safety." NFIB offered the example of small business with a single user restroom in compliance with current regulations, therefore qualifying for the element-by-element safe harbor. "If the owner wants to replace the toilet because it continually runs, he or she would have to reconfigure the entire restroom – the walls, vanity, plumbing, etc. – at great expense to meet the Revised ADA Guidelines."

And as might be expected, disability advocates noted that DOJ's proposal to require compliance to begin six months after the publication of the final rule is reasonable. Business groups asked that they be given 12 to 24 months to comply. The final rule is expected to be published in early 2009. 

"If the owner wants to replace the toilet because it continually runs, he or she would have to reconfigure the entire restroom – the walls, vanity, plumbing, etc. – at great expense to meet the Revised ADA Guidelines."

National Federation of Independent Businesses


If you would like to share your opinion on the proposed 2004 ADAAG with the universal design community on www.UniversalDesign.com, click on "Join the Universal Design Dialogue."

ADA Amendments Act, from page 1

have narrowed the category of who qualifies as an "individual with a disability." According to the National Association of the Deaf, "By raising the threshold for an impairment to qualify as a disability, these court decisions have deprived individuals of the discrimination protections Congress intended to provide."

The new law redefines "disability" in "favor of a broad coverage of individuals under this Act" and specifies that an impairment that substantially limits one major life activity doesn't need to impact other major life activities in order

to be considered a disability. It also states that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active. It also notes that the determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity shall be made regardless of the effects corrective measures such as medication, prosthetics or assistive devices.

The new law also covers people who experience discrimination based on a perception of impairment regardless of whether the individual experiences disability. 

New Virginia Accessibility Code

A book that features the new (effective this past summer) Virginia Accessibility Code is available from Jordan Publishing. The latest in the series of State accessibility code books, the book includes four adopted codes in double spaced text and has code, page, and chapter referrals throughout the 424-page book. Available formats include: book, book with CD Set and CD ROM. For more information, www.jordanpublishing.net or call 800.657.9881.

Design for Inclusivity: A Practical Guide to Accessible, Innovative and User-Centred Design

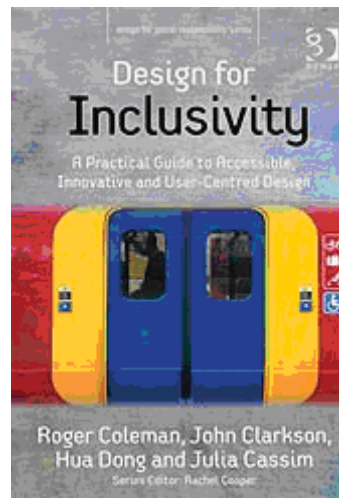
Design for Inclusivity, written by a team that has pioneered inclusive design practice internationally, reviews the recent social trends and pressures that have pushed this subject to the fore, and assesses design responses to date in an international context.

The book describes why inclusive design

is good for business and includes case studies from transportation, product development, IT and service projects and highlights lessons that have been learned.

The book offers tools, techniques, guidelines and signposts to key resources. In addition, it includes advice on research methods and on working with users and industry partners. The authors are: Roger Coleman, John Clarkson,

Hua Dong and Julia Cassim. For more information, contact https://www.ashgate.com/pdf/tis/9780566087073_US.pdf, ISBN: 978-0-566-08707-3



The book offers tools, techniques, guidelines and signposts to key resources.

World Update, from page 5

both the juries. Consumers still think very practically and place their primary focus on the household and bathroom areas,” summarized Thomas Bade, manager director of universal design GmbH, Hannover, and the organizer of the competition. Bade also noted that Germany and Japan were the two countries with the most entries, 57 and 20 respectively, “...are the two manufacturing nations currently working the most intently on the design challenges of the next decades.”

The three products that were selected by the jury of experts and were also picked as consumer favorites were:

B16 H2 N0 | Mega SH 4624 N built-in electric oven, by Constructa-Neff Vertriebs GmbH, Munich, Germany: The SLIDE door handle and the HIDE oven door, which can be tucked away completely underneath the oven, provide barrier-free access to the oven. The VarioClou pull-out system makes it possible to pull out the rack to season or remove the food with no danger of the rack tipping or dropping.

SpotArm i-Q 132 | Digital blood-pressure meter by Omron Healthcare Co., Ltd., Kyoto, Japan: The blood-pressure meter is designed as a table device. The adjustable angle of the arm cuff makes sure the user is sitting properly.

BH-225 | Alarm for school children, by Panasonic, Kadoma, Osaka, Japan and Panasonic Design Co., Shiga, Japan: The alarm, which was originally developed for earthquake-endangered regions, can be attached to children’s school bags or adults’ handbags. It can then be reached quickly and intuitively in a dangerous situation. It is activated

by pressing together two switches. Even though it is easy to activate, it is difficult to set off by accident.

A list of award winners is available at www.UniversalDesign.com and on the competition’s website http://www.ifdesign.de/presse_detail_e.html?pmid=321



Built in electric wall oven

Nov. 17-19, 2008: *US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Meeting*, Washington, DC. Contact: www.access-board.gov/about/meetings.htm

Nov. 21-22, 2008: World Congress on Disabilities, Jacksonville, FL. The conference is dedicated to improving the lives of those with developmental and physical disabilities. Contact: www.wcdexpo.com; 877.923.3976

Dec. 8-11, 2008: *A Universal Approach to Interpretive Planning, Programs and Design*, Indianapolis, IN. The course will focus on methods and techniques for developing programs and exhibits that are accessible to people with disabilities. Presented by National Center on Accessibility. Contact: www.ncaonline.org.

Dec. 15, 2008: Universal Design Awards 09 deadline for submissions. Organized by universal design GmbH, the competition is in its second year. Entries are judged by a group of experts, with award winning entries receiving the distinction of "universal design award 09." Contact: www.ud-germany.de/cms/ud/en/universal_design_award_09/the_award

March 15-19, 2009: *Aging in America Conference 2009*, Las Vegas. The Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging. Contact: www.agingconference.org

April 5-9, 2009: *5th International Include Conference*, Royal College of Art, London. The conference will focus on the innovation derived from inclusive design. Contact: www.hhc.rca.ac.uk/1345/all/1/include_2009.aspx

April 22-24, 2009: *3rd International Conference on Accessible Tourism (ICAT) 2009*, Singapore. Themed "Tourism Unlimited: Access for All," the conference will be hosted by The Disabled People's Association which promotes accessible tourism in the Asia-Pacific region. Contact: www.ICAT2009.com.sg

July 8-10, 2009: *2nd International Conference on the Inclusive Museum*, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. The program will include presentations by the leaders in museum studies as well as numerous paper, colloquium and workshop presentations. Contact: <http://z09.cgpublisher.com>

Events to be placed in the UDN Calendar must be submitted to the editor one month before the publication date.

Universal Design Newsletter

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