

Newsletter

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Assistive Listening Devices:

ALD are required with fixed seating of 50 or more and amplified audio systems.

<http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/bulletins/als-index.htm>

TAS 4.1.3(19)(b) states: "...Such assembly areas, if (1) they accommodate at least 50 persons, or if they have audio-amplification

systems, and (2) they have fixed seating, shall have a permanently installed assistive listening system....."

If you take into account the "or" and the "and" it would rule out most restaurants, retail stores, outdoor events etc. due to a lack of fixed seating or a lack of an audio-amplification system or both. Even conference meetings would not

require them because they are not in places that have fixed seating.

Gymnasiums and stadiums would fall under this requirement however. When using portable devices instead of fixed units they must be available in approved quantity (5%).

Latest on curb ramp texture:

TDLR released technical memorandum 08-01 in June 2008 regarding curb ramps.

The essence of the memo is to rescind TM99-15.

TDLR now differentiates between curb ramps on-site (private property) and those in the public right-of-way (ROW).

1) In the ROW, TAS 4.7.4 textures do not apply but rather 4.7.7 truncated

domes do apply. They must be installed 24" in depth and the full width of the curb ramp in compliance with Rule 68.102 and TxDOT standards PED-05 ([click here](#) and scroll down).

2) Curb ramps on-site must still comply with 4.7.4 the full width and depth of the ramp. TAS 4.7.4(2) specifies texture that significantly contrasts with adjoining surfaces.

As a practical matter, for on-site ramps, grooves are still allowed by 4.7.4(1) but they must be detectable underfoot. If a contrasting texture cannot be detected by the inspector it fails. That is why they are discouraged. However, truncated domes complying with 4.29.2 remove any interpretation (always comply) and they also comply with federal ADA requirements.

Special points of interest:

- The new TDLR forms are available on our web site
- DOJ has moved forward with adopting the new ADA-ABA standards.
- Check out our new web site.

Proposed ADA:

http://www.regulations.gov/search/search_results.jsp?sid=11A9775A147B&Ntt=Americans%20with%20Disabilities%20Act&Ntk=All&Ntx=mode+matchall&N=8056+4294966886&css=0&Ne=2+8+11+8053+8054+8098+8074+8066+8084+8055+8