



THE CODE ADVISOR

Approved Code
Services, Inc.
717-215-5849

June 2008
Volume 11
Issue 5

Professional Assistance in the Building Codes for Architects,
Engineers and Contractors

Question of the Month

From the "Quick Code Answers"
Telephone Support records.

Quick Code Answers is an annual subscription service that provides Phone & On-site technical support for your Building Code questions. [Call us to subscribe!](#)

Q: I am doing an inspection on a convenience store. What is the accessibility code requirement for the placement of free-standing shelving units? **IBC 1109.8.2** says self-service shelves must be on an accessible route, which would be at least 36" wide. But the designer is using **IBC 1014.4.2** to justify 30" wide separations between some units because it is a Group M occupancy.

A: You could both be right. The accessible route, required in chapter 11, must be provided to every service and product area in the store. The designer's use of chapter 10 is also valid because it is specific to Group M. However, it only applies to "an aisle access way not required to be accessible".



So, under what conditions would product displays be exempt from the accessibility requirement?

The accessibility section (**IBC 1109.8.2**), itself, removes the Reach Range limits from the shelving displays. It also defines a minimum standard of "at least one of each type" in the preceding general statement (**1109.8**).

Client Highlight

RS Mowery & Sons, Inc.

1000 Bent Creek Blvd

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

717.506.1000

Construction Management, General Construction
and Design/Build

www.rsmowery.com

This minimum accessibility standard would require not less than one of each type of the free-standing shelving units to be on an accessible route. The remainder of the units could be connected with 30" wide aisles. This is where it gets grey and where the AHJ factor (Authority Having Jurisdiction) kicks in. What does "one of each type" mean in this situation? Since it is not clear in the code, a reasonable definition must be worked out between the building official and the designer.

Note to designers: The exceptions permitted in the **IBC and A117.1** are not always present in the ADA.

Call if you have specific questions.

Code Tip

A plumbing vent stack may terminate indoors with an air admittance valve, the same as a branch vent. This is a new allowance with the **2006IPC**. At least one stack in the system must still terminate outdoors to open air. The Air Admittance Valve must conform to **ASSE 1050** and the stack must serve 6 or less branches. See **IPC 917** for details.



De-Coding the ADA Code Seminar

Presented at: **Associated Builders and Contractors Training Center**

135 Shellyland Road, Manheim, PA 17545

July 31, 2008 8:30AM-12:30 Light Breakfast Included

Call: **Jo Ann at 717.653.8106**



Current Events

The new federal ADA regulations are in their final review phase. The Department of Justice released new regulations, based on the 2004 ADAAG standards, for public comment this month. Apparently, they have been doing an internal analysis for 4 years! Except for some amendments, this is the first major revision of the ADA regulation since it was originally released in 1991. You may have noticed from the dates on these documents, this process does not move fast!

To view the proposed version, go to www.ADA.gov.

Approved Code Product Highlight



State Certified Plan-Review Services

We offer the full range of plan review and inspection services to commercial and municipal clients. This includes Building and Accessibility reviews, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing and Energy Compliance.

We supply a pre-design code checklist tailored to the unique project requirements. This ensures that critical information is included in the plan documents and greatly reduces the plan review turnaround time.

We're available to answer your questions - FAST!

Please ask your building code official if they allow independent third-party review.

Recommended Resources

I know I featured this in April but this is my new favorite book on accessibility!

2006 Accessibility Study Companion

Great illustrations and explanations...

The Study Companion is a comprehensive self-study guide of the accessibility provisions in the **2006 IBC®** and **ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003**. Its 18 study sessions contain practical learning assignments, applicable code text and commentary, and helpful quizzes to test your knowledge of the material. An answer key provides the correct response and code reference for each of the 520 total questions. (460 pages)

Price \$54.00

Product #: 4123S06



Got Code Questions?

Maybe something that has been inspected and passed on one job and failed on the next?

Or maybe you are just wondering about the reason for a certain code.

Submit your code question to code_question@ApprovedCode.com

Be sure to include a daytime telephone number in case we need more information.

We will respond to your question by e-mail or phone as soon as possible.



APPROVED Code Services, Inc. provides building code support services, training and products to assist design professionals and builders in the proper application of the building code. Our staff is experienced and fully certified in all areas of the Pennsylvania State Building Code, both residential and commercial. Information provided in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and appropriate for the situation being presented. All information must be cross checked with a code book for suitability to the application. The local building code official and the appeals board have the final authority for interpreting the code in each jurisdiction.



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