

Appendix H: Americans With Disabilities Act Compliance

Port and harbor designers must provide an accessible route that includes upland facilities, access to floats, and accessible slips. Current guidelines address newly constructed and significantly altered facilities. However, the ultimate goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is to provide full access to existing facilities as well.

This appendix is a summary and not intended to replace the Federal guidelines. **COMPLETE GUIDELINES CAN BE FOUND AT:** <http://www.access-board.gov/>

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits discrimination based on disability. The Federal Access Board recently issued Accessibility Guidelines for Recreational Facilities. Published in the Federal Register 36 CFR parts 1190 and 1191, these guidelines are effective as of October 3, 2002. Sections 15.2 and 15.3 provide guidance for Boating Facilities and Fishing Piers and Platforms, respectively. These accessibility guidelines will serve as the basis for the Department of Justice standards, and will be incorporated into Americans with Disability Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) by about 2007.

1. When Does It Matter?

It matters when you are constructing a new facility or significantly modifying an existing one. In existing facilities, modifications should be built to accommodate people with disabilities if possible. “What you touch, you fix!”

You must provide program access. A community with several harbors may or may not need to provide access at all of their facilities, especially if they vary greatly in function.

Make employment accommodations – correct them as the need arises in existing facilities, but remember employment seekers as well. That is, make sure your application process allows for people with disabilities to get applications, apply, and interview.

2. Accessible Routes

Including gangways must comply with ADAAG 4.3. At least one accessible route connects accessible buildings, facilities, elements, and spaces on the same site. Therefore, an accessible route must connect accessible boat slips with other accessible elements on the same site. Eight exceptions, listed below, modify the accessible route requirements for connections to floats.

Note: Accessible routes to fixed piers must meet all requirements of ADAAG 4.3 – there are no exceptions.

Accessible routes including those with gangways must comply with the rules in AADAG (4.3), EXCEPT:

1. In existing gangway(s) replaced or altered; increase in gangway length is not required by 4.1.6(2)
2. Maximum rise does not apply
3. If the total gangway length is at least 80 feet, maximum slope (1:12) does not apply. Note that if your tide range and elevations allow a gangway to meet the maximum 1:12 slope criteria with a gangway that is less than 80 feet long, that is allowable.
4. In facilities with fewer than 25 slips, total length of gangway must be minimum 30 feet. Maximum slope doesn't apply.
5. Gangway connection to transition plates, landings (4.8.4) don't apply.
6. Handrails at connections to transition plates aren't required. Handrail extensions don't need to be parallel to float.
7. Cross slope of gangways, transition plates, and floats shall be a 1:50 maximum.
8. Limited-use (limited-application) elevators or platform lifts can be used in lieu of gangways.

3. Number of Accessible Slips

The minimum number of accessible boat slips required varies from 1 to 12 depending on the size of the harbor. For example, a harbor with 300 slips requires five accessible slips, whereas a harbor with 301 slips needs six. Every 40 feet of linear moorage is considered one slip for this calculation.

Total Boat Slips in Facility	Minimum Number of Required Accessible Boat Slips
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 100	3
101 to 150	4
151 to 300	5
301 to 400	6
401 to 500	7
501 to 600	8
601 to 700	9
701 to 800	10
801 to 900	11
901 to 1000	12
1001 and over	12, plus 1 for each 100 or fraction thereof over 1000

4. Dispersion of Accessible Slips

Types of boat slips are usually based on parameters such as:

- Size (length)
- Configuration (single or double)
- Water depth
- Transient or assigned
- Covered or uncovered
- Utility access

Accessible boat slips must include the various types of slips provided at a facility. This provision doesn't require an increase in the minimum number of accessible boat slips.

5. Use of Accessible Slips

Accessible boat slips are not "reserved" like vehicle parking spaces. Rather they are comparable to accessible hotel rooms. Accessible hotel rooms are held until all other rooms are filled. Then they are used on first-come, first serve basis.

6. Boat Launch Ramps

You must provide an accessible route to the launch ramp float. At least 5 percent (but not less than one boat launch ramp) shall be served by an accessible route with three exceptions:

1. Floating access is subject to exceptions for accessible route (1,2, and 5 though 8 above, i.e. gangway-related exceptions).
2. The minimum is a 30-foot gangway.
3. Where accessible route is within boat launch ramp, it is not subject to the rise, slopes, and other provisions of AADAG 4.8.

This means that the boat launch float can lie on grade as they do currently. But, there must be an accessible upland route and the floats, where boarding occurs, must conform to the accessible slip requirements.

7. Accessible Boat Slips (15.2.5)

The basic requirements for an accessible slip are

- Clear pier space of 60 inches wide minimum at least as long as the accessible slip
- Every 10 feet maximum of linear edge contains at least one 60 inch minimum opening

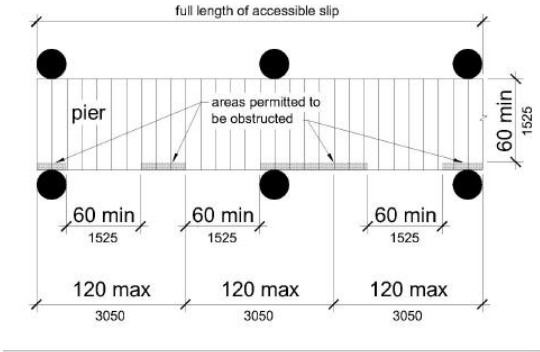


Fig. 59
 Pier Clearances

Clearances: Exception 1

The clear width can be 36 inches (915 mm) minimum for a length of 24 inches (610 mm) maximum, if multiple 36-inch (915 mm) wide segments are separated by 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum clear in width and length. (See Fig. 60)

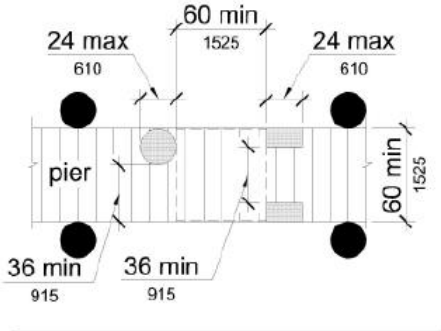


Fig. 60
 Pier Clear Space Reduction

Clearances: Exception 2

Edge protection 4 inches (100 mm) high maximum and 2 inches (51 mm) deep maximum are allowed at the continuous clear openings. (See Fig. 61)

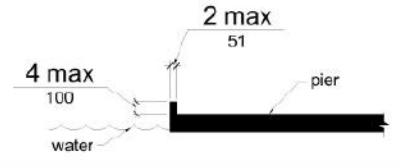


Fig. 61
 Edge Protection at Pier

Clearances: Exception 3*

In alterations to existing facilities, clear pier space can be perpendicular to, and extend the width of, the boat slip. This is only where the facility has at least one boat slip complying with 15.2.5 (accessible slip requirements), and further compliance would result in reductions in the number of boat slips available or result in a reduction of the widths of existing slips.

8. Cleats and Other Boat Securement Devices

Cleats and other tie downs don't need to comply with 4.27.3 reach ranges for operating mechanisms.

9. Other Harbor-Related

Newly designed or altered fishing piers and platforms are covered under A15.3. Like harbors, fishing piers need a fully accessible route. Railings, edge protection, and height are also specified.

10. Resources

US Federal Access Board at www.access-board.gov

(800) 872-2253 (voice) or (800) 993-2822 (TTY),
weekdays 10 - 5:30 EST (Wed. 10 - 2)

Alaska Department of Labor at
<http://www.labor.state.ak.us/ada/>

Access Alaska, ADA Partners, Technical Assistance, 248-4777