

May 11, 2011

RE: ADA Compliance

In an effort to help our customers be in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines as it pertains to soap dispensers, here is a summary of the most recent version of regulations as written by the Department of Justice as taken from the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Placement of dispensers in hallways or walkways:

- **307 Protruding Objects**
- **307.1 General.** Protruding objects shall comply with 307
- **307.2 Protrusion Limits.** Objects with leading edges more than 27 inches (685 mm) and not more than 80 inches (2030 mm) above the finish floor or ground shall protrude 4 inches (100 mm) maximum horizontally into the *circulation path*.
  - o **EXCEPTION:** Handrails shall be permitted to protrude 4½ inches (115 mm) maximum.
    - **Advisory 307.2 Protrusion Limits.** When a cane is used and the element is in the detectable range, it gives a person sufficient time to detect the element with the cane before there is body contact. Elements located on circulation paths, including operable elements, must comply with requirements for protruding objects. For example, awnings and their supporting structures cannot reduce the minimum required vertical clearance. Similarly, casement windows, when open, cannot encroach more than 4 inches (100 mm) into circulation paths above 27 inches (685 mm).

Placement of dispensers in bathrooms:

- **308.2 Forward Reach**
- **308.2.1 Unobstructed.** Where a forward reach is unobstructed, the high forward reach shall be 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum and the low forward reach shall be 15 inches (380 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground.
- **308.2.2 Obstructed High Reach.** Where a high forward reach is over an obstruction, the clear floor space shall extend beneath the *element* for a distance not less than the required reach depth over the obstruction. The high forward reach shall be 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum where the reach depth is 20 inches (510 mm) maximum. Where the reach depth exceeds 20 inches (510 mm), the high forward reach shall be 44 inches (1120 mm) maximum and the reach depth shall be 25 inches (635 mm) maximum.
- **308.3 Side Reach**
- **308.3.1 Unobstructed.** Where a clear floor or ground space allows a parallel approach to an *element* and the side reach is unobstructed, the high side reach shall be 48 inches (1220 mm) and the low side reach shall be 15 inches (380 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground.
  - o **EXCEPTIONS:** **1.** An obstruction shall be permitted between the clear floor or ground space and the *element* where the depth of the obstruction is 10 inches (255 mm) maximum. **2. Operable parts** of fuel dispensers shall be permitted to be 54 inches (1370 mm) maximum measured from the surface of the *vehicular way* where fuel dispensers are installed on existing curbs.

- **308.3.2 Obstructed High Reach.** Where a clear floor or ground *space* allows a parallel approach to an *element* and the high side reach is over an obstruction, the height of the obstruction shall be 34 inches (865 mm) maximum and the depth of the obstruction shall be 24 inches (610 mm) maximum. The high side reach shall be 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum for a reach depth of 10 inches (255 mm) maximum. Where the reach depth exceeds 10 inches (255 mm), the high side reach shall be 46 inches (1170 mm) maximum for a reach depth of 24 inches (610 mm) maximum.
  - o **EXCEPTIONS:** **1.** The top of washing machines and clothes dryers shall be permitted to be 36 inches (915 mm) maximum above the finish floor. **2.** *Operable parts* of fuel dispensers shall be permitted to be 54 inches (1370 mm) maximum measured from the surface of the *vehicular way* where fuel dispensers are installed on existing curbs.
- **General.** *Operable parts* shall comply with 309.
- **309.2 Clear Floor Space.** A clear floor or ground *space* complying with 305 shall be provided.
- **309.3 Height.** *Operable parts* shall be placed within one or more of the reach ranges specified in 308.
- **309.4 Operation.** *Operable parts* shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate *operable parts* shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum.
  - o **EXCEPTION:** Gas pump nozzles shall not be required to provide *operable parts* that have an activating force of 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum.

This information can all be located at [http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards\\_index.htm](http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm).