



PSI, F.Y.I.

Engineering... Training... and YOU

Headlines:

- ADA & NFPA...

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

ADA & NFPA...

On occasion we have been directed by local fire marshals and plans reviewers to increase the candela rating in small rooms and corridors from 15cd to a minimum of 75cd as initially required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The following is a list of references that serve to guide us, as fire alarm professionals, in our design of public buildings:

2007 FBC (w/ 2009 Amendments), Chapter 11, Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction, states that it is the responsibility of the design professional and the property owner to ensure compliance not only with the 1993 Florida Americans with Disability Accessibility Implementation Act, **but also with subsequent revisions of the Florida laws and administrative rules of each agency.** The referenced agency in this case is the Florida Department of Community Affairs. (Par.)

The Florida Department of Community Affairs cautions us to ensure that all of the most current sources of information are checked and verified with each project. The Access Board ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), which is referenced by the Florida Department of Community Affairs, has been updated three times since the enactment of the 1993 Florida Americans with Disability Accessibility Implementation Act referenced in the building code (2002, 2004, and 2005).

In August 2003, following the publication of the 2002 amendments to the ADAAG, the Access Board published a technical bulletin stating, "Smaller rooms with an area that can be circumscribed by a circle 50 feet in radius, can be covered by a single, centrally located visual alarm meeting ADAAG intensity specifications. For very small rooms, such as examination, toilet, and dressing rooms, a single strobe of lesser intensity may well be sufficient as an equivalent facilitation."

Furthermore, the updated ADAAG for Buildings and Facilities published in July 2004 and amended in August 2005 states that **"Fire alarm systems shall have permanently installed audible and visible alarms complying with NFPA 72."**

Upcoming Events!

- NONE SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME

Our conclusion is that per the installation guidelines of NFPA 72 regarding light intensity, 15cd strobes are sufficient in very small spaces and 15/75cd strobes are sufficient in corridors of public facilities.

Today's

References:

- Florida Building Code, 2007ed. (w/ 2009 amendments), Ch. 11
- 1993 Florida Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act (w/ 2002, 2004 and 2005 amendments)
- NFPA72, 2007ed. , Ch. 7

Protective Systems, Inc. places a high value on individual education. We are dedicated to providing ongoing training for our managers, designers, and technicians who are expected to maintain a minimum NICET II certification is fire alarm and/or fire special hazards.

As codes, applications and enforcements are continually changing, Protective Systems, Inc. feels it is important to highlight specific topics to provide clarification and encourage discussion.

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