



Yosemite Chapter International Code Council
P.O. Box 1525
Modesto, CA 95353-1525



CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Date: March 16, 2017

Attendance:

John Schweigerdt, City of Stockton
Richard Hicks, City of Lathrop
Bill Aiken, 4Leaf
Oscar Diaz, City of Modesto

Geoff Simmons, City of Stockton

Items Discussed:

1. **ACCESSIBLE ROUTES AT AISLE LOCATIONS:** We discussed clear width requirements for accessible routes, particularly the clearance requirement at aisle locations.
- 1.1 **APPLICABLE CODES AND REGULATIONS:** 2016 California Building Code, 2010 ADA Standards.
 - **CBC Chapter 2 – Definitions:** *“AISLE [DSA-AC] A circulation path between objects such as seats, tables, merchandise, equipment, displays, shelves, desks, etc., that provides clearances in compliance with this code.”*
 - **“CBC 11B-403.5.1 Clear Width.** Except as provided in *Sections 11B-403.5.2 and 11B-403.5.3*, the clear width of walking surfaces shall be 36 inches minimum.”
 - **Exception 4:** *“The clear width for aisles shall be 36 inches minimum if serving elements on only one side, and 44 inches minimum if serving elements on both sides.”*
- 1.2 **DISCUSSION:** There seems to be some confusion over what constitutes an aisle for accessibility purposes. Typically, an aisle is thought of as an exit access component in assembly type uses such as theaters but for accessibility purposes an aisle has a broader meaning, see definition above. The requirement to provide 44 inches minimum clear width is routinely overlooked in tenant improvements such as between clothing racks or in commercial kitchen areas. The code is clear that if there are *elements* on both sides of the required clear area, that clearance must be 44 inches minimum. In the commercial kitchen example, there was good discussion about what constitutes a *workstation* and when it might be allowable to permit a reduced clearance at cooking lines.
2. **SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS AT DIFFICULT LOCATIONS:** We discussed the signage location requirements when the installation is not clear based on other constructed elements or obstructions. The example we had for discussion was a tactile exit sign installed on a merchandise security scanner adjacent to the door.
- 2.1 **APPLICABLE CODES AND REGULATIONS:** 2016 California Building Code, 2010 ADA Standards.
 - **“CBC 11B-703.4.1 Height above finish floor or ground.** Tactile characters on signs shall be located 48 inches minimum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the lowest braille cells and 60 inches maximum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the highest line of raised characters.”
 - **“CBC 11B-703.4.2 Location.** Where a tactile sign is provided at a door, the sign shall be located alongside the door at the latch side. Where a tactile sign is provided at double doors with one active leaf, the sign shall be located on the inactive leaf. Where a tactile sign is provided at double doors with two active leaves, the sign shall be located to the right of the right hand door. Where there is no wall space at the latch side of a single door or at the right side of double doors, signs shall be located on the nearest adjacent wall. Signs containing tactile characters shall be located so that a clear floor space of 18 inches (457 mm)



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minimum by 18 inches (457 mm) minimum, centered on the tactile characters, is provided beyond the arc of any door swing between the closed position and 45 degree open position.”

- *“Exception: In alterations where sign installation locations identified in Section 11B-703.4.2 are obstructed or otherwise unavailable for sign installation, signs with tactile characters shall be permitted on the push side of doors with closers and without hold-open devices.”*

2.2 DISCUSSION: The consensus from the group was that if the sign could not be installed as specified by the code such as on a door leaf or adjacent wall, then the installation would need to be at a location that made sense for life safety reasons and for accessibility purposes to be able to use the braille. It wouldn’t make sense for signage to be installed on the “nearest adjacent wall” if the wall was not located in practical proximity to the door. Unique signage installations should be reviewed on a case by case basis with the intent to meet the code requirements but also to convey the information on the signage as effectively as possible.