Last Update: July 1, 2009

A. Introduction:

1. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) that have been promulgated by the Access Board and the Department of Justice shall be followed for accessibility on projects for the University. The State of Indiana has also adopted these guidelines.
2. For renovation work, where aspects of the guidelines call for standards to be "to the maximum extent feasible" or other ambiguities, the A/E is to use their best judgment in making this determination for the project at hand. Our goal is to follow new construction guidelines as closely as possible when renovating existing facilities. The A/E should consult with the Project Manager to resolve ambiguous issues. The ADAAG guidelines may be accessed at the following web site:

   http://www.access-board.gov/
3. Even when these are followed, there are specific requirements and limitations that need to be kept in mind when designing projects at Purdue University. Descriptions of these specific items are below.

B. Alterations to Primary Function Areas:

1. The Path of Travel requirements for existing facilities are not borne by the individual project that an A/E designs. Path of Travel obligations to areas containing a primary function are handled by separate projects initiated by the University.

C. Employee Work Areas:

1. Areas used by graduate students and employees are defined as work areas under the ADAAG and follow the approach enter and exit rule. Workstations, lab benches, and other elements in these areas shall not be designed as accessible. Common areas used by employees (break rooms, lounges, locker rooms, etc.) shall be designed so that elements within shall be accessible. If the scope or program identifies a space for undergraduate or public use, it shall be designed so that the elements within (workstations, lab benches, etc) are accessible. For multi-station spaces, 5% (or a minimum of 1) of each type of station shall be accessible within the space, not including non-fixed equipment, furnishings, etc.

D. Detectable Warning Surfaces:

1. To date, this section has been reserved in ADAAG; however, Purdue University has adopted a standard for detectable warnings on curb ramps and in sidewalks that adjoin vehicular areas using a concrete paver. Complete details of this paver and its use in curb ramps can be found in the Civil Details section of this standard.

E. Reach Heights:

1. ADAAG specifies a maximum allowable side reach of 54" AFF for controls, operating mechanisms, dispensers, etc. Purdue University has reduced this standard to 48" AFF to match the front reach height requirement.

F. Parking:

1. ADAAG specifies the amount of parking required for a given number of spaces. Purdue University manages its accessible parking program on a whole campus basis (as opposed to a lot by lot basis) allowing the University to best serve the needs of the disabled population. This may require the A/E to design more than or less than the number of accessible spaces specified by ADAAG. The Project Manager will clarify this requirement on a project-by-project basis with the A/E.

G. Assembly Seating Area:

1. In places of assembly with fixed seating, the required number of wheelchair seats shall be dispersed both horizontally and vertically within a given space if the space is scheduled by Purdue University's Space Management and Academic Scheduling (SMAS) department. For example, a bankered lecture hall would need 2 wheelchair locations in the bottom row, one on each side of the room and 2 wheelchair locations at the top row, one on each side of the room. Bankers would not allow an accessible path between the top and bottom to maintain sight lines, so separate entries to the top and bottom would be required to be accessible in this example. Spaces not scheduled by SMAS must meet the minimum ADA requirement for vertical dispersion only if the seating capacity exceeds 300.

H. Assistive Listening Systems:

1. Purdue University's standard is to use Infra-red systems to achieve the requirements of this section in ADAAG.

I. Water Coolers:

1. Every water cooler location shall be equipped with two coolers, mounted at complementary heights. Wherever possible, locate the coolers in a recessed niche.

J. Telephones:

1. Telephones shall be installed at an accessible height. The University incorporates a custom "booth". Details will be provided and locations determined during design development.

K. Automatic Door Openers:

1. This is an optional standard in the ADAAG; however, Purdue University uses automatic doors at building entries. For new construction, all public and employee entrances shall have automatic door operators. In addition to having conventional push plates, operators shall also have FM remote transmitters and receivers with hand-held remotes and electric strikes or electrified panic hardware to allow a remote to function as a key for after hours access. Complete specifications for these operators can be found in section 08721 of both the Discipline Specific Guidelines and the Guide Specification in this Handbook. Door operators will be a low speed, low power, electro-mechanical operator that can be "stalled" indefinitely without damage to the unit. When not engaged, the operator should act as a simple closer. Use of automatic openers within a building is highly discouraged. Fire doors in corridors, wherever possible should be held open with magnetic hold-opens connected to the building fire alarm system.