



ADA and Minnesota State Building Code Comparison

Construction Code Services
Informational Bulletin
Revised April 2015

- **ADA** is an acronym for the **Americans with Disabilities Act** enacted in 1990. This is a federal law with the goal to prevent discrimination against disabled people in the US. It is administered by the Federal Government. Rules are retroactive in the sense that existing buildings should comply. If a person with a disability finds that a building is not in compliance, he or she can request the owner correct it. If that correction is not made, the next step is to file a complaint with the Department of Justice.
- **Building Code** accessibility rules are found in **Chapter 1341 of the Minnesota State Building Code** which is based on chapter 11 of the 2012 International Building Code and the 2009 American National Standard Institute A117.1 both as amended by the state. As far as the actual design of accessible features goes however, the building code and the ADA are nearly the same. The big difference is that the building code pertains only once a remodeling is undertaken. In the case of a remodeling occurring, all new work is required to meet code. Depending on the work, some existing non-compliant conditions may be required to be updated as well.

Questions regarding accessibility in buildings that are undergoing, will be, or have undergone alterations or have been altered by the owner or their agents such as removal of an accessible parking space or accessible ramp, should be directed to plan review at **Minneapolis 311** or if calling from outside Minneapolis, **612-673-3000**.

All accessibility questions concerning existing buildings that have not been altered and all questions specific to federal ADA rules should be directed to the Federal Government via their website at **<http://www.ada.gov/>** or by calling **800-514-0301 (voice) 800-514-0383 (TTY)**