



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings, facilities and sites constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (2004 ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-216, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: DCAB 2016-03 What is the minimum height of a curb at ramps and landings where edge protection is required?

Summary: The 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design section 4.8.7 required a minimum curb height of 2 inches. The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (incorporating the 2004 ADAAG) changed the technical provisions for curb or barriers in section 405.9.2 to state ***“A curb or barrier shall be provided that prevents the passage of a 4 inch (100 mm) diameter sphere, where any portion of the sphere is within 4 inches (100 mm) of the finish floor or ground surface.”***

The U.S. Access Board and the Department of Justice both state that the minimum height of the curb at ramps and landings is required to be 4 inches as the sentence states “within 4 inches of the finish floor or ground”. The U.S. Access Board has published guides to the 2004 ADAAG. The section on “Ramps and Curb Ramps” contains technical information and illustrations indicating the minimum height of edge protection at ramps and landings. The illustration shows a 4-inch high curb and states: ***“Curbs if used must be at least 4” high.”*** The guide can be found at: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards>

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG Section 405.9.2 Curb or Barrier.

Where only a curb is provided for edge protection at ramps and ramp landings, the minimum height of the curb shall be 4 inches measured from the top of the finished floor or ground surface of the ramp and landing.

[Rul: 09/15/16] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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