
Entrance and Exit Doors and Accessible Routes ***Commercial/Industrial Projects***

2013 California Building Code, Chapter 11B, Accessible Routes

Site arrival points:

Section 11B-206.2.1, 2013 CBC: At least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve. Where more than one route is provided all routes must be accessible.

Exception: An accessible route shall not be required between arrival points and the building or facility entrance if the only means of access between them is a vehicular way not providing pedestrian access.

Entrances:

Section 11B-206.4, 2013 CBC: All entrances and exterior ground-floor exits to buildings and facilities shall comply with Section 11B-404.

Exceptions:

Section 11B-206.4.1, Exception #1; Exterior ground-floor exits serving smoke-proof enclosures, stairwells and exit doors servicing stairs only shall not be required to comply with Section 11B-404.

Section 11B-206.4.1, Exception #2; Exits in excess of those required by Chapter 10, and which are more than 24 inches above grade shall not be required to comply with Section 11B-404. Such doors shall have warning signs complying with Section 11B-703.5, stating that they are not accessible.

11B-207 Accessible Means of Egress:

11B-207.1, General: Means of egress shall comply with Chapter 10, Section 1007.

Note:

In some cases, some required Fire Department access doors may be an exception when approved by the building official. When approved, such doors shall have warning signs complying with Section 11B-703.5, stating: "FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS, NOT AN ACCESSIBLE EXIT"

Existing Buildings and Facilities

General:

Section 11B-202.2, 2013 CBC; Additions: Each addition to an existing building or facility shall comply with the requirements for new construction and shall comply with Section 11B-202.4.

Section 11B-202.3, 2013 CBC; Alterations: Where existing elements or spaces are altered, each altered element or space shall comply with the applicable requirements of Division 2, including Section 11B-202.4.

The following terms are defined in Chapter 2 Section 202, 2013 CBC

Accessible: A site, building, facility, or portion thereof that is approachable and usable by persons with disabilities in compliance with this code.

Accessible means of egress: A continuous and unobstructed way of egress travel from any accessible point in a building or facility to a public way.

Accessible route: A continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible elements and spaces of an accessible site, building or facility that can be negotiated by a person with a disability using a wheelchair, and that is also safe for and usable by persons with other disabilities. Interior accessible routes may include corridors, hallways, floors, ramps, elevators and lifts. Exterior accessible routes may include parking access isles, curb ramps, crosswalks at vehicular ways, walks, ramps and lifts.

Path of travel: An identifiable accessible route within an existing site, building or facility by means of which a particular area may be approached, entered and exited, and which connects a particular area with an exterior approach (including sidewalks, streets and parking areas), an entrance to the facility, and other parts of the facility. When alterations, structural repairs or additions are made to existing buildings or facilities, the term "path of travel" also includes the toilet and bathing facilities, telephones, drinking fountains and signs serving the area of work.