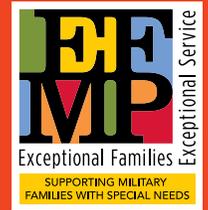


Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards



People of all ages and abilities have the right to reside in their own homes and work, travel, shop and participate fully in community life. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards ensure that buildings and facilities designed, built, altered or leased with federal funds are safe, accessible and usable by people of all ages and abilities.

The law:

The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards are standards for facility accessibility by individuals with a physical disability, for federal and federally funded facilities. The standards are issued under the Architectural Barriers Act, which applies to federal buildings including post offices, Social Security offices, federal courthouses, prisons and national parks. It also covers non-federal facilities, such as public housing units and mass transit systems, built or altered with federal grants or loans.

How the law works:

The General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Postal Service are the four standard-setting agencies, which establish and enforce standards for the design, construction and alteration of particular types of buildings and facilities. Each of the standard-setting agencies has taken action to incorporate the standards into its own standards, regulations or other directives.

What the standards mean:

To meet the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards, federal or federally funded buildings must be designed or altered to be safe, accessible and usable to people of all ages and disabilities.

Some examples of mandatory modifications include:

- Accessible routes must meet certain space requirements to provide enough room for a person in a wheelchair, an elderly person or someone with another mobility limitation to maneuver safely and easily.
- Parking lots for employees or visitors are required to have a certain number of accessible parking spaces.
- Objects that protrude from surfaces or posts into circulation paths must comply with certain width and height standards to ensure the safety of people with vision impairments.
- Stairways must have continuous handrails at both sides for every step.
- Seating spaces and desk heights must be made accessible for people in wheelchairs.
- At least 5 percent of military housing constructed must be designed or built to be either accessible or readily and easily modifiable to be accessible.

Whether it is through the installation of a wheelchair ramp, a slip-resistant ground surface or an accessible parking space, the [Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards](#) ensure that people with physical disabilities can access federal and federally funded buildings more easily and safely.

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>

Exceptional Family Member Program support is available for military families with special needs.

For more information, please contact your installation EFMP office or visit

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>, an official Department of Defense website.