

## **BP 344 - ACCESSIBILITY LAW**

### **BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 344**

• An Act To Enhance The Mobility Of Disabled Persons By Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments And Public Utilities To Install Facilities And Other Devices

### **INTENT**

- In order to promote the realization of the rights of disabled persons, no permit for the construction, repair, or renovation of buildings for public use shall be granted or issued unless facilities or features to enhance the mobility of disabled persons are incorporated.
- The IRR of BP 344 provides for minimum requirements and standards to make buildings, facilities and utilities for public use accessible to disabled persons.

### **OUTLINE**

- BP 344
- IRR of BP 344
  - Rule 1: Scope and Application
  - Rule 2: Minimum Requirements
  - Rule 3: Specific Requirements for Public Buildings
  - Rule 4: Requirements for Public Transportation
  - Rule 5: Administration and Enforcement

### **Annex A: Definition of Terms**

### **Appendix A: Minimum Requirements for Accessibility**

### **ANNEX A (BP 344)**

Definition of Terms

### **Accessible**

Refers to features that enable disabled persons to make use of the primary functions for which a structure is built.

### **Barrier-free**

Unhindered, without obstructions to enable disabled persons free passage or use of the facilities.

### **Curb**

A raised rim of concrete, stone or metal which forms the edge of the street, sidewalk, planted area, etc.

### **Curb cut-out**

A break in the sidewalk or traffic island provided with an inclined surface to facilitate mobility of wheeled chairs, carriages and other similar conveyance.

### **Disabled persons**

Those suffering from restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being as a result of a mental, physical or sensory impairment.

### **Door**

A barrier which swings, slides, tilts or folds to close an opening in a wall or cabinet or the like.

### **Egress**

An exit, or a means of going out.

### **Gradient of ramp**

The degree of inclination of a sloped surface expressed as a percentage or ratio.

### **Handrail**

A hand support along a stairway or ramp consisting of rails and their supporting posts, balusters or pillars and constituting an enclosure or a line of division.

### **Threshold**

A strip fastened to the floor beneath a door, usually required to cover the joint where two types of floor materials meet, may provide weather protection at exterior doors.

### **Vestibule**

A small entranceway or transitional space from the exterior to the interior of a building and opens into a larger space

### **APPENDIX A (BP 344)**

#### Minimum Accessibility Requirements

### **OUTSIDE/AROUND BUILDINGS**

#### Minimum Accessibility Requirements

### **DROPPED CURBS**

- Changes in level walkways should be by a dropped curb.
- Dropped curbs should be provided at pedestrian crossings and at the end of walkways of a private street or access road.
- Dropped curbs at crossings have a width corresponding to the width of the crossing; otherwise, the minimum width is 0.90 m.
- Dropped curbs shall be ramped towards adjoining curbs with a gradient not more than 1:12.
- Dropped curbs shall be sloped towards the road with a maximum cross gradient of 1:20 to prevent water from collecting at the walkway.
- The lowest point of a dropped curb should not exceed 25 mm from the road or gutter.

### **WALKWAYS + PASSAGES**

- Walkways should be kept as level as possible and provided with slip-resistant material.
- Maximum gradient: 1:20
- Maximum cross gradient: 1:100
- Minimum width: 1.20 m
- Avoid locating gratings along walkways.
- When occurring along walkways, grating openings should have a maximum dimension of 13 mm x 13 mm and shall not project more than 6.5 mm above the walkway.

- Walkways should have a continuing surface without abrupt pitches in angle or interruptions by
- In lengthy or busy walkways, turning spaces or rest stops should be provided at some point along the route so that a wheelchair may pass another or turn around.
- These should have a minimum dimension of 1.50 m and should be spaced at a maximum distance of 12:00 m between stops.
- To guide the blind, walkways should follow straightforward routes if possible, with right angle turns.
- Minimum walkway headroom: 2.00 m
- Adjacent plantings, street furniture, bollards, sign posts, columns, etc. should not obstruct walkways or reduce them to less than the minimum required clearances.

### **HANDRAILS**

- Handrails should be installed at both sides of ramps and stairs and at the outer edges of dropped curbs.
- Handrails shall be installed at 0.90 m and 0.70 m above steps or ramps.
- For protection at great heights, they may be installed at 1.0 m to 1.06 m.
- A 0.30 m long extension of the handrail should be provided at the start and end of ramps and stairs.
- Handrails should have a width of 30 mm to 50 mm.
- Handrails attached to walls should have a clearance no less than 50 mm from the wall. Handrails on ledges should have a clearance not less than 40 mm.

### **OPEN SPACES**

- Where open spaces are provided, the blind can become particularly disoriented.
- Therefore, it is extremely helpful if any walkway or paths can be given defined edges either by the use of planters with dwarf walls, or a grass verge, or similar,

which provides a texture different from the path.

### **SIGNAGES**

- Signs should be located at points conveniently seen even by a person on a wheelchair and those with visual impairments.
- Simple and easy to understand
- Uses contrasting colors and contrasting gray values
- Signs on walls and doors should be located at a maximum height of 1.60 m. and a minimum height of 1.40 m
- The international symbol for access should be used to designate routes and facilities that are accessible
- Signages labeling public rooms and places should have raised symbols, letters or numbers with minimum height of 1 mm
- Braille symbols should be included in signs indicating public places and safety routes

### **CROSSINGS**

- All crossings should be located close if not contiguous with the normal pedestrian desire line
- Provide tactile blocks in the immediate vicinity of crossings as an aid to the blind. The tactile surface has to be sufficiently high enough to be felt through the sole of the shoe but low enough not to cause pedestrians to trip, or to affect the mobility of wheelchair users.
- The most beneficial form of crossing for PWDs is the light controlled crossing with synchronized audible signals.
- The flashing green period required for the disabled should be determined on the basis of a walking speed of 0.90 m/sec. (rather than 1.20 m/sec. which is what is normally used).
- The minimum period should not be less than 6 seconds or the crossing distance times 0.90 m/sec., whichever is the greater.

### **PARKING**

- Parking spaces for the disabled should allow enough space for a person to transfer to a wheelchair from a vehicle
- Accessible parking spaces should be located as close as possible to building entrances or to accessible entrances;
- Whenever and wherever possible, accessible parking spaces should be perpendicular or to an angle to the road or circulation aisles;
- Accessible parking slots should have a minimum width of 3.70 m.
- A walkway from accessible spaces of 1.20 m. clear width shall be provided between the front ends of parked cars
- Provide signages and never locate the parking slot in sloping areas

### **INSIDE BUILDINGS**

Minimum Accessibility Requirements

#### **ENTRANCES**

- Entrances with vestibules shall be provided a level area with at least a 1.80 m depth and a 1.50 m width;
- Entrances should be accessible from arrival and departure points to the interior lobby
- In case entrances are not on the same level of the site arrival grade, ramps should be provided as access to the entrance level

#### **RAMPS**

- Changes in level require a ramp except when served by a dropped curb, an elevator or other mechanical device
- Minimum clear width of ramps: 1.20 m.
- Maximum gradient of ramps: 1:12
- The length of a ramp should not exceed 6:00m if the gradient is 1:12; longer ramps whose gradient is 1:12 shall be provided with landings not less than 1.50 m.
- A level area not less than 1.80 m. should be provided at the top and bottom of any ramp

- Handrails will be provided on both sides of the ramp at 0.70 m. and 0.90 m. from the ramp level
- Ramps shall be equipped with curbs on both sides with a minimum height of 0.10 m.
- Any ramp with a rise greater than 0.20 m. and leads down towards a vehicular area should have a railing across the full width of its lower end, not less than 1.80 meters from the foot of the ramp

### **DOORS**

- Outswinging doors should be provided at storage rooms, closets and accessible restroom stalls
- Latching or non-latching hardware should not require wrist action or fine finger manipulation
- Doorknobs and other hardware should be located between 0.82 m. and 1.06 m. above the floor; 0.90 is preferred

### **THRESHOLDS**

- Thresholds shall be kept to a minimum; whenever necessary, thresholds and sliding door tracks shall have a maximum height of 25 mm and preferably ramped

### **SWITCHES**

- Manual switches shall be positioned within 1.20 m to 1.30 m above the floor
- Manual switches should be located no further than 0.20 from the latch side of the door

### **CORRIDORS**

- Minimum width of corridors: 1.20 m.
- Provide turnabout spaces with a minimum area of 1.50 mx 1.50 m. spaced at a maximum of 12.00 m.
- Turnabout spaces should also be provided at a dead end or within 3.50 m. of every dead end
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### **WASHROOMS + TOILETS**

- Minimum number of PWD toilet stalls (per sex):
  - 1 if the number of water closets is 20 or less
  - 2 if the number of water closets is more than 20
- Accessible water closet stalls shall have a minimum area of 1.70 m. x 1.80 m.
- The signage for men's washroom door shall be an equilateral triangle, 300 mm. per side, with the vertex pointing upward.
- The signage for the women's washroom shall be a circle with a 300 mm. diameter.
- The totally blind could touch the edge of the signs and easily determine whether it is straight or curved.
- Maximum height of water closets: 0.45 m.
- Maximum height of flush control: 1.20 m.
- Maximum height of lavatories: 0.80 m.
- For lavatories, provide a knee recess of 0.60-0.70 m. high and 0.50 m. deep.
- Urinals should have an elongated lip. The maximum height of the lip should be 0.48 m.

### **STAIRS**

- Tread surfaces should be a slip-resistant material; nosings may be provided with slip-resistant strips to further minimize slipping
- Slanted nosings are preferred to projecting
- The nosing should be marked with a color and gray value which is in high contrast to the gray value of the rest of the stairs

### **ELEVATORS**

- Accessible elevators shall have a minimum dimension of 1.10 m. x 1.40 m. (inside clear dimensions of the elevator car)
- Accessible elevators should be located not more than 30 m. from the entrance
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- Centerline heights for the topmost buttons shall be between 0.90 m. to 1.20 m. from the floor

- Button sizes at elevator control panels shall have a minimum diameter of 20 mm and should have a maximum depression depth of 1 mm
- All excavations, whether on the road or footway must be adequately protected.
- The height of the rail/fence should be at least 1.00 m. from the adjacent surface.
- The railing should incorporate a tapping rail to assist the blind, and this should not be greater than 0.35 m. above adjacent surface.
- The fence should be strong enough to offer resistance should a blind person walk into it.
- Gaps should not occur between adjoining fence lengths.

**SUMMARY OF DIMENSIONS**

<b>DROPPED CURBS</b>	0.90m	Minimum width
	1:12	Not to exceed (ramp)
<b>WALKWAY + PASSAGES</b>	1:20	Max gradient
	1:100	Max cross gradient
	1.20	Minimum width
	13mm x 13mm	Max dimensions
	1.50	Minimum dimensions
	6.5 mm	Not more than
	12.00m	Between stops
	2.00m	Walkway headroom

<b>HANDRAILS</b>	0.70m-0.90m	Installed
	1.0m to 1.06m	protection
	0.30m	extension
	30mm to 50mm	width
	0.50mm	Wall: horizontal
	0.40mm	Wall: vertical

<b>THRESHOLDS</b>	25mm	Minimum height
<b>SWITCHES</b>	1.20 - 1.30m	From the floor
	0.20m	Latches
<b>CORRIDORS</b>	1.20m	Minimum width
	1.50m x 1.50m	Turning space
<b>TOILETS</b>	0.90m	doors
	1.70m x 1.80m	Standard size
<b>WASHROOM +TOILET</b>	20 or less	1 water closet
	20-40	2 water closet
<b>MEN</b>	300mm per side	Equilateral triangle
<b>WOMEN</b>	300mm diameter	circle
	0.45m	Minimum height of water closet

	1.20m	Flush control
	0.80m	Lavatory
	0.48m	Urinals: men
<b>TACTILE STRIPS</b>	0.30	Tactile
<b>ELEVATORS</b>	30m	Accessible, from the entrance
	1.10m x 1.40m	Minimum dimension
	0.90 - 1.20m	Centrine from the floor
<b>BUTTON SIZE</b>	1mm	
	20mm	Depth
<b>FENCE FOR ROADWORKS</b>	1.00m	Height of the rail, adjacent surface
	0.30m	Should not greater than
	10.00m	height
	25mm	ramped
	1.20m	walkways
	1.50m	Preferred
<b>SIGNAGES</b>	1.40m	minimum
	1.60m	maximum
	1mm	labeling
<b>CROSSINGS</b>	1.5m - 2.0m	Central refugees
	10m	carriageway
	0.90m/s	Meter per

	ec	second
<b>PARKING</b>	5.0m	Standard size: parking
	2.50m	Normal parking
	3.70m	Parking for PWD's
<b>GARAGE</b>	1.20m	Door width
	6.0	standard size: garage