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November 27, 2012

California Building Standards Commission  
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130  
Sacramento, California 95833  
Attention: Jim McGowan, Executive Director

Re: Participation Comments for the Notice Dated October 26, 2012

Dear California Building Standards Commission:

We respectfully submit the following comments for consideration. These suggested revisions relate to proposed modifications by the Housing and Community Development Department for knee and toe clearance. Reason(s) for these suggested revisions appear at the end and applies to proposed changes and other existing sections that will require changes for consistency.

#### **PART 1 CHAPTER 11A WITH CHANGES**

##### **Section 1138A.2.1: Recommend Approved As Amended**

Suggested Revisions to the Proposed Text of the Regulations:

*1138A.2.1 Knee space. Space under an element between 9 inches (229 mm) and 27 inches (686 mm) above the finish floor shall be considered knee space. The knee space shall be clear and unobstructed.*

*Exception(s): 1. For lavatories required to be accessible, the knee space shall be at least 29 inches (737 mm) high at the front face and reducing to not less than 27 inches (686 mm) at a point 8 inches (203.2 mm) back from the front edge. 2. For lavatories and sinks, the dip of the overflow shall not be considered in determining knee and toe clearances*

#### **PART 2 CHAPTER 11A WITHOUT CHANGE**

##### **Section 1133A.7: Recommend Approved As Amended**

Suggested Revisions to the Proposed Text of the Regulations:

*1133A.7 Knee and toe space. Knee and toe space, when required by Section 1133A, shall comply with the following:*

- 1. The knee and toe space shall be clear and unobstructed, or removable base cabinets in compliance with Section 1133A.3 shall be provided.*
- 2. The knee and toe space shall be 30 inches (762 mm) wide minimum, centered on the sink, countertop or appliance.*
- 3. The knee space shall be at least 27 inches (686 mm) above the finish floor.*

4. *The knee space shall be 11 inches (279 mm) deep minimum at 9 inches (229 mm) above the finish floor, and 8 inches (203 mm) deep minimum at 27 inches (686 mm) above the finish floor, measured from the front edge.*
5. *The toe space shall be at least 9 inches (229 mm) above the finish floor.*
6. *A clear floor space shall not extend into the knee and toe space more than 19 inches (483 mm).*
7. *The dip of the overflow shall not be considered in determining knee and toe clearances for sinks or lavatories.*

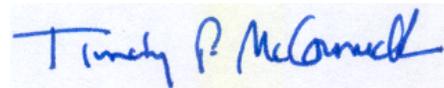
**Section 1134A.8(4): Recommend Approved As Amended**

4. *Knee and toe space. Knee and toe space shall be provided as follows:*
  - 4.1. *The knee space shall be at least 30 inches (762 mm) wide and 8 inches (203.2 mm) deep.*
  - 4.2. *The knee space shall be at least 29 inches (737 mm) high at the front face and reducing to not less than 27 inches (686 mm) at a point 8 inches (203.2 mm) back from the front edge.*
  - 4.3. *The knee and toe space required in this section shall be provided by one of the following:*
    - 4.3.1. *The space beneath the lavatory shall be left clear and unobstructed;*
    - 4.3.2. *Any cabinet beneath the lavatory shall be removable without the use of specialized knowledge or specialized tools; or*
    - 4.3.3. *Doors to the cabinet beneath the lavatory shall be removable or openable to provide the required unobstructed knee and toe space.*
  - 4.4. *The toe space required in this section shall be provided as follows:*
    - 4.4.1. *Shall be at least 30 inches (762 mm) wide and centered on the lavatory.*
    - 4.4.2. *Shall be at least 17 inches (432 mm) deep, measured from the front edge.*
    - 4.4.3. *Shall be at least 9 inches (228.6 mm) high from the floor.*
  - 4.5 *The dip of the overflow shall not be considered in determining knee and toe clearances for sinks or lavatories.*

**Reason:** Suggested revisions (shown underlined) would create consistent clear floor space requirements with the proposed Chapter 11B provisions (Section 606.2), 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (Section 606.2) and ANSI A117.1 (Section 606.2). ANSI 117.1 commentary states that “*The dip or overflow on a sink can result in a bump along the front and bottom edge of the bowl. Because this would typically be between user’s legs when they approached the sink, this should not be considered when determining whether adequate knee and toe clearance have been provided..*” . Occurrence of these dip overflows is ubiquitous. Without this established exception, these fixtures will be unable to meet this one dimensional requirement in combination with their other specified location, depth and height requirements of accessible installations.

Sincerely,

VCA CODE GROUP INC.



TIM MCCORMICK, P.E., C.B.O., CASP  
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS