

FINAL EXPRESS TERMS
FOR
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE
DIVISION OF THE STATE ARCHITECT (DSA-AC)

REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO
THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 2

2016 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE
TRIENNIAL CODE CYCLE

LEGEND FOR EXPRESS TERMS

1. Existing California amendments or code language being modified are in italics when they appear in the model code text: All such language appears in *italics*, modified language is underlined.
2. New California amendments: All such language appears underlined and in italics.
3. Repealed text: All such language appears in ~~strikeout~~.

EXPRESS TERMS

ITEM 11B.25

DIVISION 4: ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

11B-403 Walking surfaces

11B-403.5 Clearances. ...

11B-403.5.1 Clear width. Except as provided in Sections 11B-403.5.2 and 11B-403.5.3, and unless otherwise specified, the clear width of walking surfaces shall be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum. The clear width for walking surfaces in corridors serving an occupant load of 10 or more shall be 44 inches (1118 mm) minimum. The clear width for aisles shall be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum if serving elements on only one side, and 44 inches (1118 mm) minimum if serving elements on both sides. The clear width for accessible routes to accessible toilet compartments shall be 44 inches (1118 mm) minimum except for door-opening widths and door swings.

Exceptions: Exception:

- ~~4. The clear width shall be permitted to be reduced to 32 inches (813 mm) minimum for a length of 24 inches (610 mm) maximum provided that reduced width segments are separated by segments that are 48 inches (1219 mm) long minimum and 36 inches (914 mm) wide minimum.~~
- ~~2. The clear width for walking surfaces in corridors serving an occupant load of 10 or more shall be 44 inches (1118 mm) minimum.~~
- ~~3. The clear width for sidewalks and walks shall be 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum. When, because of right-of-way restrictions, natural barriers or other existing conditions, the enforcing agency determines that compliance with the 48-inch (1219 mm) clear sidewalk~~

width would create an unreasonable hardship, the clear width may be reduced to 36 inches (914 mm).

- ~~4. The clear width for aisles shall be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum if serving elements on only one side, and 44 inches (1118 mm) minimum if serving elements on both sides.~~
- ~~5. The clear width for accessible routes to accessible toilet compartments shall be 44 inches (1118 mm) except for door opening widths and door swings.~~

11B-403.5.1.1 Sidewalks and walks. *The clear width for sidewalks and walks shall be 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum. In alterations where existing conditions make provision of 48 inches (1219 mm) minimum clear width infeasible, the clear width for sidewalks and walks shall be permitted to be reduced to 36 inches (914 mm) minimum for a length of 24 inches (610 mm) maximum provided that reduced width segments are separated by segments that are 48 inches (1219 mm) long minimum and 48 inches (1219 mm) wide minimum; existing conditions include, but are not limited to, right-of-way restrictions, utility poles, street lights, and traffic signal hardware.*

REASON: DSA-AC submitted Item 11B.25, as it appears above, to the CA Building Standards Commission (CBSC) for consideration and approval. At its meeting on January 19-20, 2016, the CBSC approved this item with an additional amendment; the amendment added the word “technically” prior to the word “infeasible” in proposed new Section 11B-403.5.1.1 thus resulting in the term “technically infeasible”.

Subsequent to the CBSC’s January 19-20, 2016 action, DSA has determined this additional amendment would require the enforcing agency, consistent with existing CBC Section 11B-202.3 Exception 2, to make a determination that compliance with the generally applicable requirement for 48 inch minimum width of walks and sidewalks is technically infeasible before the specified reduced widths may be utilized. DSA’s original proposal sought to eliminate the need for a jurisdictional determination prior to allowing a reduced width of walks and sidewalks. As such, the CBSC amendment represents a substantive change from DSA’s proposed language and exceeds the regulatory authority for code changes during a public hearing.

Since the CBSC has not yet approved, approved with non-substantive changes, or rejected DSA’s proposed amendments to Item 11B.25, this item needs to be reconsidered by the CBSC.

Notation

Authority: Government Code Section 4450.

References: Government Code Sections 4450 through 4461, 12955.1(c) and 14679; Health and Safety Code Sections 18949.1, 19952 through 19959; and Vehicle Code Section 22511.8.