
**Report on Inspections for Compliance
with the Public Access Provisions of
the Americans with Disabilities Act**

Conducted Under

The Congressional Accountability Act

December 2002

**General Counsel
Office of Compliance
—
United States Congress**

**Report on Inspections for Compliance
with the Public Access Provisions in
the Americans with Disabilities Act**

**Conducted Under Section 210 of
the Congressional Accountability Act**

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**General Counsel
Office of Compliance
—
United States Congress**

December 27, 2002

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
United States Senate
S-311, The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alan M. Hantman, AIA
Architect of the Capitol
The Capitol, SB-15
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Senator Byrd and Mr. Hantman:

Section 210(f) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, requires that the General Counsel of the Office of Compliance inspect the facilities of the Legislative Branch at least once each Congress, to ensure compliance with the public access provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and to submit a report on the results of the inspection.

I am please to advise you that the inspection conducted during the One Hundred-Seventh Congress has been concluded, and that the mandated report has been prepared and is submitted herewith.

In preparing this report, the General Counsel's Office has received competent and useful technical assistance from the U.S. Access Board, for which I wish to express my appreciation.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Polydor
Acting General Counsel

Enclosure

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (“CAA”) requires the General Counsel to inspect covered facilities in the Legislative Branch at least once each Congress for compliance with the public services and accommodations provisions in Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), and to report the results to the Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and any other entity responsible for correcting violations. See Section 210(f); 2 U.S.C. Section 1331(f). This Report to the 107th Congress is the third such Report of the General Counsel.

The public services and accommodations provisions of the ADA, as applied by the Congressional Accountability Act, prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and require that people with disabilities be given the opportunity to participate in the programs and services offered to the public by covered Legislative Branch entities. All public services and accommodations must be made accessible, at alternative sites or through alternative means when necessary, except when to do so would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program, or in undue financial or administrative burden. The goal of the ADA is to provide accessibility and the opportunity to participate to people with disabilities in an integrated setting whenever possible.

In the unique setting of Capitol Hill, the public services and accommodations provisions of the ADA require that people with disabilities be assured of the opportunity to tour the Capitol, meet with and conduct business with members of Congress, attend committee hearings, and participate in public programs sponsored by Congressional offices. Achieving accessibility may require removal of structural barriers to access (*e.g.*, erecting a ramp at an entrance to a Congressional building) as well as removal of communication barriers (*e.g.*, providing signed interpretive services for a committee hearing).

Based on our inspections during the 107th Congress, we have concluded that overall, the Legislative Branch is in substantial compliance with the public access provisions of the ADA. However, we also identified several remaining deficiencies that impede access for people with disabilities. We note that these are the same deficiencies identified in our previous Report for the

106th Congress. Specifically, we recommend that the responsible entities address the lack of adequate signage to direct people with disabilities to accessible building features and paths of travel, including areas of rescue assistance in the event of an emergency; the lack of complete coverage by visual alarms in the Capitol, Hart and Rayburn Buildings; and limitations in restrooms throughout the Capitol complex that are inaccurately designated as accessible. For a detailed explanation of our inspection findings, see Appendix A.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (“CAA”) requires the General Counsel of the Office of Compliance to inspect covered facilities in the Legislative Branch at least once each Congress for compliance with the public services and accommodations provisions in Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”). The results of this inspection are to be reported to the Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and any other entity responsible for correcting violations. Section 210(f) of the CAA; 2 U.S.C. §1331(f).

The public services and accommodations provisions in Section 210 of the CAA went into effect on January 1, 1997, at the start of the 105th Congress. This Report to the 107th Congress is the third report mandated by Section 210(f).

For the initial report in 1998, all public areas in the buildings and other facilities operated by the entities covered by Section 210 of the CAA were inspected.¹ The public areas are those to which constituents, individuals on official business, and other visitors have access. They contain about eight million square feet of space, and include areas such as the offices of Members of the House of Representatives and Senators, committee hearing rooms, public restrooms, food

¹The entities covered by the public access provisions in Section 210 of the CAA are the following: (1) each office of the Senate, including each office of a Senator and each committee; (2) each office of the House of Representatives, including each office of a Member of the House of Representatives and each committee; (3) each joint committee of the Congress; (4) the Capitol Guide Service; (5) the Capitol Police; (6) the Congressional Budget Office; (7) the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; (8) the Office of the Attending Physician; and (9) the Office of Compliance. 2 U.S.C. §1331(a).

service areas, and the paths of travel to all of these areas. Areas used exclusively by employees, and not open to the public, are not covered by the public access provisions of the ADA, and were therefore not included in the survey.²

For the present report, only areas where modifications or alterations affecting public access have been made since the previous inspection in 2000 were surveyed, since examining areas where conditions are unchanged would yield no new information. The Architect of the Capitol assisted us in identifying areas where modifications or alterations had been made. In addition, the Congressional Special Services Office, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, and the U.S. Capitol Police advised us about changes to their programs or activities. We also benefitted from comments received from several disability rights groups, listed in Appendix D. The covered offices specifically mentioned in this Report were given an advance opportunity to comment on it. Their comments were carefully considered and, where appropriate, adopted before the Report was approved for publication.

The inspections were conducted during August and November 2002 by an accessibility specialist from the U.S. Access Board working under the direction of the staff of the Office of Compliance General Counsel.³ This Report summarizes the results of those inspections. A detailed explanation of our inspection findings appears in Appendix A.

III. WHAT THE PUBLIC ACCESS PROVISIONS OF THE ADA REQUIRE

The public access provisions of the ADA prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and require that people with disabilities be given the opportunity to participate in the programs and services that are offered to the public. To enable participation, standard practices must be modified if a reasonable way can be found to accommodate a person with disabilities

²Employees with disabilities are covered by another section of the CAA, Section 201. That section extends to employees the rights and protections of Title I of the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. 2 U.S.C. §1311(a)(3).

³The U.S. Access Board, or Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, is a Federal agency devoted to accessibility of people with disabilities. The Access Board was created under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; see 29 U.S.C. Section 792.

that does not fundamentally alter the nature of what is being made available to members of the public. See 28 CFR §35.130; 150 and 28 CFR § 36.201-208; 302.

Both physical barriers and communication barriers can prevent participation by people with disabilities. For example, a lack of ramps to the entrance of a building poses a physical barrier that prevents a wheelchair user from getting to a Member's office or attending a committee hearing. The unavailability of printed material in Braille or other alternate formats poses a communications barrier to a person who is blind or has low vision.

A. Access to Public Programs, Services, and Activities

The ADA requires that each program or service provided by a public entity, when viewed in its entirety, be readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities.⁴ Every existing facility where programs and services are offered to the public does not have to be made accessible. However, all programs and services must be made accessible, at alternative sites or through alternative means when necessary, except where to do so would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program, or in undue financial or administrative burden. In choosing among ways to make its programs accessible, priority consideration should be given to providing services in a setting that does not segregate people with disabilities from other people.

Thus, if a Member of the House of Representatives is offering an educational program on Medicare benefits to constituents in a town in his or her district, and the only facility available that will accommodate the number of anticipated attendees is not accessible to wheelchair users, measures must be taken to make the program available to these individuals at alternative sites or through alternative means. Such measures might include holding an additional session at a smaller accessible location for both wheelchair users and individuals who could not attend the initial session, in the interest of offering the program in an integrated setting, or if that is not feasible, making an audio or video tape of the program available.

⁴The public entities to which the program access requirements in Title II of the ADA apply are primarily state and local governments. For the purpose of applying Title II of the ADA, the CAA defines "public entity" as any Legislative Branch entity covered by Section 210(a) that provides public services, programs, or activities. Section 210(b)(2) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. § 1331(b)(2).

B. Removal of Structural Barriers to Access

With respect to structural barriers, the goal of the ADA is that, over time, access will be the rule rather than the exception. To strike a balance between providing access to individuals with disabilities and legitimate cost concerns, the ADA establishes different standards for existing facilities and new construction. In existing facilities where retrofitting may prove costly, a less rigorous degree of physical accessibility is required than in the case of new construction and alterations where features that enable access can be incorporated more easily and economically into the initial design and construction. See 28 CFR Part 36, Appendix B - Preamble to Regulations on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability By Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities (regulations issued by Department of Justice).

Existing Facilities In existing facilities, the ADA requires the removal of structural barriers to access when their removal is “readily achievable” - that is, easily accomplished or able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense. 28 CFR §§ 36.104 and 304. Examples of such measures include making curb cuts and installing ramps so that wheelchair users can enter a building; rearranging tables, chairs and other furniture so that there is enough clearance for a wheelchair; adding raised marking on elevator control buttons so that people who are blind or have low vision can operate the controls; and installing flashing alarm lights so that individuals who are hearing impaired are alerted to evacuate in a fire or other emergency. Additional examples of barrier removal that are usually readily achievable are provided in 28 CFR § 36.304.

As these examples illustrate, the readily achievable standard does not require extensive renovation of existing buildings. Removing a barrier posed by a flight of steps would generally not be required, for example, if installation of an elevator or extensive ramping is needed. Ramping a single step, however, is likely to be readily achievable, and ramping several steps also will be readily achievable in many instances.

Priorities for Barrier Removal Because the resources available for barrier removal may not be adequate to remove all existing barriers at once, priorities have been established by the Federal regulations for determining which type of barriers should be eliminated first - either completely or to the extent readily achievable. 28 CFR §36.304(c). These priorities are designed to maximize the degree of effective access that will result from any given level of expenditure

and guide long-term planning. 28 CFR Part 36, Appendix B.

The highest priority has been placed on removing barriers to enable individuals with disabilities to physically enter a building on their own. Making it possible “to get through the door” from public sidewalks or drop-off points is the most important first step in enabling individuals with disabilities to use the services and participate in the activities that take place in the building.

The next priority is the removal of barriers that prevent access to the major activities made available to the public. In the U.S. Capitol Building, for example, major activities available to the public include viewing legislative proceedings from galleries in the House and Senate Chambers, and visiting areas such as the Rotunda and Statuary Hall, which are major attractions. In Congressional office buildings, major activities available to the public include attending committee hearings, and visiting the offices of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives to express opinions and concerns to elected representatives.

The third priority is to provide access to restroom facilities. Measures that are readily achievable to remove barriers in these facilities might include, for example, widening toilet stalls, installing grab bars, and replacing door hardware that requires tight grasping and twisting, or installing automatic door openers, so that an individual with a mobility impairment can enter the restroom unassisted.

The final priority for barrier removal is to provide access to other services and facilities. In Congressional buildings, other facilities would include cafeterias, water fountains, and public telephones.

Consulting with individuals with disabilities or organizations representing them is encouraged by regulation as a way to save resources by identifying the most efficient means of providing the required access.

When barrier removal is not readily achievable, alternative means to provide access must be used to the extent that they are readily achievable. For example, if a Congressional district office is located on the second floor of a building that does not have an elevator, the office should take alternative measures to provide access - such as bringing the material that a constituent may

request to ground level or meeting with the constituent in a library or coffee shop.⁵

New Construction and Alterations Standards for accessible design have been adopted for new construction and alterations by the Department of Justice. These standards, which appear at 28 CFR Part 36, Appendix A, were developed by the U.S. Access Board.

Except in special circumstances, these design specifications for accessible features must be followed in new construction and alterations. For alterations, deviations from ADA standards are permitted only when the nature of an existing facility makes it virtually impossible to comply fully with the standards. In these circumstances, the alteration must provide the maximum physical accessibility feasible. 28 CFR §36.402(c). For new construction, full compliance with access standards is required except in rare circumstances where unique characteristics of the terrain make it structurally impracticable. 28 CFR §36.401(c).

For example, the United States Botanic Gardens Conservatory, a facility covered by section 210 of the CAA, has undergone a major renovation. The Conservatory was reopened to the public in September 2001. Our recent inspection revealed that the Conservatory is fully compliant with ADA standards, with the exception of minor technical problems found in the restrooms. The AOC reports that it will address these problems. (For details, see discussion of Botanic Gardens in Appendix A, under “Individual Building Reports, Other Facilities.”)

C. Effective Communication

The ADA requires that the governmental entities and private businesses and organizations covered by the law take steps to ensure that communication with members of the public with disabilities is as effective as communications with others. Aids to communication, called auxiliary aids, must be furnished to persons with disabilities when necessary for effective communication, provided they can be furnished without undue financial or administrative burden, and do not significantly alter the nature of the program. For individuals with hearing impairments, auxiliary aids and services include written materials, assistive listening devices, qualified interpreters, and open or closed captioning. For individuals with visual impairments,

⁵The ADA does not require that only accessible space be leased, a requirement that could be particularly burdensome in rural or sparsely populated areas. However, district and home offices should try to locate accessible space available whenever possible.

auxiliary aids include audio recordings, Brailled materials, and large print materials.

The availability of auxiliary aids should be made known by notices in newsletters or other publications. It is not necessary, however, to prepare a document in an alternate format unless a specific request is received. Charges may not be imposed for providing auxiliary aids.⁶

IV. CONSULTATION WITH DISABILITY RIGHTS GROUPS

Before the current inspections were initiated, the Office of the General Counsel solicited comments from disability rights groups about the difficulties that people with disabilities experience when they come to Capitol Hill, or seek access to information produced by the Legislative Branch. We reviewed the comments in preparing this Report, and forwarded them to responsible offices. A list of the disability rights organizations which provided comments appears in Appendix D.

V. STATUS OF PHYSICAL ACCESS AND IMPROVEMENTS SINCE LAST INSPECTION

The inspections conducted during the 107th Congress showed that overall, the Legislative Branch is in substantial compliance with the public access provisions of the ADA.

The reports on individual buildings, which appear in Appendix A, attempt to assess the current state of access for each of the major Congressional buildings, and to identify the major structural barriers to access that remain to be addressed. Changes and improvements made since the last inspection are highlighted.

The priorities for barrier removal established under the ADA were used in making this assessment. For each building, efforts have been made to determine whether an individual in a wheelchair or with other mobility impairment can (1) freely enter the building; (2) travel from the entrance to areas where major programs and activities such as committee hearings and other public meetings are held; (3) use the restrooms; and (4) use other public facilities such as dining facilities, public telephones, and water fountains.

⁶The ADA does not require the provision of personal devices, such as wheelchairs; individually prescribed devices, such as hearing aids; or services of a personal nature including assistance in eating, toileting, or dressing. 28 CFR §36.306.

Building features that make a building accessible to people who are blind or have low vision, or who have hearing impairments, are also addressed in the individual building reports. For people with visual impairments, accessible building features include signs with Braille and tactile lettering, audible signals on elevators, and the elimination of protruding objects that can injure a blind person because they are located where they can not be detected with a cane. For individuals with hearing impairments, accessible building features include visual alarms to warn of the need to evacuate in an emergency, the availability of assistive listening systems, and public text telephones - frequently referred to as TTY's or TDD's - which are used to communicate with individuals who are hearing impaired or cannot speak.

A. Entrances

All major Congressional buildings have at least one accessible entrance, making it possible for wheelchair users to “get in the door,” the highest priority for barrier removal under the ADA. As stated in our last Report, there are features that reduce the degree of access at some of the entrances which should be remedied (these problems are noted on the individual building reports in Appendix A). However, all the designated entrances are functional and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Throughout the Capitol complex, there are signs clearly designating accessible entrances and indicating the location of the accessible entrances at building entrances that are not accessible. Since our last inspection, AOC has installed four new exterior directional signs in the immediate vicinity of the U.S. Capitol. The new signs, including “You are Here” maps, provide explicit direction to, and identification of, the accessible entrances to all buildings. According to wheelchair users, the absence of such signs in the past had been a major impediment, requiring people with mobility impairments to travel around very large buildings in search of an accessible entrance.

B. Curb Ramps

Due to the installation of more than four hundred curb ramps throughout the Capitol complex during the 106th Congress, most paths of travel through the Capitol grounds can be

traveled by wheelchair. However, some improvements are needed. The AOC reports that it is working on a plan to update and renew all existing curb cuts, and to install new ones where needed. The plan will take into account areas where security barriers impede access. The AOC is not able to provide a projected date for completion of this project at this time.

C. Hallways and Major Activity Areas

Generally, there are no major obstructions in the hallways from building entrances to hearing rooms and Members' offices, where major activities are conducted. The hallways in Congressional office buildings are generally free of obstructions that would prevent individuals in wheelchairs from getting to the areas where committee hearing rooms and Members' offices are located.

However, large, heavy doors, some of which are historic, do pose impediments to access to several committee hearing rooms. Many of these doors have hardware that requires tight grasping and twisting, and a single leaf that has less than the 32" of clearance needed for wheelchair access. The AOC reports that automatic door openers will be added when doors are replaced or committee rooms upgraded. We found during our current inspection that automatic door openers have been added to four hearing rooms in the Rayburn Building. In addition, we found new signs posted at three hearing rooms in the Cannon Building indicating accessibility instructions. In general, hearing room doors that are difficult to open and not equipped with automatic openers should either be propped open when hearings are held, or someone should be available to open the doors.

Many conventional tables are not high enough to permit people in wheelchairs to sit at the table. As the reports on the individual buildings reflect, many witness tables in hearing rooms and conference tables throughout the complex have been modified or raised on blocks to provide the 27" of clearance needed. However, as noted, some tables still have not been modified or replaced. When a witness table will not provide adequate clearance for a witness in

a wheelchair, arrangements should be made in advance for a temporary table. House ADA Services provides such tables on request.

An impediment to wheelchair access to the offices of some Members of the House of Representatives, brought to our attention during our previous inspection, were mailboxes in the office doorways which reduce clearance to less than 32", thereby obstructing wheelchair access. All mailboxes, both wall-mounted and floor mounted, have now been removed. However, signs with Braille and tactile lettering near some of the doorways to offices in both House and Senate Office Buildings continue to be blocked by flags. Although we found during our recent inspection that most offices were free of such impediments, these problems remain in some locations.

Finally, we note that steep ramps found in some locations throughout the Capitol complex, particularly in the tunnels connecting the buildings, make it difficult for persons using wheelchairs and others with mobility impairments to make their way independently through the buildings.

D. Elevators

Most of the elevators throughout the Capitol complex are large enough and have doorways that are wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair. There are, however, a significant number of elevators, primarily those of unique design in the Capitol Building, that are too small and cannot be widened feasibly.

The principal access problems in elevators that can be remedied are the location of call buttons and control panels, which are often not low enough to be within the reach of wheelchair users; the lack of Braille and tactile lettering at control buttons; and the lack of proper audible signals for individuals who are blind or have low vision. As reported previously, significant progress continues to be made under the ongoing elevator modernization program at the Capitol complex. We found during our current inspection that a total of 14 elevators in the Capitol Building have now been modernized and made ADA-compliant. The AOC reports that all elevators in the Capitol will be modernized by December 2005. In addition, all elevators in the Longworth Building (with the exception of a single elevator lacking a functioning audible signal), and six of the ten public elevators in the Dirksen Building are ADA-compliant. As

detailed in the individual building reports found in Appendix A, work is continuing or planned to renovate and make several more elevators ADA-compliant throughout the Capitol complex.

E. Restrooms

Since the last inspection, there also has been an increase in the number of ADA-compliant restrooms.⁷ The most notable improvement has been in the Capitol Building. Beginning with our 1998 Report, we recommended that providing accessible restrooms in the Capitol, one of the most heavily visited monuments in the country, should be given a high priority. All public restrooms have now been upgraded and made substantially ADA-compliant (with the exception of two restrooms slated for demolition). However, during our inspection we found that the accessible restrooms still lack required Braille signage by the entrance doors, and that a few of the restrooms have additional deficiencies, as detailed in Appendix A.

In the Russell Building, all public restrooms in the building (13 men's and 13 women's) are now accessible. However, many of the accessible restrooms are not indicated on the "You are Here" floor maps posted in the building, making them difficult for visitors to locate.

In the Cannon Building, there is now at least one accessible men's and women's restroom on four of the five floors. In the Longworth Building, 11 restrooms are substantially ADA-complaint, with a few minor problems remaining. Work is underway to complete restroom renovations in the Dirksen and Hart Buildings.

Despite these improvements, there are still a number of restrooms designated as accessible in Capitol Hill buildings that have problems making it difficult for individuals in wheelchairs to use them. These problems are described in detail in the individual building reports, found in Appendix A.

In particular, we note, as we did in our previous report, that the number of accessible stalls in the Rayburn Building (one men's and one women's per floor) remains quite limited, particularly in view of the fact that the Rayburn, with two million square feet, is the largest Congressional office building, and contains 40 restrooms. In view of the large size of this

⁷For existing buildings, the ADA does not prescribe how many restrooms must have accessible stalls.

building, consideration should be given to installing additional accessible stalls.

F. Other Public Facilities

The reports on individual buildings in Appendix A detail the state of access and recent improvements described above, and also as they pertain to dining facilities, public telephones, and water fountains.

G. Visual Alarms/Emergency Evacuation

In our last Report, we stated that there were very few visual alarms throughout the Capitol Hill buildings to alert persons who are hearing impaired about the need to evacuate in the event of a building emergency. In the current climate, the importance of visual alarms and other issues relating to emergency evacuation are abundantly clear. A complex-wide, multi-year program was established in fiscal year 1998 to upgrade the fire alarm systems, including visual signaling devices and other equipment, for compliance with the ADA, as well as the OSHA provisions, embodied in the CAA. However, at the time of our current inspection, we found that the Capitol Building still lacks visual alarms in all but the third and fourth floors, and that they are too far apart (required placement is every 50 feet). The AOC reports that final design for the upgrade of the ADA fire alarm system is complete, installation has begun and the expected completion date is June 2003.

Visual alarms are also entirely lacking in the Hart Building, with no date established for completion. However, visual alarms have been fully installed and are operational in the remaining House and Senate office buildings, with the exception of the Rayburn Building, where visual alarms have been installed and are operational only in the sub-basement through fourth floors; AOC reports that the Rayburn will be completely covered by visual alarms in fiscal year 2003. We urge the Congressional committees and the AOC to make the installation of visual alarms in the Capitol, Hart and remaining floors of the Rayburn Building a priority.⁸

U.S. Capitol Police officials report that the emergency evacuation plans for all buildings include designated areas of refuge for people who require assistance during an emergency

⁸ We note that the ADA does not require the establishment of areas of refuge or rescue assistance for people with disabilities, but people with disabilities must be assured the same level of safety as other individuals in the event of a building emergency.

evacuation. The Capitol Police are trained to provide such assistance. However, the refuge areas are not designated on any existing building maps to alert visitors to the building. The AOC reports that signs to be installed under the Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program will include designations of areas of rescue assistance. We strongly recommend that installation of these signs, together with the installation of visual alarms, be made a priority to ensure that disabled visitors be afforded the same level of protection in the event of an emergency as other visitors to the Capitol complex.

H. Signage

While accessible building entrances are now almost all clearly marked, the lack of adequate signage within buildings to direct persons with disabilities to accessible building features and paths of travel continues to be one of the most significant problems encountered by people with disabilities visiting the Capitol complex.

The deficiencies in signage within buildings are widespread. For example, signs for accessible building features such as restrooms and phones are frequently missing, and sometimes misleading. In some cases, the restrooms designated as accessible on building floor maps still can not be used by most people in wheelchairs. For people with low vision, small lettering on signs that do not meet disability access standards impedes finding the desired destination. In addition, as discussed above, there are no signs designating the areas of refuge assistance for visitors requiring assistance during an emergency evacuation. The specific deficiencies in signage are noted in the reports on individual buildings found in Appendix A.

AOC anticipates that these deficiencies will be remedied as a result of the Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program designed to improve signage throughout the Capitol complex. This project will involve the complete redesign of signs both inside and outside of buildings, and will include improved signage for accessible, as well as life safety, features. A contract for the first phase of this project was signed in September, 1998. However, progress has been delayed due to budgetary constraints. It is not possible to determine when the signage program will be completed. With the available funding, the AOC states it will fabricate and install signs that are deemed of the highest priority for improving accessibility and facilitating emergency evacuation. For signage in the Capitol Building, the AOC expects funding in fiscal

year 2003 in the amount of \$245, 000 (when the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill is enacted) and has requested an additional \$130,000 in fiscal year 2004, to complete this work in the Capitol.

VI. STATUS OF COMMUNICATION ACCESS

Congress and other organizations in the Legislative Branch covered by section 210 of the CAA have taken a number of steps to fulfill their obligation to communicate effectively with people with disabilities. The following is a brief summary of some of the services available.

A. Captioning of House and Senate Proceedings

Proceedings in both the House and the Senate are closed captioned for individuals who are hearing impaired. The broadcast of House proceedings on C-Span I reaches an estimated seventy million viewers, and the broadcast of Senate proceedings on C-Span II reaches an estimated fifty million viewers. The captioning of these proceedings is an important advance in effectively communicating the work of the Congress to individuals who are hearing impaired.

The Senate Captioning Office does the captioning of Senate proceedings, and also maintains closed circuit TV with real time captioning in Gallery No. 6 to enable visitors who are hearing impaired to follow Senate floor proceedings. The House provides the same service in House Gallery No. 4, with captioning provided through a contract with the National Captioning Institute, a private company.

B. Legislative Information on the Internet

A large amount of legislative information is now available on the Internet. The Library of Congress's Thomas site (<http://www.loc.gov>), for example, has the text of bills and information about their status; copies of the Congressional Record; committee schedules, reports, and selected hearing transcripts; House and Senate Roll Call Votes; and links to other sites with legislative information. Most Senators and Members of the House of Representative also maintain web sites as a means of communicating with their constituents.

As we stated in our previous Report, persons with disabilities are often avid users of the Internet and other electronic information services. In addition to making legislative information readily available to individuals with hearing or mobility impairments, the Internet also serves

people who are blind. Text on the Internet can be read aloud by a computer equipped with a speech synthesizer and text-to-speech software, or can be converted to a Braille format.

The usability of the web site for a person who is blind depends on its design. For example, if image maps are used on a Member's web site, there should be an alternate method of selecting options so the text-to-speech software can process the information. Unless this is done, it will be difficult or impossible for a blind user to get access to information on the site.

Section 508, Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 The ADA requires that covered entities strive to ensure that communication with members of the public with disabilities is as effective as communication with others. While thus requiring reasonably equivalent access to information, the means for delivering that access are flexible. In 1998, Congress passed a law imposing significantly more stringent technical requirements on Executive Branch agencies for accessibility to electronic information. See Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, P.L. 105-220, Section 408(a) (August 7, 1998). The implementing regulations went into effect on June 25, 2001, and are codified at 48 CFR Part 39 (2001).

Congress excluded the Legislative Branch from coverage under Section 508. However, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance has recommended that Congress amend the Congressional Accountability Act to incorporate the substantive public access and employee access requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. See Interim Section 102(B) Report: Electronic Information Systems, OOC Board of Directors (November 13, 2001).⁹ The Library of Congress (as well as the Government Printing Office) have announced that they will voluntarily comply with section 508's requirements. In addition, the House of Representatives has recommended that all offices and committees make their web sites voluntarily 508-compliant; House Information Services is assisting offices in this effort. Moreover, the upgraded

⁹The Report is available on the OOC web site, at www.compliance.gov. To illustrate the difference between the ADA and the Section 508 requirements for electronic information access, the Report includes the following example: if a sight-impaired member of the public cannot access material on an agency's web site, that office can satisfy the requirements of the ADA by having the material read to that person. In contrast, compliance with Section 508 can be achieved only by upgrading the agency's web site with the capacity to reformat the information for sight-impaired individuals by means of a "screen reader" that translates the visual material on a computer screen to automated audible output. See OOC Board of Directors Report at page 5.

Senate web site will be 508-compliant.

C. Visitor Information on the Internet

Web sites maintained by the House, Senate, and the Office of the Architect of the Capitol all include information for visitors with disabilities who plan to visit Capitol Hill. The Senate site describes the tours, auxiliary aids and other services that are available through the Congressional Special Services Office (“CSSO”) to visitors with disabilities. The CSSO is a joint office under the jurisdiction of the Capitol Guide Board, composed of the Senate and House Sergeant at Arms and the Architect of the Capitol. The Senate web site is in the process of being upgraded; the new version will contain additional information about services provided by CSSO. The web sites for the House of Representatives and the AOC provide the CSSO phone number to arrange for tours and services. The AOC’s web site already includes the updated CSSO information, and it will also be added to the House web site. The AOC’s site also contains a map of Capitol Hill, which shows the location of accessible entrances to the Capitol and House and Senate office buildings. A “virtual tour” of the Capitol Building is available for those who are unable to physically visit the building.

D. Tours and Other Services for Visitors

The CSSO provides a variety of services to visitors with disabilities. The office provides tours adapted to the needs of the individual, including tours specifically designed for people who are visually or hearing impaired, who use wheelchairs or canes, or who have developmental disabilities. CSSO also provides wheelchairs, available for use throughout the Capitol complex. House ADA Services also has a wheelchair and scooter available for visitors.

CSSO also has developed brochures for visitors with disabilities. Their brochure on the Capitol Building provides historical information on the Capitol, and a building map showing the location of facilities accessible to visitors with disabilities, such as elevators, restrooms, water fountains, telephones, and ramps. Another brochure, called “Washington Highlights: Tour Information for Visitors with Disabilities” provides information on parking, accessible Washington area tourist sites, TTY phone numbers, and assistive services. Both brochures are available in large print and Braille, as well as ASCII disc and audio tape upon request. CSSO has added some of the information in these brochures on the portion of the Senate Web site that

describes CSSO services to make it easily available to people planning visits.

CSSO also maintains Tactile Braille Exhibits of the Mall and Monument areas of Washington. These exhibits are helpful in orienting visitors who are blind or have low vision. The exhibits are displayed in the Crypt of the Capitol, as well as in the Rayburn Building (near the South Capitol Street entrance), and in the Hart Building (outside the Disbursing Office on the first floor).

E. Providing Information in Alternate Formats

House Members and Committees can obtain information about providing materials in alternate format by contacting the House Office of ADA Services. 202/225-3005 (V) or 202/225-3006 (TTY). The Senate Service Department of the Senate Sergeant at Arms provides a variety of Braille and large print services, and can assist Senators' offices in preparing responses to correspondence from individuals who are blind or have low vision.

Individuals seeking copies of documents such as draft legislation in alternate formats, such as computer disks or large print formats, can obtain them by contacting the relevant committee. Both House and Senate Committees will provide these items upon request.

We note that the American Council of the Blind has informed us that some of their members have experienced difficulty in the past year obtaining materials in accessible formats; specifically, in text (as opposed to PDF) format that is compatible with screen readers.

F. Interpreters

CSSO provides sign language interpreting services to Congressional Offices, upon request, for Congressional business such as meetings with constituents, press conferences and other special events. These services are available only on Capitol Hill. If an interpreter is needed elsewhere, CSSO or House ADA Services can assist an office in locating a commercial vendor, including local vendors in home and state district offices throughout the country. Interpretation for an official function in the home state can be paid for with official funds.

CSSO does not provide interpreters for committee or subcommittee hearings unless requested by a Member of Congress for the sole purpose of enabling a specific witness to communicate with the committee or subcommittee. Committees can contract with commercial vendors for individuals attending hearings, and pay for this service with official funds. There are

many situations where an interpreter may not be necessary. For example, during simple, brief conversations, a notepad and written material may be sufficient to permit effective communication. However, a qualified interpreter may be necessary when the information being communicated is complex or is exchanged for a lengthy period of time.

Both the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems and the National Council on Disability have reported problems with obtaining interpretive services. With reference to the comments offered by these organizations, CSSO has informed us that they regularly provide interpretive services to members of the public upon request and in accordance with the above-described guidelines, and that they are frequently able to accommodate even last-minute requests.

G. Assistive Listening Devices

Both CSSO and House ADA Services can provide assistive listening devices for use by individuals who are hearing impaired. These systems can be used by individuals taking CSSO guided tours, or by individuals meeting with Congressional offices or committees. Both CSSO and House ADA Services can deliver a system to an office or committee and demonstrate its use.

All Senate committee hearing rooms in Dirksen have been equipped with induction loops to amplify and clarify sound for individuals who are hearing impaired and use hearing aids with a “T” switch. Several House committees have also been equipped with induction loops. Both House ADA Services and CSSO can provide portable systems for use by other committees.

H. Telecommunication Services

All Senate Offices in Washington have text telephones - frequently referred to as TTY’s or TDD’s. House Offices have access to a TTY message system (202/225-1904) (TTY). Offices also have access to telephone relay services, which link people using a voice telephone and people using a text telephone by routing calls through a communications operator who has both sets of equipment and acts as an intermediary between callers. Members of the public who do not communicate by voice may use the General Services Administration’s toll-free Federal

Information Relay System to reach Congressional office by telephone – 800/877-8339 (Voice and TTY). Callers may also use their state relay service (every state is required to have one).

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our inspection of facilities during the 107th Congress and consultation with disability rights organizations, and Legislative Branch employers, the projects to improve access that should receive the highest priority at this time are the following:

A. Signage Improvements

Lack of adequate signage to direct persons with disabilities to accessible building features and paths of travel continues to be one of the most significant problems encountered by people with disabilities despite improvements during the past two years. Continued funding of the Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program is probably the most cost-effective step that can now be taken to improve access. Moreover, the benefit of many other measures to improve access, such as restroom renovations, is greatly reduced if these accessible facilities can only be found with great difficulty.

Some of the features that should be incorporated in improved signage include the following:

Areas of Rescue Assistance: These should be identified as soon as possible on building maps throughout the Capitol complex.

Elevators: Maps in buildings should indicate which elevators are usable. In additions, elevators that are usable should be designated with the accessibility symbol near the elevator itself; those that are not usable should have a sign indicating the location of the closest accessible elevator.

Restrooms: In addition to noting the location of accessible bathrooms on floor maps, there should be an accessibility symbol near the restroom itself. If a restroom does not have an accessible stall, a sign at that restroom should indicate the location of the nearest restroom with an accessible stall. If there is no accessible restroom on a floor, the floor map should indicate the location of the nearest accessible restroom.

Phones: In addition to noting the location of wheelchair accessible pay phones and TTY

pay phones on building maps and near the phones themselves, the location of the nearest accessible phone should be noted at banks of phones that do not have these accessible features.

Paths of Travel: On maps inside buildings, it would be helpful if the accessible routes connecting buildings (*i.e.*, routes which do not have steps, narrow elevators, narrow passageways, etc.) were noted with a line, or some other designation. In tunnels, the path of travel from accessible elevator to accessible elevator should be clearly designated.

B. Restrooms

While there has been progress, many of the restrooms designated as accessible in Capitol Hill buildings still have significant problems that make it difficult or impossible for individuals in wheelchairs to use them. Moreover, the Rayburn Building still has a limited number of accessible stalls, particularly given the size of the building.

C. Visual Alarms

As discussed above, the Capitol Building and the Hart and Rayburn Buildings still lack complete coverage. Because this is a life safety issue, it deserves a high priority.

APPENDIX A: INDIVIDUAL BUILDING REPORTS

Capitol Building

Entering the Building: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
<p>Accessible Entrances: Document Door; North and South Entrances</p>	<p>The Capitol has three accessible entrances: the Memorial Door, (formerly, “Document Door”) at the East Front, and entrances at the North Portico (Senate side) and the South Portico (House side). The entrance ramps at the North and South Porticos are excellent examples of how wheelchair access can be provided without detracting from the unique architecture of an historic building. In full compliance for ADA access through these doors.</p> <p><u>The Memorial Door is currently being used only for emergency access.</u></p>	<p><u>Major renovations and construction of the Capitol Visitor Center (“CVC”) are underway. Visitors entering on business still may use the accessible entrances at the North Portico (Senate side) and the South Portico (House side). Public tours begin at the entrance across from the Botanic Garden, on the Southwest drive, and visitors then enter the Capitol through the accessible South screening facility. There is also an accessible shuttle available at the Botanic Garden.</u></p>
<p>Passenger Loading/ Drop-off</p>	<p>U.S. Capitol Police permit vans with disabled individuals to drop off at check points. Accessible parking in circle in front of Botanic Gardens; also, top of Southwest Drive (must be arranged in advance with Capitol Police).</p>	

Abbreviations used: ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act; AOC - Architect of the Capitol; CAO - Chief Administrative Officer of the House; CSSO - Congressional Special Services Office; CVC - Capitol Visitor Center; USCP - U.S. Capitol Police.

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Capitol*

Signage for Accessible Entrance	<p><u>There is a sign with the international accessibility symbol near the accessible public entrance. In our previous report, we noted there were no other signs on the Capitol grounds indicating the locations of accessible entrances. AOC has installed 4 exterior directional maps in the immediate vicinity of the U.S. Capitol. The new signs, including “You Are Here” maps, provide explicit direction to, and identification of, the accessible entrances to all buildings.</u></p>	
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Access to Programs and Activities: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely go from the accessible entrance to the areas in the building of public interest, such as the House and Senate Galleries to observe the workings of the legislature, the Rotunda, and committee hearing rooms?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans For Future Improvements
Path of travel from entrance to areas of public interest, offices, meeting rooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ramps have been installed to provide an accessible path of travel through most public areas. However, some ramps should be modified for ease of use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U-shaped ramp inside the accessible entrance on the first floor of the House side (the Memorial Door) is extremely difficult to negotiate. The ramp between the Senate and the House sides on the third floor is too steep. Handrails could be added, or people could be directed to an alternate accessible route via the second floor. 	<p>AOC reports that modification to the access ramp at Memorial Door has been designed. Since the entrance will be closed during construction of the Capitol Visitor Center (“CVC”), ramp modifications will be made after completion of the CVC, if necessary.</p> <p>The construction contract for the ramp between the Senate and the House was awarded, but the contractor defaulted. Since then, AOC determined that these ramps will be eliminated by the CVC’s East front interface this coming February 2003. Therefore, handrails will not be required.</p>

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Capitol*

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans For Future Improvements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are areas reserved for people who use wheelchairs in the galleries of both the Senate and House Chambers. ● A ramp was constructed in the Old Senate Chamber to make this area wheelchair accessible. ● A ramp recently installed on the floor of the Senate makes this area accessible (open to visitors only when the Senate is not in session). ● Glass-enclosed displays in the Crypt are accessible for people in wheelchairs who can use a side approach. 	<p>AOC reports that modification to the access ramp at Memorial Door has been designed. Since the entrance will be closed during construction of the Capitol Visitor Center (“CVC”), ramp modifications will be made after completion of the CVC, if necessary. AOC also reports that a design has been completed for permanent (to replace the existing temporary) ramps connecting the two levels of the Upper Terrace, on both the north and south sides of the building. The construction contract has been awarded. The South ramp will be constructed first as it is the most critical, since visitors will be routed through this side of the building once the CVC is opened.</p>
<p>Leadership offices - Areas where the public has access.</p>	<p>Generally adequate clearance for wheel chairs in path of travel to areas where constituents and other members of the public have access (usually conference rooms, Senator’s or Member’s office, reception area).</p>	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Capitol

<p>Access to Committee Rooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doors to some rooms pose problems for a person in a wheelchair: they are too heavy, single leaf often does not provide 32 inches of clearance, and hardware requires tight grasping. When hearings are held, the doors should be propped open or someone should be available to open the door. ● Most witness tables less than 27 inches have been raised so that individuals in wheelchairs can sit at the table. The paths of travel to seating areas are generally adequate. 	
<p>Elevators</p>	<p>An elevator modernization program is underway in the Capitol.</p> <p><u>The following passenger elevators have been modernized, buttons lowered, braille and audible chimes installed: H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H10, HL3 (freight also), S2, S2A, S4, S5, SL1 (freight also), SL3 (used by the Senate Kitchen for freight).</u></p>	<p>AOC reports that all elevators in the Capitol will be modernized by December 2005.</p>

Restrooms: Are restrooms readily usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
<p>Building restrooms</p>	<p>Because the Capitol Building is among the most heavily visited monuments in the country, our 1998 report indicated that providing accessible restrooms in the building should have the highest priority.</p>	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Capitol*

	<p>All public restrooms have been upgraded and are compliant with ADA. The exception are the two restrooms located at the first floor next to Room EF-100 (House and Senate sides, one each). These two restrooms will be demolished by the CVC.</p> <p><u>In our previous report, we identified a few minor deficiencies in otherwise accessible restrooms:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>The accessible restrooms lacked Braille signage by the entrance doors, and had coat hooks mounted too high (applicable standards require placement at height of 48");</u> <p><u>Coat hook height has been corrected.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>The accessible women's room on the House side lacked an ambulatory stall (required where, as here, there are 6 or more stalls); this can be remedied by installing grab bars in one of the stalls.</u> <p><u>Grab bars have been installed in the women's room located on the House side facility.</u></p> <p><u>During our current inspection, we identified the following additional deficiencies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>The accessible men's room on the Senate side (S136) has entrance doors that are not accessible. The door has two independently operated leaves and neither leaf has a clear opening of 32 inches.</u> ● <u>The coathook in the accessible women's room on the Senate side (S157) mounted too high (applicable standards require placement at height of 48").</u> ● <u>The accessible women's room on the House side still lacks an ambulatory stall (required where, as here, there are 6 or more stalls).</u> 	<p>AOC reports that the noted signage deficiencies will be resolved as a function of the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program.</p> <p><u>Coat hook height has been corrected.</u></p> <p><u>Grab bars have been installed in the women's room located on the House side facility.</u></p>
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*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Capitol*

Other Building Facilities: Are other building facilities readily useable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Signage - Are accessible features easy to find?	There are almost no signs indicating the direction of accessible restrooms and telephones. However, brochures, available from the Capitol Police show where these features are located on building floor plans, and there are also many police and tour guides throughout the building who can provide directions to these facilities.	AOC reports that the noted signage deficiencies will be resolved as a function of the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program.
Public Telephones	The public telephone banks located on the Senate side of the first floor now include two accessible telephones; however, a TTY device is lacking (at least one required where there is a bank of eight or more public telephones). Two telephones on the House side are ADA accessible: one near the House Carriage Entrance on the first floor, and one on the east front on the second floor. TTY device has been installed in one of the public telephones located on the bank of eight telephones of the Senate side of the building, but is not identified by the TTY symbol of accessibility, as required.	
Cafeteria/ Coffee Shop	The food service areas are generally usable by individuals in wheelchairs. The beverage dispensers in the Cafeteria/Coffee shop have been lowered to permit wheelchair users to reach them without assistance.	
Drinking Fountains	The House side water fountains have been replaced with accessible hi-lo fountains. The only remaining water fountains, located on the House and Senate connecting corridors, first floor, are currently being upgraded.	AOC reports that the Senate side water fountain has not been replaced due to problems with the drain line. The drain line running from the attic to the basement must be replaced. No date for completion.

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

Emergency Evacuation

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Areas of rescue assistance for persons who can not use stairs	These areas are identified on the Emergency Evacuation Plan developed by the Capitol Police. There are, in addition, many police and tour guides to assist in the event of an emergency.	These areas will be identified on new building maps under the Permanent ADA-Compliant Signage Program, beginning fiscal year 2003. Pamphlets have been distributed by the USCP to all offices which indicate refuge areas where USCP will assist during an emergency.

Building features to make the building accessible to people who are blind or have low vision:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Committee Rooms/ Members'/Senators' Offices	Generally, the public circulation routes in the building are accessible and any protruding objects are cane-detectible items more than 27" above floor level that protrude more than 4"). Braille/tactile signs at the entrances to some offices are blocked by flags and should be moved a few feet so that access to the signs is unobstructed.	
Signage - for rooms, exits, restrooms	Although some signs throughout the building have Braille/tactile lettering, a number do not.	AOC reports that all permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant signs will have Braille and raised lettering.
Exhibits	Tactile Braille Exhibit of the Mall and Monument Areas in Washington are displayed in the Crypt of the Capitol.	
Elevators	As noted above, an elevator modernization program is underway in the Capitol. <u>The following passenger elevators have been completed and are ADA-compliant: H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H10, HL3 (freight also), S4, SL1 (freight also), SL3 (used by the Senate Kitchen for freight).</u>	AOC reports that all elevators in the Capitol will be modernized by December 2005.

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Capitol*

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals with hearing impairments:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Emergency Evacuation	The only visual alarms are on the third and fourth floors, and they are too far apart (required placement of alarms is every 50 feet).	AOC reports that final design for the upgrade of the ADA/fire alarm system is complete. Installation has begun; expected completion date is June 2003.
Public Telephones	One public TTY located on the first floor. Since this is the only public TTY in the building, directional maps should indicate location. AOC may wish to affix labels near each phone bank, indicating the location of the TTY, using the international TTY symbol.	Directional maps to be installed under the Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program will include this information.
Senate and House Galleries	Senate Gallery No. 6 and House Gallery No. 4 are equipped with a closed circuit TV with real-time captioning of floor proceedings and built-in audio induction loop systems	
Hearing and Meeting Rooms	Congressional Special Services Office has portable assistive listening devices for use in committee hearing rooms and meetings.	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Russell*

Russell Senate Office Building
Size: 735,783 sq. ft.

Entering the Building: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Accessible Entrance: Delaware Ave.	Entrance has a ramp and is equipped with an automatic door opener. However, we note that the gripping surface of the handrail is interrupted by pickets (required to be continuous).	AOC reports that this entrance will be redesigned with a new ADA-compliant vestibule; design is underway at this time. Handrails will be replaced as part of the redesign. Design in progress; expect construction in fiscal year 2005. No date provided for completion.
Passenger Loading/ Drop-off	Limited number of parking spaces available for individuals with disabilities near the accessible entrance. Consult U.S. Capitol Police at barricade for availability.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Signs clearly indicate accessible entrance, and location of accessible entrance indicated at other entrances.	<u>New uniform and up-to-date signs are being provided under the Wayfinding and ADA-compliant Signage Program beginning in fiscal year 2003.</u>

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Russell*

Access to Programs and Activities: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely go from the accessible entrance to the areas in the building where Members meet with members of the public, where hearings are conducted, and other public meeting areas?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Path of travel to offices and meeting rooms	<p>No major obstructions in the path of travel to offices and meeting rooms. However, the courtyard's lower level, where public functions are held, is inaccessible to individuals in wheelchairs. Access to the lower level could be provided with a ramp.</p> <p>A temporary building has been constructed in the Russell courtyard to provide "swing space" for offices displaced during the Dirksen building-wide renovation project. This facility includes a ramp into the building and a ramp from the facility to the lower courtyard.</p>	<p>A plan for a permanent ramp between the upper and lower levels of the courtyard will be prepared so that construction of the ramp can be undertaken when the temporary building is removed.</p> <p>AOC hopes that the design and construction of the new ramp can be coordinated to be completed as the temporary building is being removed. The design of this ramp has been included in the AOC fiscal year 2003 budget. The removal of the temporary building is subject to the continuing needs of the U.S. Senate for "swing space" associated with the Dirksen building-wide renovation and possibly other projects.</p>
Senators' offices - Areas where the public has access	<p>Generally adequate clearance for wheel chairs in path of travel to reception and meeting areas in offices. There is, however, an incline on the first floor near room 188; handrails should be provided. Some of the recommendations for improvement include moving flags to prevent blocking the Braille/tactile signs, or seating prospective guests who use wheelchairs at the head or foot of a conference table where there is more clearance than at the side.</p>	<p>AOC reports that a design has been completed for the handrails, but there has been no further action. Reminders to Senators regarding the placement of flags in locations that do not block access to Braille/tactile signs are placed in the Senate Superintendent's quarterly newsletter.</p>
Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Russell**

<p>Access to Committee Rooms</p>	<p>The path of travel to seating areas and witness tables is generally adequate. Twenty-three committee room witness tables have been raised to provide 27 inches knee space, so that individuals in wheelchairs can use them. However, three others (e.g., Veterans' Affairs Committee witness table) must be altered or replaced. Tables that do not have 27 inches knee space under the table should either be raised, or alternate table arrangements should be made on an as-needed basis.</p> <p>Doors and knobs to many committee rooms pose problems for a person in a wheelchair: they are too heavy, single leaf often does not provide 32 inches of clearance, and hardware requires tight grasping. When hearings are held, they should be propped open or someone should be available to open the door. [The responsibility for propping open and/or providing personnel at hearing room doors is with the committee staff.]</p>	<p>AOC reports that the purchase of new tables for Veterans Affairs, Small Business and Indian Affairs is planned, but provided no date.</p>
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Restrooms: Are building restrooms readily usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
<p>Building restrooms (overall)</p>	<p>All public restrooms in the building (13 men's and 13 women's) are now accessible. However, many of the accessible restrooms are not indicated on the "You Are Here" floor maps posted throughout the buildings.</p>	<p>AOC reports that this problem will be addressed by the Permanent WayFinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program (beginning in fiscal year 2003). No date for completion.</p>

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Russell**

Other Building Facilities: Are building facilities readily use able by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Signage - Are accessible features easy to find?	Inadequate signage makes restrooms and other accessible building features difficult to find.	AOC reports that this problem will be addressed by WayFinding initiative to begin in fiscal year 2003. No date for completion.
Public Telephones	There is only one wheelchair-accessible telephone in the building, and the coin slot is mounted 4 inches beyond reach range. [Note - SAA responsible for telephone.]	No action to date.
Dining facilities	None.	
Drinking Fountains	There are only a few functioning water fountains in the building, none of which are accessible.	AOC reports that portable water coolers were installed, and permanent design for drinking fountains was being initiated. <u>However, we found no evidence of water fountains or coolers in the public areas during our inspection. Employees state that they are only located in offices.</u>

Emergency Evacuation:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Any Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Areas of rescue assistance for persons who can not use stairs.	These areas are identified on the Emergency Evacuation Procedures developed by the Capitol Police. While employees who may need rescue assistance are made aware of these locations through the emergency plans developed by each employing office, designating these areas on building maps for visitors is recommended.	These areas will be identified on new building maps under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program, beginning fiscal year 2003. Pamphlets have been distributed by the USCP to all offices which indicate refuge areas where USCP will assist during an emergency.

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Russell*

Building features to make the building accessible to people who are blind or have low vision:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Committee Rooms/ Senators' Offices	Generally, the public circulation routes in the building are accessible and any protruding objects are cane-detectible (items more than 27" above floor level that protrude more than 4"). Signs throughout the building have Braille/tactile lettering. During our last inspection, we found that braille/tactile signs at the entrances to some Senator's offices were blocked by flags and recommended that they be moved a few feet so that access to the signs is unobstructed. <u>During our current inspection, we found no flags blocking signage.</u> [Note -- The responsibility for the placement of flags is with the Member's staff.]	AOC places advisories on this subject in quarterly newsletters.
Signage - for rooms, exits, restrooms	Most signs are Brailled and have tactile lettering.	
Elevators	Eight elevators have been fully renovated and are accessible. The remaining elevators still lack Braille indicators on control panel, which are often mounted above 54-inch maximum. Call buttons are often mounted above the 42-inch maximum. No audible floor designation signals.	AOC reports that construction is underway on two more elevators, and that funding has been provided for the remaining four elevators in the building. No date provided for completion.

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Russell*

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals with hearing impairments:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Emergency Evacuation	<u>Visual alarms have now been installed and are operational in the entire building.</u>	
Public Telephones	Coin-operated TTY is located near the Delaware Ave. entrance. Many Senators' offices also have TTY phones.	
Hearing rooms	Some hearing rooms are equipped with assistive listening devices. Signs outside each committee room advise visitors of their availability.	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Dirksen*

Dirksen Senate Office Building

Size: 661,000 Sq. Ft. - 6 flrs

Entering the Building: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Accessible Entrance: 1 st and C Streets	Entrance has ramp and is equipped with automatic door opener. The entrance is now appropriately designated with a sign containing the international symbol for accessibility. However, the aluminum handrails are unsteady, too low (31.5" instead of 34"-38"), and diameter is too large to grip (should be 1.25"-2"). The handrails are unnecessary, and could be removed because the rise of the ramp is less than 6 inches.	AOC reports that a complete re design of this entrance is complete, and the project will be competitively bid; expected completion in fiscal year 2003.
Passenger Loading/ Drop-off	Limited number of parking spaces available for individuals with disabilities in lot near the accessible entrance at 1 st and C Streets. Consult Capitol Police at accessible entrance for availability.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Signs clearly indicate accessible entrance, and location of accessible entrance indicated at other entrances.	AOC reports that uniform and up-to-date signs will be provided under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program, beginning in fiscal year 2003.

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Dirksen*

Access to Programs and Activities: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely go from the accessible entrance to the areas in the building where Senators meet with members of the public, where hearings are conducted, and other public meeting areas?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Path of travel to offices and meeting rooms	No major obstructions in path of travel to offices and meeting rooms.	
Senators' offices - Areas where the public has access	<p>Generally adequate clearance for wheelchairs in path of travel to areas where constituents and other members of the public have access, which are usually conference rooms, Senator's office, reception area.</p> <p>In a few offices, placement of furniture reduced the path of travel to areas where the Senator or staff meet with members of the public to less than 36 inches. Efforts should be made to maintain 36 inches so that an individual in a wheelchair can proceed without obstruction (32" in doorways).</p>	
Access to Committee Rooms	<p>Doors to many committee rooms pose problems for individuals in wheelchairs: they are too heavy, single leaf often does not provide 32 inches of clearance, and hardware requires tight grasping. When hearings are held, they should be propped open or someone should be available to open the door. The path of travel to seating areas and witness tables are generally adequate. Witness tables with clearance less than 27 inches have been raised so that individuals in wheelchairs can sit at the tables.</p>	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Dirksen*

Restrooms: Are restrooms readily usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building rest-rooms (overall)	Many restrooms in this building marked as accessible have significant problems limiting usability. No modifications have been made in the restrooms located next to the South Buffet. As these restrooms are located near a dining area, they are a high priority for modification. AOC reports that all public restrooms in the Dirksen (21 men's and 21 women's) will be renovated to full ADA specifications in connection with a major renovation of the building which commenced in 1998. Completion is scheduled for fiscal year 2003.
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Specific Restrooms	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Basement Level (SD-BW&BM-1) (marked accessible)	Width of the accessible stall (41.5") makes it difficult or impossible for person in wheelchair to transfer to the toilet, or for an ambulatory person to use grab bars. Alternate stall should be either 36 inches or at least 48 inches. Pipes under lavatories need insulation to prevent burning; mirror is 2 inches higher than the 40-inch standard.	AOC reports that the deficiencies will be corrected during the complete renovation noted above, to be completed in fiscal year 2003.
Adjacent to cafeteria (SD-GM & GW - 2A) (marked accessible)	Person in wheelchair can not exit unassisted because insufficient room on latch side of door (less than 18"). An automatic opener may be the least expensive solution. Towel dispenser too high; toilet flush should face open side; pipes under lavatory need insulation.	AOC reports that the deficiencies will be corrected during the complete renovation noted above.
Specific Restrooms	Accessible Features/Any Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
1 st and 4 th floor - in central stack and marked accessible - (SD-1M&W-2; SD-4M&W-2)	These restrooms have been renovated and are now ADA-compliant.	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Dirksen*

Other Building Facilities: Are other building facilities readily useable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Signage - Are accessible features easy to find?	Floor plan maps on floors which have restrooms designated as accessible show the locations of those restrooms. However, since there are not accessible facilities on every floor, a map on the ground floor near the accessible entrance indicating where the accessible features are located would be helpful.	AOC plans to remedy the signage problems in this building as part of the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program beginning in fiscal year 2003.
Public Telephones	There is a telephone with the proper height and clearance to be used by an individual in a wheelchair located near the accessible entrance. All other public telephones in the building are too high or too narrow to be used by a person in a wheelchair.	AOC reports this is the joint responsibility of AOC and Senate Telecommunications, and that work is to be scheduled to make telephones accessible. No action to date.
Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Dining facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Cafeteria/North Servery</u> - The main dining area has adequate clearance for wheelchairs. An adjoining dining area, which is at a lower level, is equipped with ramps to permit wheelchair access. A second handrail should be added to the ramps within the seating area. Some utensils have been lowered to allow people in wheelchairs or scooters to use them. 2. <u>Senate Chef Café</u> - The Café has been renovated and is now fully ADA compliant. 	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Dirksen*

Drinking Fountains	Sixteen new fountains have been installed in the North and South areas of Dirksen. However, the spoutin height is still too high (38" instead of 36"). These fountains replace water fountains that had been out of service because of water quality problems.	
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Emergency Evacuation:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Areas of rescue assistance for persons who can not use stairs.	These areas are identified on the Emergency Evacuation Procedures developed by the Capitol Police. While employees who may need rescue assistance are made aware of these locations through the emergency plans developed by each employing office, designating these areas on building maps would be help ful for visitors.	Rescue assistance areas will be designated on building signs under the Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program, to begin in fiscal year 2003. Pamphlets have been distributed by the USCP to all offices which indicate refuge areas where USCP will assist during an emergency.

Building features to make the building accessible to people who are blind or have low vision:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Committee Rooms/ Members' Offices	Generally, the public circulation routes in the building are accessible and any protruding objects are cane-detectible (items more than 27" above floor level that protrude more than 4"). Signs throughout the building have Braille/tactile lettering. Braille/tactile signs at the entrances to some Senator's offices are blocked by flags and should be moved a few feet to so that access to the signs is unobstruc ted.	
Signage - for offices, hearing rooms.	Most signs have tactile lettering and Braille.	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Dirksen**

Elevators	The elevators near SD-G45 lack an audible floor signal inside the car. The central bank of elevators has this signal and the up/down interior signal.	According to AOC, these and other access issues will be addressed as part of the continuing elevator modernization project. Six of the ten public elevators in the building have been made fully ADA-compliant, and a seventh will also be made compliant.
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Building features to make the building accessible to individuals with hearing impairments:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Emergency Evacuation	Visual alarms are now installed and operational throughout the building.	
Public Telephones	One public TTY located near accessible entrance. Instructions on public TTY have faded and should be replaced. Location of TTY phone should be designated by TTY symbol (not just accessibility symbol) on map of accessible features near accessible entrance. Since this is the only public TTY in the building, maps mounted on each floor should indicate location, perhaps at the bottom of each map. There are a substantial number of phones on each floor that are hearing aid compatible and have volume controls. Many Senators' offices also have TTY phones.	AOC will investigate what can be done to increase the number of accessible and TTY-equipped telephones and to replace the TTY instructions. Initial contacts have been made with the Senate Sergeant at Arms Telecommunications Office regarding the former and with their Bell Atlantic/Verizon representative regarding the latter. With respect to identifying TTY locations on building maps, this will be done as a function of the Wayfinding and ADA-compliant Signage Program. No date provided for completion.
Hearing rooms	Hearing rooms are equipped with assistive listening devices. Signs outside each committee room advise visitors of their availability.	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Hart

Hart Senate Office Building

Size: 1,020,000 sq. ft.

Entering the Building: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Accessible Entrances: 2 nd St, N.E. Constitution Ave.	Two entrances marked as accessible are equipped with automatic door openers. The 2 nd St entrance is properly sloped for access and the Constitution Ave. entrance has a ramp. (Handrail on this ramp, with 3" diameter, is too wide for easy grasping.)	AOC reports that design of a new ADA-compliant ramp is planned. No action to date.
Passenger Loading/ Drop-off	Limited number of parking spaces available for individuals with disabilities near the accessible entrance. Consult Capitol Police at barricade for availability.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Signs clearly indicate accessible entrance, and location of accessible entrance indicated at other entrances.	AOC reports that new uniform and up-to-date signs are being provided under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program, beginning in fiscal year 2003.

Access to Programs and Activities: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely go from the accessible entrance to the areas in the building where Members meet with members of the public, where hearings are conducted, and other public meeting areas?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Path of travel to offices and meeting rooms	No major obstructions in path of travel to offices and meeting rooms.	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Hart*

<p>Senators' offices - Areas where the public has access.</p>	<p>Generally adequate clearance for wheel chairs in path of travel to reception and meeting areas in Members' offices. Some of the recommendations include moving flags to prevent blocking the Braille/tactile signs, or seating prospective guests who use wheelchairs at the head or foot of a conference table where there is more clearance than at the side. [Note -The responsibility for moving flags and seating guests lies with staff in the Senators' offices.]</p>	
<p>Senate Printing and Document Services (SH-B04)</p>	<p>The height of the counter where documents are distributed measures 42 inches, which is 6 inches higher than the standard; however, there is a separate, lower table available for pick up and closer study of documents</p>	
<p>Access to Committee Rooms</p>	<p>There is only one hearing room in the Hart Building, Room 216. The entrance to this room is ramped and has handrails. The witness table is high enough to provide clearance for an individual in a wheelchair.</p>	

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Hart*

Restrooms: Are restrooms readily usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building restrooms (overall)	There is at least one restroom with an accessible stall located on each floor. However, some of the restrooms have significant problems limiting their usability. AOC reports that all public restrooms (32 men's and 32 women's) will be fully renovated to make them ADA-compliant. Expected completion date is December 2005.
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Specific Restrooms	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
1 st thru 8 th Floors (Second St. and Constitution A ve.)	<u>These restrooms (with the exception of those on the fifth and seventh floors) have been made ADA-compliant.</u>	

6 th floor, C Street side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not enough space in the accessible stall for a person in a wheelchair to shut the doors to the stall because neither leaf of double-leaf doors provides 32 inches clearance and door swings inward. Doors should be replaced with a single panel at least 33 inches wide. ● There is no grab bar behind the toilet, and a makeshift grab bar located beside toilet on wide side of the toilet. ● Braille/tactile lettering needed. ● International Symbol of Accessibility needed. ● Bench in front of door reduces maneuvering space to 11 inches when door is open; the bench should be removed. ● The coat hook in the accessible stall mounted at 64 inches should be lowered. 	AOC reports that the deficiencies will be corrected as part of the campus-wide restroom modernization project, but provided no date for completion.
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*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Hart*

Other Building Facilities: Are other building facilities readily useable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Signage - Are accessible features easy to find?	On each floor, there are several floor maps for that floor which indicate the location of restrooms with accessible stalls and the International Accessibility Symbol appears outside of these restrooms. However, since there are significant problems limiting the usability of these restrooms, these designations may be misleading for some individuals who will not be able to use these facilities. Also, location of accessible telephones not indicated on "You are Here" floor maps.	AOC reports that signage improvements in this building will be made as part of the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program, beginning in fiscal year 2003.
Dining facilities	None.	

Emergency Evacuation

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Areas of rescue assistance for persons who can not use stairs	These areas are identified on the Emergency Evacuation Procedures developed by the Capitol Police. While employees who may need rescue assistance are made aware of these locations through the emergency plans developed by each employing office, designating these areas on building maps would be helpful for visitors.	These areas will be designated on building maps under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program, beginning in fiscal year 2003. Pamphlets have been distributed by the USCP to all offices which indicate refuge areas where USCP will assist during an emergency.

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

Building features to make the building accessible to people who are blind or have low vision:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Committee Rooms/ Senators' Offices	Generally, the public circulation routes in the building are accessible and any protruding objects are cane-detectible. (items more than 27" above floor level that protrude more than 4"). Signs throughout the building have Braille/tactile lettering. Braille/tactile signs at the entrances to some Senators' offices are blocked by flags and should be moved a few feet or so that access to the signs is unobstructed.	AOC reports that offices are advised of the need to keep the braille/tactile signs unobstructed through monthly meetings with Senate Office Managers, and by notices in the Senate Superintendent's newsletter.
Signage - for rooms, exits, restrooms	Most signs are Brailled and have tactile lettering.	
Elevators	No Braille indicators on inside control buttons and there are no audible floor designation signals.	According to AOC, all twelve public elevators have been scheduled for modernization as part of the ongoing, complex-wide elevator modernization project. The scope of the elevator project has expanded to maximize the elevators' performance, and to provide for replacement of some related systems that originally were not included. Funding is expected to be provided in fiscal year 2003. No date for completion.

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals with hearing impairments:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Emergency Evacuation	There are no visual alarms or other means to alert deaf in a building emergency.	AOC reports that visual alarms will be installed as part of the multi-year, complex-wide project to improve fire protection systems.
Public Telephones	Coin-operated TTY phones are located near the Constitution Ave. entrance and the C St. entrance. Many Senators' offices have TTY phones.	

*Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Cannon House Office Building
Size: 716,000 sq. ft.**

Entering the Building: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Accessible Entrance: NJ Avenue	Renovated entrance is fully accessible. New marble vestibule is a good example of how access can be achieved without sacrificing architectural aesthetic.	
Passenger Loading/ Drop-off	Cars and vans with individuals with disabilities permitted to drop off at accessible entrance. Limited parking for people with disabilities on New Jersey Ave., south of terrace at intersection with Independence.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Signs clearly indicate accessible entrance, and location of accessible entrance indicated at other entrances.	

Access to Programs and Activities: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely go from the accessible entrance to the areas in the building where Members meet with members of the public, where hearings are conducted, and other public meeting areas?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Path of travel to offices and meeting rooms	No major obstructions.	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Cannon*

<p>Members' offices - Areas where the public has access.</p>	<p>Generally adequate clearance for wheel chairs in path of travel to reception and meeting areas in Members' offices. In a few offices, recommendations include moving flags to prevent blocking the Braille/tactile signs, moving mailboxes that reduce the path of travel into the office, raising their conference room tables in order to provide sufficient knee clearance or holding meetings in alternate accessible areas when any attendees may be in a wheelchair or a scooter. [CAO responsible for implementation.] We note that at the time of our inspection (9/12/00), we found many Members' offices' doors closed (door hardware not accessible - requires tight grasping). [AOC responsible for maintaining and furnishing door hardware.]</p>	
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* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Cannon*

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
<p>Access to Committee Rooms</p>	<p>Doors to many committee rooms pose problems for a person in a wheelchair: they are too heavy, single leaf often does not provide 32 inches of clearance, and hardware requires tight grasping. When hearings are held, they should be propped open or someone should be available to open the door. <u>Signs are currently posted at hearing rooms 402, 441, and 505, indicating accessibility instructions.</u> Some witness tables have been raised to 27 inches to provide adequate clearance for wheelchair users; other tables (e.g., Budget Committee witness table in room 210) remain too low. [Note – Chief Administrative Officer of the House is responsible for modification of tables.]</p>	<p>AOC reports that a consulting architect has been assigned to investigate options for door hardware improvements and related costs in all House Office Buildings. Plans include the addition of automatic door openers on all committee room doors. Automatic door openers will be added when doors are replaced or committee rooms upgraded. AOC is currently obtaining necessary information from committees in order to fabricate signs appropriate to each. In addition, committee staff members have been made aware of the special needs of visitors with disabilities.</p> <p>CAO reports that when witnesses are identified who require modification of existing tables, arrangements are made to accommodate the witnesses' needs.</p>

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Cannon**

Restrooms: Are restrooms readily usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	
Building restrooms (overall)	<p>There is now at least one accessible men’s and women’s restroom on four floors of the Cannon Building. There are no accessible restrooms on the fifth floor. Other than the signs outside the restrooms, there are still no floor maps or other signage that would enable an individual to locate the accessible restrooms.</p> <p><u>Previously reported minor problems with the accessible restrooms have been corrected, so that they are fully ADA compliant:</u></p> <p><u>Grab bar has been installed in the women’s room on the first floor (near 104) and in the women’s accessible restroom on the fourth floor (near 407). Signage is now mounted on the latch side of the door.</u></p>	

Other Building Facilities: Are building facilities readily useable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Signage - Are accessible features easy to find?	There are no building maps indicating the location of accessible features.	AOC reports that the noted signage deficiencies will be resolved as a function of the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program. Fabrication and installation is dependent on funding availability. No date provided for completion.
Drinking Fountains	None of the water fountains are accessible.	AOC reports that existing units will be replaced with ADA-compliant fountains. A design has not been prepared for this work as yet in light of other priorities, but the project remains on the list to be addressed. No date for completion.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Cannon**

Emergency Evacuation:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Areas of rescue assistance for persons who can not use stairs.	These areas are identified on the Emergency Evacuation Procedures developed by the Capitol Police. While employees who may need rescue assistance are made aware of these locations through the emergency plans developed by each employing office, designating these areas on building maps should be considered to aid visitors.	These are as will be identified on new building maps under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program. Pamphlets have been distributed by the USCP to all offices which indicate refuge areas where USCP will assist during an emergency.

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals who are blind or have low vision:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Committee Rooms/ Members' Offices	Generally, the public circulation routes in the building are accessible and any protruding objects are cane-detectible (items more than 27" above floor level that protrude more than 4"). Most signs have Braille/tactile lettering. Some of the recommendations include moving flags to prevent blocking the Braille/tactile signs.	
Signage - for rooms, exits, restrooms	The restroom signage throughout the building is mounted on the door, the mounting height is above 60 inches, and there is no Braille.	All permanent Wayfinding & ADA-Compliant signs will have braille and raised lettering. Fabrication & installation is dependent on funding availability. No date for completion.
Elevators	<u>During our last inspection, we found that the same audible signal is used for both up and down. The call buttons are located above the allowable reach range of 42 inches.</u> <u>Two elevators have now been modernized/ replaced.</u>	AOC reports that this will be addressed as part of the continuing elevator modernization project. A contract for modernizing an additional 10 elevators was issued in March, 2002. Two of the ten are expected to be completed in 2004.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Cannon*

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals with hearing impairments:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Emergency Evacuation	<u>Visual alarms have been installed and are operational throughout the building.</u>	
Public Telephones	One public TTY located near accessible New Jersey Ave. entrance .	Directional maps to be installed under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program will include this information. Fabrication & installation is dependent on funding availability. No date for completion.
Hearing rooms	Some hearing rooms are equipped with assistive listening systems. House ADA Services can provide portable assistive listening devices for use in other hearing rooms.	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Longworth*

**Longworth House Office Building
Size: 583,500 sq. ft.**

Entering the Building: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Accessible Entrance: Independence Ave.	The entrance has ramps and an automatic door opener. Although ramps are functional, there is inadequate turning space at the landing (it should be 5 feet by 5 feet). Because turning space is inadequate, someone proceeding down the ramp could collide into chains that bridge a gap in the railings.	AOC reports that the new ramp design is complete. Construction to follow, subject to funding availability. No date for completion.
Passenger Loading/ Drop-off	Vans with disabled individuals are permitted to drop off at a accessible entrance. There is limited parking for disabled individuals on the East side of South Capitol street.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Signs clearly indicate accessible entrance, and location of accessible entrance indicated at other entrances.	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Longworth**

Access to Programs and Activities: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely go from the accessible entrance to the areas in the building where Members meet with members of the public, where hearings are conducted, and other public meeting areas?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Path of travel to offices and meeting rooms	<p>No major obstructions in Longworth hallways to offices and meeting rooms. In the tunnel leading to the Cannon, the first slope, near the ATM, measures 9% (max. is 8.3%), there are no handrails, and the floor is slippery.</p> <p>Recommendations: provide handrails on both sides and treat the floor to make it more slip resistant. It would be very difficult and expensive to modify the slope and such a measure is not recommended. The second slope is acceptable, but handrails should be provided and the floor should be treated.</p>	<p>AOC reports that the design for the handrails has been completed. Currently awaiting quotes on hand rail fabrication. Work will commence when quotes are received and accepted. In addition, sealants used on the floor have been evaluated in regards to slip resistance and care is being taken in applying any sealant in the area.</p>
Elevators	<p><u>All elevators have been modernized and made ADA compliant, with the exception of elevator 14, which does not have a functioning audible signal to indicate floors.</u></p> <p>The ramp leading to the accessible bank of four elevators on the sixth floor has handrails interrupted by pickets (should be continuous).</p>	
Members' offices - Areas where the public has access.	<p>Generally adequate clearance for wheelchairs in path of travel to reception and meeting areas in Members' offices. In a few offices, recommendations included moving mailboxes that reduce the path of travel into the office, raising conference room tables in order to provide sufficient knee clearance, or holding meetings in alternate accessible areas when any attendees may be in wheelchairs or scooters.</p>	<p>AOC reports that implementation of a uniform model design may be difficult. Because funding for the signage program will be provided over several years, and because signs at the suite entrances are presently in place, it is anticipated that the replacement of these signs will be a lower priority than other Wayfinding and life safety-related signs, and therefore several years away. AOC will investigate ways of making Members' staffs aware of the need to maintain proper access to the suites.</p>

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Longworth**

Access to Committee Rooms	Doors and knobs to many committee rooms pose problems for a person in a wheelchair: they are too heavy, single leaf often does not provide 32 inches of clearance, and hardware requires tight grasping. When hearings are held, they should be propped open or someone should be available to open the door. An automatic door opener has been installed at the entrance to the Committee on Ways and Means hearing room. Some witness tables have been raised to 27 inches to provide adequate clearance for wheelchair users. [Note - Chief Administrative Officer of the House responsible for modification of remaining tables.]	AOC reports that future plans include the addition of automatic door openers on all committee room doors, but no definitive schedule has been established. As a temporary measure, signs are posted at hearing rooms indicating accessibility instructions. Also, committee staff members have been made aware of the special needs of individuals with disabilities. CAO reports that when witnesses are identified who require modification of existing tables, arrangements are made to accommodate the witnesses' needs.
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Restrooms: Are restrooms readily usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building restrooms (overall)	Twelve restrooms are ADA-complaint, with only minor problems remaining.
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Specific Restrooms	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Men's and women's restrooms on the 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th floors Independence Ave. side	All major elements in these eight newly renovated restrooms are fully accessible. Minor problems remain: the required lengths of the grab bars are reversed in the accessible men's room on the 6 th floor (near room 1640), and the mens's accessible men's room on the 7 th floor (near room 1740). The mirror is also mounted too high in the 6 th floor restroom.	AOC is progressing through the building to remedy all remaining problems. No completion date.
Specific Restrooms	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Longworth**

<p>There are three other restrooms with accessible stalls in the building, located on the basement level, 1st floor (New Jersey Ave.), 3rd floor (New Jersey Ave.)</p>	<p><u>We had noted at our last inspection that flush controls were improperly located on the narrow side of the stalls on the first and third floors.</u></p> <p><u>Automatic flush valves were installed in all restrooms in the building during 2001, except accessible stall in the restroom on the first floor.</u></p>	
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Other Building Facilities: Are building facilities readily use able by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
<p>Signage - Are accessible features easy to find.</p>	<p>Signage on all newly renovated restrooms is ADA compliant (proper placement, Braille, tactile). However, there is no map indicating the accessible features in this building.</p>	<p>The noted signage deficiency will be resolved as a function of the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program. Fabrication and installation is dependent on funding availability. No date for completion.</p>
<p>Dining facilities</p>	<p>The food court meets the applicable ADAAG standards and is accessible for people with disabilities. The entrance ramp and railings are at the appropriate slope and height and the seating area is accessible. The tray slides measure 34 inches from the ground, meeting the applicable standard. The dispensers for soft drinks measure 47 inches from the ground; these dispensers are accessible because the tray slides are at the appropriate height to allow persons in wheelchairs to reach forward and serve themselves. Also, the cup dispensers and condiment stations are at accessible heights and have been arranged so that persons in wheelchairs can reach them without requesting assistance. The offices responsible for the food court's design and implementation have done an excellent job in ensuring that there are no barriers to persons with disabilities.</p>	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Longworth**

Drinking Fountains	The spout height for the drinking fountains is often higher than the 36 inches allowed, and the controls are often difficult to operate.	
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Emergency Evacuation:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Areas of rescue assistance for persons who can not use stairs.	These areas are identified on the Emergency Evacuation Plan developed by the Capitol Police. While employees who may need rescue assistance are made aware of these locations through the emergency plans developed by each employing office, designating these areas on building maps should be considered to aid visitors.	These are as will be identified on new building maps under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program. Pamphlets have been distributed by the USCP to all offices which indicate refuge areas where USCP will assist during an emergency.

Building features to make the building accessible to persons who are blind or have low vision:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Committee Rooms/ Members' Offices	Generally, the public circulation routes in the building are accessible and any protruding objects are cane-detectible (items more than 27" above floor level that protrude more than 4"). Braille/tactile signs at the entrances to some Senator's offices are blocked by flags, and should be moved a few feet so that access to the signs is unobstructed.	
Signage - for rooms, exits, restrooms	The signage on eight newly renovated restrooms have Braille/tactile lettering. Most other signs throughout the building have Braille/tactile lettering.	
Elevators	Recently modernized elevators have proper audible signals and Braille/tactile lettering.	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Longworth*

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals with hearing impairments:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Emergency Evacuation	Visual alarms have been installed and are operational throughout the building.	
Public Telephones	TTY located at Independence Ave. entrance on first floor near elevators.	
Hearing rooms	House ADA services can provide portable assistive listening devices for use in committee hearing rooms.	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Rayburn*

Rayburn House Office Building

Size: 2,256,100 sq. ft.

Entering the Building: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Accessible Entrance: Main Entrance, (Horseshoe drive off South Capitol Street)	Level entry access to entrance; entrance is equipped with an automatic opener. The curb ramp from the sidewalk to the beginning of the driveway lacks sufficient flat maneuvering room; however, people with disabilities may enter on the driveway where they do not encounter such a barrier.	
Passenger Loading/ Drop-off	Limited parking for individuals with disabilities available on East side of South Capitol Street across from accessible entrance.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Signs clearly indicate accessible entrance, and location of accessible entrance indicated at other entrances.	

Access to Programs and Activities: Can an individual in a wheelchair or with mobility impairments freely go from the accessible entrance to the areas in the building where Members meet with members of the public, where hearings are conducted, and other public meeting areas?

Building Feature Involved	Descriptions of Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Path of travel to offices and meeting rooms	No major obstructions in the path of travel to offices and meeting rooms.	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Rayburn**

<p>Members' offices - Areas where the public has access.</p>	<p>Generally adequate clearance for wheelchairs in path of travel to areas where public has access (typically, reception areas and meeting areas in Members' offices). Some of the recommendations included moving flags to prevent blocking the Braille/tactile signs, moving mailboxes that reduce the path of travel into the office, raising their conference room tables in order to provide sufficient knee clearance or holding meetings in alternate accessible areas when any attendees may be in wheelchairs or scooters.</p>	<p>Implementation of a uniform model suite entrance design may be difficult. Because funding for the signage program will be provided over several years (although no funds have been provided as yet for the House Office Buildings), and because signs at the suite entrances are presently in place, it is anticipated that the replacement of these signs will be a lower priority than other Wayfinding and life safety-related signs, and therefore several years away. AOC will investigate ways of making Members' staffs aware of the need to maintain proper access to the suites.</p>
<p>Access to Committee Rooms</p>	<p>Signs near the entrances of some committee rooms advise who to contact if special accommodations are needed. Some witness tables have been raised to 27 inches to provide adequate clearance for wheelchair users. Hearing room doors that are difficult to open and not equipped automatic openers should be propped open when hearings are held or someone should be available to open the door.</p> <p><u>Four hearing rooms now have automatic openers: Rooms 2117, 2118, 2359 and 2360.</u></p>	

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Rayburn**

Restrooms: Are building restrooms readily usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

<p>Building restrooms (overall)</p>	<p>Two restrooms per floor (one men’s, one women’s) are substantially ADA-compliant. Some of them, however, have some remaining access problems, noted below. Increasing the number of restrooms with accessible stalls should be considered since the Rayburn is a very large building. (There are a total of forty restrooms in the building.)</p> <p>In addition to the accessible restrooms, there are several other restrooms improperly identified as accessible on the floor maps near the elevators. These restrooms, equipped with alternate stalls, are not useable by most individuals in wheelchairs, although the grab bars in these alternate stalls can be helpful to individuals with other mobility impairments. In the previous inspection, we recommended that the signage be clarified on the maps so that people don’t have to travel long distances in this very large building to ascertain if a restroom is useable by a person in a wheelchair.</p> <p><u>The accessible signs have been removed from the doors of the restrooms improperly designated as accessible, but the floor maps have not yet been corrected.</u></p>	<p>AOC reports that ADA modifications to the restrooms will be made in accordance with plans provided by an outside consultant, but no date was provided for completion.</p>
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Specific Restrooms	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
<p>Near room B349 and room 2450</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is only one grab bar in this stall; a second is needed. In addition, the existing grab bar at 36 inches is too short (a minimum of 42" is needed). 	<p>As noted above, AOC reports that modifications will be made in accordance with plans provided by an outside consultant. No date provided for completion.</p>

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

**Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Rayburn**

Near room 2107	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equipped with a wheelchair accessible stall and an alternate stall (36" in width with grab bars - usable by some individuals with mobility impairments and a small percentage of wheelchair users). ● Knob hardware on interior of stall door requires tight grasping and twisting. 	As noted above, AOC reports that modifications will be made in accordance with plans provided by an outside consultant. No date provided for completion.
Near rooms 2239 and 2306	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equipped with a wheelchair accessible stall and an alternate stall. ● Knob hardware on interior of stall door requires tight grasping and twisting. ● Coat hook in accessible stall should be lowered. 	As noted above, AOC reports that modifications will be made in accordance with plans provided by an outside consultant. No date provided for completion.

Other Building Facilities: Are other building facilities readily useable by individuals in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments?

Building Features	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Signage - Are accessible features easy to find?	There are floor plans near the elevators on each floor which designate accessible restrooms. As noted above, some of these designations are misleading.	
Dining facilities	Dining facilities are accessible overall.	
Drinking Fountains	The spout height is often higher than 36 inches and controls often difficult to operate.	An in-house study of the fountains was completed and a model selected. However, the project is on hold pending final approval. No date provided for completion.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Rayburn*

Emergency Evacuation:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Areas of rescue assistance for persons who can not use stairs.	These areas are identified on the Emergency Evacuation Procedures developed by the Capitol Police. While employees who may need rescue assistance are made aware of these locations through the emergency plans developed by each employing office, designating these areas on building maps would be helpful for visitors.	These areas will be identified on new building maps under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program. Pamphlets have been distributed by the USCP to all offices which indicate refuge areas where USCP will assist during an emergency.

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals who are the blind or have low vision:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Committee Rooms/ Members' Offices	Generally, the public circulation routes in the building are accessible and any protruding objects are cane-detectible (items more than 27" above floor level that protrude more than 4").	
Signage - for rooms, exits, restrooms	Most signs have Braille/tactile lettering, although some do not. Braille/tactile signs at the entrances to some Member's offices are blocked by flags which should be moved a few feet so that access to the signs is unobstructed.	All permanent Wayfinding & ADA-Compliant signs will have braille and raised lettering. Fabrication & installation is dependent on funding availability.
Elevators	Some interior call buttons are mounted too high; no buttons should be higher than 54 inches. No audible floor designation signals.	All accessibility issues will be addressed as part of the campus-wide elevator modernization project. Construction recently began for one group of elevators in this building. Others to be scheduled. No date provided for completion.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Rayburn*

Building features to make the building accessible to individuals with hearing impairments:

Building Feature Involved	Accessible Features/Remaining Access Barriers*	AOC Plans for Future Improvements
Emergency Evacuation	AOC reports that visual alarms have been installed and are operational on the Sub-Basement thru 4 th floors . [Remaining floors are approximately 50% installed but are not operational.]	AOC reports all alarms are anticipated to be installed and operational in early fiscal year 2003.
Public Telephones	A public TTY is located near the South Capitol Street entrance. It would be helpful if this accessible telephone and TTY device were designated on the floor map.	Directional maps to be installed under the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program will include this information. Fabrication & installation is dependent on funding availability. No date for completion.
Hearing rooms	Assistive listening systems have been installed in some hearing rooms. House ADA services can provide portable assistive listening devices for use in other committee hearing rooms. New sound systems have been installed in four hearing rooms - 2172, 2359, 2360 and 2318.	AOC reports that there is no definitive time frame for completion on remaining rooms; scheduling is subject to the wishes of the committees.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Other Facilities*

Other Facilities

In addition to the Capitol and Senate and House office buildings, which have extensive areas to which the public has access, there are several other facilities where there are relatively limited areas open to the public. The major access issues in those facilities are described below. We have also included the newly renovated and re-opened Botanic Gardens in this section.

Ford House Office Building

The only areas open to the public in this building are portions of the Congressional Budget Office, located on the fourth floor, and the cafeteria on the first floor.

Entering the Building

The accessible entrance is located at Third Street, S.E., near the D Street intersection. There is a level path of travel to the entrance, which is equipped with an automatic door opener. Passengers can be dropped off at this entrance and there is limited parking for persons with disabilities near the accessible entrance. An accessible ramp has now been installed at the Second Street entrance.

Access to Programs and Activities

Members of the public attend meetings in the Congressional Budget Office conference room (H2-407). There are no barriers impeding access to seating areas and tables have adequate height (over 27") to permit individuals in wheelchairs to sit at the table. The public also has access to the Congressional Budget Office publications room. Although the counter exceeds the 36" standard, staff are available to assist.

There are no major obstructions in the hallways that must be traveled to reach the public areas in the Congressional Budget Office. However, the elevator call buttons on the first floor are 48 inches from the floor, 6 inches too high, and there is no Braille/tactile beneath the buttons. In addition, the elevators lack audible signals to indicate movement from floor to floor. AOC reports that the elevator modernization program in this building has been budgeted. AOC reports that all elevators will be completed by 2004.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Other Facilities*

Restrooms

Fourth floor restrooms, marked as accessible. There is insufficient clearance on the latch side of the door (less than 18") to permit a person in a wheelchair to exit unassisted. The doors to these restrooms are too heavy, and have hardware that requires tight grasping and twisting. Consequently, a staff member should be available to assist or the doors should be propped open when individuals with mobility impairments use these facilities.

AOC reports that the hardware in these restrooms is being upgraded. With respect to the restroom with lounge area, the sign indicating accessibility has been taken down as no modifications can be made to the door at this time. There is another accessible restroom down the corridor.

Additional access problems found in this restroom are uninsulated pipes under the lavatories, which can cause burns. The pipes should be insulated or the "trap" turned away from the wall to prevent burning hazards. A 25-inch back grab bar has been installed, but should be raised to at least 33 inches from the floor. Although the grab bar is 11 inches short of the standard, it is not technically feasible for a longer back grab bar to be installed.

We found during our current inspection that the grab bar and pipe insulation modifications are complete in both the men's and women's restrooms. However, the women's restroom lacks an ambulatory stall (1 required where there are 6 or more stalls; this restroom has 8).

First Floor restroom, across from the cafeteria carry-out

The facility has been renovated and is largely accessible. Automatic openers have been installed on the renovated doors. The dimensions of the accessible stall and grab bars are the height of the toilet, urinal, and coat hook are all proper. In addition, the sink is at the right height and has the proper hardware.

However, other than the signage on the door, there is no other signage in the public areas of the building indicating the location of this accessible restroom. Other problems are uninsulated pipes under the accessible sink and the placement of the toilet flush on the wrong side of the toilet.

We found during our current inspection that pipes within all restrooms in the building have been insulated. The AOC reports that other modifications are in the process of being completed, and that the noted signage deficiencies will be resolved as a function of the Permanent Wayfinding and ADA-Compliant Signage Program. Fabrication and installation is dependent on funding availability.

Cafeteria and Carry Out

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

Appendix A: Individual Building Reports Other Facilities

These dining areas are largely accessible.

Water Fountains

The height of the spout on the accessible unit on the fourth floor (near the men's restroom) is four inches higher than the 36-inch standard. The paddle hardware is accessible. The "spout trajectory" could be repositioned so that the flow of water is within three inches from the front edge of the fountain. The spouts on the fountain next to the women's restroom on the fourth floor and on the fountain across from the carry-out cafeteria are both closer to the standards. Both measure 37 inches from the floor to the spout; the spout trajectory is within three inches. We found during our inspection that hi-lo accessible fountains have been installed; however, spout height is 40" (required height is 36").

Capitol Police Building

Contact with the public at the Capitol Police Building is limited primarily to issuing of permits for special events and taking individuals into custody. For security reasons, Capitol Police personnel escort members of the public when they are in the building.

Entering the Building

There is a level path of travel from the west parking lot into the first floor of the facility. However, because this lot is restricted to police use, no parking or drop-off area is available to persons with disabilities. Individuals using mobility aids cannot use the walkway adjacent to the building because the gate on D Street yields only 29 inches of clearance, and due to the single riser at the entry. At our recommendation, a ramp was added to the walkway up to the entry.

We found during our current inspection that handrails have been added to the accessible walkway from D St. to the building entrance. However, signage is still needed to direct individuals to the accessible entrance.

Access to Programs and Activities

For security reasons, members of the public are accompanied by an escort when they proceed beyond the reception area. Consequently, barriers such as lack of signage, heavy doors, and inaccessible elevator controls can be addressed by Capitol Police personnel escorting members of the public throughout the facility.

Permit Issuance All counters exceed the 36-inch height standard; however, at counters where the public must write and/or pass information back and forth, USCP may use other nearby usable

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Other Facilities*

writing surfaces to remedy the problem. The counters exceed the 36-inch high standard in the office where permits are issued and at other counters where the public must write or pass information over the counter. In the office where permits are issued, an area is provided adjacent to the counter for those unable to use the existing counter for writing or obtaining information. Auxiliary aids and services are provided on an as-needed basis through Congressional Special Services.

Taking Individuals into Custody Detainees are held in holding cells for approximately 2-3 hours before they are transferred to the D.C. Metropolitan Police. The Capitol Police enlist the assistance of Congressional Special Services to provide auxiliary aids and services, such as sign language interpretation, when they are needed for effective communication. Although the toilets in the holding cells are inaccessible, detainees will be escorted to the accessible restrooms adjacent to the processing area.

Restrooms There are a number of problems with the restrooms designated as accessible that should be addressed when they are renovated. However, renovating these facilities is a relatively low priority since these facilities are seldom used by the public.

- a. Doors. There is insufficient clearance on the latch side of the door in both the men's and women's restroom to permit a person in a wheelchair from exiting the restroom unassisted. (ADAAG minimum is 18"). The doors to all of the restrooms are too heavy (8 lbs. of force required to open door), and have hardware that requires tight grasping and twisting.
- b. The door to the stall in the women's room is 30.5 inches wide. The stall width of 36 inches meets the specifications for an alternate stall, usable by a person with ambulatory disabilities, but not for a person in a wheelchair. Such a stall is not usable by most people in wheelchairs since very few can stand up and pivot to transfer to the toilet seat.
- c. The toilet paper dispenser is occasionally mounted too far from the back wall, making it difficult for a person with ambulatory disabilities to reach it; these dispensers should be no more than 36" from the back wall.
- d. The urinal in the men's room is 18.5 inches high, which is 1.5 inches above the standard.
- e. The sinks have controls/faucets that require tight grasping, and should be replaced with paddles or other accessible faucets. The pipes under the sinks do not require insulation because the "trap" has been turned away, flush with the wall, preventing burning hazards.
- f. Coat hooks are mounted too high on the stall doors.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Other Facilities*

This will be addressed as part of the Capitol Police Master Plan; no date for completion.

Throughout the Capitol Complex Perhaps the most frequent contact that the Capitol Police have with members of the public throughout the Capitol complex is to respond to requests for information and assistance from visitors. New recruits receive training from Congressional Special Services on disability awareness and the resources that are available from Congressional Special Services and others to assist the police in communicating with individuals with disabilities and providing other assistance.

U.S. Senate Employees Child Care Center¹

The new Child Care Center is fully ADA-compliant. An accessible walkway leads to the building entrance, and accessible parking spaces are available for those who drive, with a curbed ramp connecting the parking lot and entrance level. The entrance has a fully accessible door, including appropriate hardware mounted at the proper height (over 48"). There is a unisex, fully accessible restroom on the first floor. Also on the first floor is an accessible public telephone with a TTY device. Access to the second floor is provided by an elevator that is fully ADA-compliant. Finally, of special note is that the play area has been built in full compliance with the ADAAG-proposed play area guidelines (final rule published by the U.S. Access Board).

Botanic Gardens

The newly renovated Botanic Gardens Conservatory was re-opened to the public in September 2001, and is fully accessible, with the exception of a few technical problems in the restrooms. Specifically, coat hooks are mounted too high on accessible stall doors; doors for accessible stalls swing into clear floor space for accessible lavatories; and apron clearance is not provided under the accessible lavatories. We note that if apron clearance is provided under the accessible lavatories, the clear floor space can extend 19 inches under the lavatories, and the doors would no longer swing into the clear floor space. The AOC reports that it will address these problems

¹ Because placements are offered to the public when available, we have included this facility in our inspection.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Other Facilities*

and specifically that it will correct the height of the coat hooks by December 31, 2002. (The Children's Garden and the Meditation Garden are closed for construction until the summer of 2003.)

Office of Compliance

The Office of Compliance, located on the second floor of the John Adams Building of the Library of Congress, provides information to Legislative Branch employees and employing offices about the Congressional Accountability Act ("CAA"), and conducts mediations and other proceedings to resolve disputes concerning employment issues against under the CAA. The Office also administers section 210 of CAA, which applies to members of the public who are not employees.

Although most of the individuals who come to the office are Legislative Branch employees, members of the public occasionally come to the Office to obtain information, usually about section 210.

Entering the Building

The entrance to the John Adams Building has ramps to provide wheelchair access and an automatic door opener. We previously identified missing handrails on the ramps as a problem at the entrance. During our current inspection, we found that the lower ramps leading into the building in which the Office of Compliance is located (the Adams Building of the Library of Congress) now have handrails. In addition, the right handrail on one of the upper ramps has been extended at the top of the ramp.

Path of Travel to Office of Compliance from Entrance

Elevators The elevators leading to the Office of Compliance are ADA compliant.

Doors The doors to the reception area are heavy and have inaccessible hardware. Because the lobby is an area of refuge, the doors should be equipped with "hold open" devices so that they are normally kept open, but will close automatically in the event of fire or other emergency.

Access to Programs and Activities

Most of the programs to which the public has access are conducted in the conference room. The larger conference table, which formerly was too low for individuals who use wheelchairs, has been raised so that there is a clearance of 27 inches under the table.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

*Appendix A: Individual Building Reports
Other Facilities*

Restroom

As part of its ongoing restroom modernization project, the AOC has addressed the following problems: the grab bar in the accessible stall should be extended to the 40-inch standard; the coat hook is mounted at the proper height, and the soap dispenser was remounted from behind the accessible faucet to a more convenient location. The door to the restroom is heavy and has knob hardware requiring tight grasping and twisting, which prevents many individuals with mobility impairments from entering or exiting the restrooms without assistance. However, there is a relatively low priority for these modifications since usage of this restroom by members of the public is very limited compared to restrooms in many other locations in the Legislative Branch.

The sign located near the Executive Director's Office to indicate the accessible restroom does not clearly indicate the location of the accessible restroom and may be confusing. The sign outside the accessible restroom should incorporate raised and Braille characters and indicate that the restroom is unisex.

Visual Alarms

As demonstrated during a recent emergency requiring evacuation of the Adams Building, the visual fire alarms designed to alert individuals who are hearing-impaired of the need to evacuate are deficient in the following regard. The building fire alarm system is set up so that, if a pull station is pulled in either of the two zones in the building (designated as "North" and "South"), the audible fire alarm signals will be activated in both zones, so that occupants of the entire building are promptly notified of the need to evacuate. However, unlike the audible alarm signals, the visual alarms are not activated when the fire alarm pull station is pulled in the other zone. The visual alarms in a particular zone will only be activated if a pull station is pulled in that same zone.

* Alterations or survey findings since last inspection are underlined.

PERSONNEL & METHODS

Personnel Cheryl Polydor, Acting General Counsel, had overall responsibility for preparing this report. Patricia Reardon-King, Paralegal and Administrative Assistant with the Office of the General Counsel, and Dorothea Ewing, Systems Administrator Assistant with the Office of the Executive Director, assisted with report production.

The Acting General Counsel is grateful for the assistance of Earlene Sesker, Accessibility Specialist, U.S. Access Board. Ms. Sesker conducted the inspections under the direction of the staff of the Office of Compliance General Counsel, and provided extensive technical assistance. She was essential to this undertaking. At the Access Board, Ms. Sesker provides technical advice to governmental entities and private organizations on access standards, and helped develop the recently published access guidelines for recreational facilities and revisions of the ADAAG standards. Prior to her current position, Ms. Sesker, a graduate of the University of Texas, worked in the Access Board's Office of Compliance, where she investigated and resolved cases involving possible violations of the Architectural Barriers Act.

The Acting General Counsel also is grateful to David Capozzi, Director of the Access Board's Office of Technical Information, and to Lawrence Roffee, Executive Director of the Access Board, for allowing Ms. Sesker to assist the Office of Compliance.

Applicable Standards Section 210 of the CAA applies all of the public service provisions of Title II of the ADA to the entities listed in section 210 that provide "public services, programs, or activities." 2 U.S.C. § 1331. Section 210 also applies portions of the public accommodations provisions of title III of the ADA to the these entities to the extent that they operate a "place of public accommodation" as set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 12182(7).¹

The CAA directs the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to issue regulations

¹ To be considered a "place of public accommodation" the covered entity must operate a facility that falls within one of the following 12 categories: (1) places of lodging; (2) establishments serving food or drink; (3) places of exhibition or entertainment; (4) places of public gathering; (5) sales or rental establishments; (6) service establishments; (7) public transportation terminals; (8) places of public display or collection; (9) places of recreation; (10) places of education; (11) social service center establishments; and (12) places of exercise or recreation. With regard to the entities listed in section 210(a), they are also covered under the provisions of title III of the ADA with the possible exception of the Capitol Police.

Appendix B - The Inspections

to implement Section 210 that are the same as the substantive regulations promulgated by the Attorney General and the Secretary of Transportation to implement Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Board can modify those standards only to make rights and protections for persons with disabilities more effective under the CAA. 2 U.S.C. §210(e)(2). On January 7, 1997, the Board adopted disability access regulations and transmitted them to Congress for approval, as required by the statute, but those regulations have not yet been approved.

Until the Board's regulations are approved, the CAA directs that the "most relevant substantive executive agency regulation" be applied. 2 U.S.C. §411. For the disability access provisions, the most relevant substantive regulations are the ADA regulations set forth in Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations, (CFR) Parts 35 and 36. Accordingly, these standards were applied in conducting the inspections.

The ADA standards applied in conducting the inspections are identical to regulations adopted by the Board that are awaiting Congressional approval. Consequently, the inspection findings would be the same under either set of standards.

Inspection Schedule and Procedures For the present report, only areas where modifications or alterations affecting public access have been made since the previous inspection in 2000 were inspected, since examining areas where conditions are unchanged would yield no new information. The areas where modifications or alterations had been made, and other developments since the 2000 report, were identified with the assistance of the Architect of the Capitol, the Congressional Special Services Office, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House. The inspections were conducted during August and November 2002, by an Accessibility Specialist with the U.S. Access Board, working under the direction of the staff of the Office of General Counsel. This report summarizes the results of those inspections.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

The following are brief descriptions of the ADA standards relevant to the conditions observed in Capitol Hill buildings. The ADA requires that these standards be followed in new construction and alterations except in special circumstances. In existing buildings, when the removal of barriers to access can be readily achieved, the specifications in these standards are to be followed to the extent readily achievable. Such measures would include, for example, providing a ramp with a steeper slope or widening a doorway to a narrower width than mandated by the standards. 28 CFR § 304 (d).

The standards appear in Title 28, Part 36, Appendix A of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The CFR should be consulted for the full text of the standard.

ADA Standards 28 CFR Part 36 Appendix A	Brief Description/Subject
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- | | |
|------------|---|
| 3.5 | Definitions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Accessible</u> describes a site, building, facility, or portion thereof that complies with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.- <u>Clear floor space</u> is the minimum unobstructed floor or ground space required to accommodate a single, stationary wheelchair and occupant.- <u>Public use</u> is the interior or exterior rooms or spaces that are made available to the general public.- <u>Signage</u> is displayed verbal, symbolic, tactile, and pictorial information. |
| 4 | Accessible Elements and Spaces: Scope and Technical Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alterations to existing buildings and facilities shall comply with the applicable provisions for new construction. |
| 4.1 | Minimum Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overview of standards for new construction and alterations. |
| 4.2 | Space Allowance and Reach Ranges <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The minimum clear width for continuous passage of a wheelchair is 36-inches, except for passage at a point less than 2 feet, such as through a doorway, which requires only 32-inches clear width.- The maximum height for a forward reach of an object is 48-inches.- The maximum height for the side reach of an object is 54-inches. |
| 4.3 | Accessible Route <ul style="list-style-type: none">- At least one accessible route shall be provided from public transportation stops, accessible parking, accessible passenger loading zones, and public streets or sidewalks to the accessible building entrance.- The minimum clear width of an accessible route is 36-inches, except at a door.- Changes in level along an accessible route of more than ½-inch require a ramp, elevator, or platform lift. |

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- 4.4 Protruding Objects**
- Objects whose bottom edge is between 27- and 80-inches from the floor shall protrude no more than 4-inches into walks, halls, corridors, passageways, or aisles.
- 4.5 Ground and Floor Surfaces**
- Generally, ground and floor surfaces along an accessible route shall be stable, firm, and slip-resistant.
 - Changes in level of ¼- to ½-inch shall be beveled (slanted or inclined). Changes in level of more than ½-inch require a ramp. (see also 4.7 or 4.8)
 - Carpet shall be securely fastened.
- 4.6 Parking and Passenger Loading Zones**
- When a public parking lot has 101 to 150 spaces, a minimum of 5 of these spaces must be accessible. (see 4.1.2(5))
- 4.7 Curb Ramps**
- Curb ramps are necessary wherever an accessible route crosses a curb.
 - The transition from a curb ramp to a walk or street shall be flush and free of abrupt changes. (see also 4.8.2)
 - Curb ramps shall be at least 36-inches wide, with flared sides and a maximum slope of 1:10.
 - Curb ramps shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles.
 - Curb ramps shall be contained within street markings.
- 4.8 Ramps**
- Any part of an accessible route that has a slope of greater than 1:20 shall be considered a ramp.
 - Ramps in existing buildings and facilities where space limitations prohibit the use of a 1:12 slope can have a slope between 1:10 and 1:12 with a maximum rise of 6 inches and a slope between 1:8 and 1:10 with a maximum rise of 3 inches. (see 4.1.6(3))
 - There shall be a level landing at the bottom and top of each ramp at least as wide as the ramp leading to it.
 - If a ramp has a rise of greater than 6-inches then it shall have handrails on each side. The handrails shall not rotate within their fittings, they shall extend at least 12-inches beyond the top and bottom of the ramp segment, and the top of the handrail shall be mounted between 34- and 38-inches above the ramp surface.
- 4.9 Stairs**
- Stairways shall have handrails at both sides of the stairs. (see also 4.26)
 - Stairs, steps, or escalators may not be considered part of the accessible route. (see also 4.3)
- 4.10 Elevators**
- Call buttons in elevator lobbies and halls shall be centered at 42-inches above the floor. The call buttons shall be raised or flush.
 - Audible signals at each entrance shall indicate the direction of the car -- once for up and twice for down.
 - Elevator entrances shall have raised and Braille floor designations mounted 60-inches above the floor.
 - Elevator doors shall open and close automatically and have a reopening device that

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will stop and reopen a car door automatically if it becomes obstructed by an object or person. Elevator door reopening devices shall remain effective for at least 20 seconds.

- The minimum time from notification that an elevator car is answering a call until the doors of the car start to close shall be 5 seconds.
- The minimum time for elevator doors to remain fully open in response to a car call is 3 seconds.
- The floor area of elevator cars shall provide space for wheelchair users to enter, maneuver within reach of the controls, and exit from the car.
- The elevator control panel shall have raised or flush buttons, tactile and Braille information, and shall be no higher than 54-inches above the floor for a side approach and 48-inches above the floor for a front approach.
- The emergency two-way communication system shall not require tight grasping or pinching in order to use and shall not require voice communication. (see also 4.27)

4.13

Doors (see also 4.1)

- Revolving doors or turnstiles shall not be the only means of passage at an accessible entrance or along an accessible route.
- If doorways have two independently operated leaves, then at least one leaf shall provide a minimum opening of 32-inches. (see also 4.2.1 and 4.3.3)
- The minimum space between two doors in a series is 48-inches plus the width of any door swinging into the space.
- Thresholds at doorways shall be beveled with a slope no greater than 1:2. (see 4.5.2)
- Operating devices on accessible doors shall have a shape that is easy to grasp with one hand and does not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting to operate. Lever-operated mechanisms, push-type mechanisms, and U-shaped handles are acceptable designs.
- If a door has an automatic closer then it should be adjusted so that from an open position of 70 degrees, the door will take at least 3 seconds to move to a point 3-inches from the latch.
- With the exception of fire doors, the maximum force for pushing or pulling open an interior door is 5 pounds.

4.14

Entrances

- Entrances required to be accessible shall be part of an accessible route to public transportation stops, accessible parking, passenger loading zones, and public streets or sidewalks as well as all accessible spaces or elements within the building or facility. (see also 4.1 and 4.3)

4.15

Drinking Fountains and Water Coolers

- Spouts shall be no higher than 36-inches from the floor to the spout outlet. The spout shall be in the front of the unit and direct the water flow parallel to the front of the unit with the spout providing water flow at least 4-inches high.
- The controls shall be front mounted, operable with one hand, and not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting. (see also 4.27.4)
- Wall mounted units shall have clear knee space from the bottom of the apron to the floor of 27-inches, 30-inches wide, and 17- to 19-inches deep as well as clear floor space of at least 30-inches by 48-inches. Free-standing or built-in units shall have a clear floor space of at least 30-inches by 48-inches. (see 4.2.4).

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- 4.16 Water Closets**
- The height of water closets shall be 17 - to 19-inches to the top of the toilet seat.
 - Grab bars behind the water closet shall be at least 36-inches long.
 - Flush controls shall be mounted on the wide side of the toilet areas and no more than 44-inches above the floor. (see also 4.27.4)
 - Toilet paper dispensers shall be mounted within reach and provide for a continuous paper flow.
- 4.17 Toilet Stalls**
- Standard toilet stalls with a minimum depth of 56-inches shall have wall-mounted water closets. If the depth is increased at least 3-inches, then a floor-mounted water closet may be used. In instances of alteration work where the provisions of a standard stall is technically infeasible, alternate stalls may be provided.
 - Toilet stall doors shall comply with the accessibility requirements of 4.13.
 - The side grab bar shall be at least 40-inches in length for standard toilet stalls, and mounted no more than 12-inches from the back wall. The rear grab bar shall be at least 36-inches in length and mounted no more than 6-inches from the side wall. (see also 4.26)
- 4.18 Urinals**
- The rim of a urinal shall be no more than 17-inches from the floor and clear floor space of 30-inches by 48-inches is necessary in front of the urinal to allow a forward approach. (see also 4.2.6)
 - The flush controls are to be mounted no more than 44-inches above the floor. (see also 4.27.4)
- 4.19 Lavatories and Mirrors**
- Lavatories (sinks) shall be mounted with the rim no higher than 34-inches above the floor and a clearance of at least 29-inches above the floor to the bottom of the apron. The clear floor space in front of the lavatory shall be 30-inches by 48-inches. (see also 4.2.4)
 - Hot water and drain pipes under lavatories shall be insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact.
 - Lever-operated, push-type, and electronically controlled mechanisms are examples of acceptable designs for faucets. (see also 4.27.4)
 - Mirrors shall be mounted with the bottom edge of the mirror no higher than 40-inches from the floor.
- 4.22 Restrooms**
- Doors shall not swing into the clear floor space required for any fixture. (see also 4.13)
 - Accessible fixtures and controls shall be on an accessible route.
 - Water closets shall comply with the accessibility requirements of 4.17, urinals shall comply with 4.18, lavatories and mirrors shall comply with 4.19, and controls, dispensers, receptacles or the equipment provided shall comply with 4.27.
- 4.26 Handrails and Grab Bars**
- All handrails and grab bars are required to comply with 4.1, 4.8, 4.9, 4.16, 4.17, 4.20, or 4.21.
 - The width of handrails or grab bars shall be 1¼- to 1½-inches, or the shape shall provide an equivalent gripping surface. The space between the grab bar and the wall shall be 1½-inches and able to withstand the application of 250 pounds of stress.

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- Grab bars shall not rotate within their fittings.

4.27

Controls and Operating Mechanisms

- Clear floor space that allows a forward or parallel approach by a person using a wheelchair shall be provided at controls, dispensers, receptacles, and other operable equipment. (see also 4.2.4)
- The highest operable part of controls, dispensers, receptacles, and other operable equipment shall be placed within reach range. (see also 4.2.5 and 4.2.6)
- Controls and operating mechanisms shall be operable with one hand and not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate controls shall be no more than 5 pounds.

4.28

Alarms

- If provided, audible emergency alarms shall produce a sound that exceeds the prevailing sound level in a room or space.
- Visual alarm signals, such as a xenon strobe, should be integrated into the building or facility alarm system. Generally, no room or space shall be more than 50 feet from the signal. In large rooms or spaces exceeding 100 feet across, devices may be placed a maximum of 100 feet apart. Visual alarms in common corridors or hallways shall be no more than 50 feet apart.

4.30

Signage

- Letters and numbers on signs shall have a width-to-height ratio between 3:5 and 1:1 and a stroke-width-to-height ratio between 1:5 and 1:10. Character and number height shall be a minimum of 3-inches for signs mounted above 80-inches.
- Letters and numerals signs shall be upper case, tactile, and Braille. The characters and background of signs shall be eggshell, matte, or other non-glare finish. Characters and symbols shall contrast with their background -- either light characters on a dark background or dark characters on a light background.
- Where permanent identification is provided for rooms and spaces, signs shall be installed on the wall adjacent to the latch side of the door and shall be mounted 60-inches above the floor to the centerline of the sign. The mounting location of signs shall be so that a person may approach within 3-inches of signage without encountering protruding objects or standing within the swing of a door.
- Facilities and elements required to be identified as accessible, as well as volume control telephones, text telephones, and assistive listening systems, shall use the appropriate symbols of accessibility.

4.31

Telephones

- Clear floor space of at least 30-inches by 48-inches that allows either a forward or parallel approach by a person using a wheelchair shall be provided at telephones.
- The highest operable part of the telephone shall be within reach range. (see 4.2.5 or 4.2.6)
- Telephones shall be hearing aid compatible and have volume controls.
- The cord from the telephone to the handset shall be at least 29-inches long.
- Text telephones used with a pay telephone shall be permanently affixed within, or adjacent to, the telephone enclosure. Pay telephones designed to accommodate a portable text telephone shall be equipped with a shelf and electrical outlet within, or adjacent to, the telephone enclosure. Equivalent facilitation may be provided.

4.32

Fixed or Built-in Seating and Tables

- If seating for individuals with wheelchairs is provided at fixed tables or counters,

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there shall be sufficient clear floor space of at least 30-inches by 48-inches and knee space of at least 27-inches. (see 4.2.4)

4.33

Assembly Areas

- Wheelchair areas shall be an integral part of any fixed seating plan and at least one companion fixed seat shall be provided next to each wheelchair. When the seating capacity exceeds 300, wheelchair spaces shall be provided in more than one location.
- Assistive listening systems augment standard public address and audio systems by providing signals which can be received directly by persons with special receivers or their own hearing aids. Magnetic induction loops, infra-red, and radio frequency systems are types of listening systems which are appropriate for various applications.

5

Restaurants and Cafeterias

- All accessible fixed tables shall be accessible by means of an access aisle at least 36-inches wide.
- Food service lines shall have a minimum clear width of 36-inches. Tray slides shall be mounted no higher than 34-inches above the floor. For self-service shelves, at least 50 percent of each item must be within reach range. (see 4.2.5 and 4.2.6)
- Dispensing devices for tableware, dishes, condiments, food, and beverages shall be within reach range. (see 4.2.5 and 4.2.6)
- Vending machine equipment shall comply with reach ranges and shall be located on an accessible route. (see 4.2)

7

Sales and Service Counters

- Where counters have cash registers or are provided for sales or distribution of goods and services to the public, at least one portion of the counter shall be 36-inches in length with a maximum height of 36-inches from the floor. This shall be on an accessible route.

8

Libraries

- The public areas of a library shall comply with 4.1 to 4.35.

**Disability Rights Organizations
Providing Comments**

- 1) American Council of the Blind
- 2) National Association of Protection & Advocacy Systems
- 3) National Council on Disability
- 4) New England Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- 5) Paralyzed Veterans Association of Florida, Inc.
- 6) Puerto Rico Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- 7) Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America