

GUIDELINES FOR ALTERATIONS

When existing areas, elements, or facilities intended for pedestrian access, circulation, and use in an existing developed public facility are altered, that is considered an alteration.

An alteration of an existing element, space, or area of a building or facility shall not impose a requirement for accessibility greater than required for new construction.

In alterations, where compliance with applicable requirements for new construction is technically infeasible, the alteration shall comply with the requirements to the "maximum extent feasible".

An alteration that decreases or has the effect of decreasing the accessibility of a public building or facility below the requirements for new construction at the time of the alteration, is prohibited.

If alterations to existing sidewalks, curbs, ramps, or pedestrian street crossings, when considered together amount to reconstruction of a block, intersection, or other substantial segment of the pedestrian circulation network in the public right of way, the entire segment, to the "maximum extent feasible", shall comply with provisions for new construction.

Alterations to a sidewalk, curb ramp, or pedestrian street crossing in the public right of way shall be made so that adjacent segments on the pedestrian access route are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Ramps, curb ramps and exterior ramps to be constructed on sites or in existing facilities where space limitations prohibit the use of a 12:1 (8%) slope or less may have slopes and rises as follows:

- A slope between 10:1 (10%) and 12:1 (8%) is allowed for a maximum rise of 6 inches.
- A slope between 8:1 (12.5%) and 10:1 (10%) is allowed for a maximum rise of 3 inches. A slope steeper than 8:1 (12.5%) is not allowed.

In alterations, full extension of handrails shall not be required where such extensions would be hazardous due to the ramp configuration.

The guidelines apply technical requirements according to the scope of work for a planned alteration or addition. The more extensive the work is, the greater are the opportunities to achieve access. Compliance is "prorated" based on the extent of the work planned.*

* Added 7/10