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National Council on Disability Affairs

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY
AFFAIRS

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS AS
AMENDED OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG
344 (ACCESSIBILITY LAW)

"An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments, and Other Public Utilities To Install Facilities and Other Devices."

Jointly Promulgated by:
The Department of Public Works and
Highways
Port Area, Manila

The Department of Transportation
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

In coordination with:
The National Council on Disability Affairs
(Accessibility Sector on the Magna Carta for
Persons with Disabilities)
Diliman, Quezon City

RULE I - SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1. Purpose:

The Rules and Regulations set forth herein provide for minimum requirements and standards to make buildings, facilities, and utilities for public use accessible to persons with disabilities, pursuant to the objectives of Batas Pambansa Bilang 344, "An Act To Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments and Public Utilities to Install Facilities and Other Devices.

2. Definition of Terms:

For the purpose of these Rules and Regulations, the words, terms, and phrases enumerated in Annex "A" hereof shall have the meaning as provided therein.

3. Scope:

The provisions of these Rules and Regulations shall apply to the following:

- a. Public and private buildings and related structures for public use and which shall be constructed, repaired or renovated
- b. Streets and highways and public utilities
 - i. Streets and highways
 - ii. Public transport vehicles which shall include:
 1. Passenger buses and jeepneys
 2. Passenger trains, including those of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA)
 3. Domestic inter-island vessels
 4. Domestic aircraft of air carriers
 - iii. Public Telephones
 - iv. Public transport terminals, including those of LRTA

4. Application:

- a. Public and private buildings and related structures for public use. No permit for the construction, repair, or renovation of public and private buildings and related structures for public use, whether owned or leased, shall be granted or issued unless the owner thereof shall have provided in the plans and specifications submitted for approval barrier-free facilities and accessibility features as provided in these Rules and in accordance with the following criteria:
 - i. Building and related structures to be constructed -
 1. At the space where the primary function is served and where facilities and ingress/egress of the building or structure are located, as to make such space accessible to the persons with disabilities.

provided, however, that where the primary function can be served at the ingress level and where such level is provided with facilities, requirements for accessibility at other levels may be waived.

2. Ten percent (10%) of the total number of units of government-owned living accommodations shall be accessible and fully usable by the persons with disabilities with any fractional part in excess of one-half (1/2) in the computation thereof, to be considered as one unit; for privately-owned living accommodations the number of accessible units shall be as provided in Section 3 of Rule III thereof.
 3. Ingress/egress from the street to the building or structure shall be accessible.
 4. Accessible slots in parking areas shall be located as near as possible to ingress/egress spaces of the building or structure.
- ii. Buildings and related structures to be repaired or renovated, including those proposed for a change of occupancy If feasible, barrier-free facilities and accessibility features shall be provided in accordance with the requirements under Sub-section 4.1.1 (1), (c) and (d): feasibility of incorporation of barrier-free facilities and accessibility features shall be determined from all the following conditions:
1. When the repair or renovation work is to be done in the space where the primary function is served;
 2. When the facilities can be made accessible at any other level, which is accessible by

means of an elevator with a minimum door opening width of 900 mm;

3. When the space allotted for the primary function will not be diminished by more than ten percent (10%) of its original area;
 4. When the capacity or strength of any major structural component, such as slabs, beams, girders, columns, bearing walls, and footings of the building or structure will not be diminished;
 5. When the cost (exclusive of the exception provided below) of such repair or renovation work is in excess of twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of the building or structure, based upon the computation of permit fees as provided under Rule III of the Implementing Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to P.D. 1096 entitled: "The National Building Code of the Philippines";
 6. When there is no legal constraint that would not allow compliance with these regulations;
 7. EXCEPTION: Repair or renovation work that consists only of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems, including those which may be required only with respect to fire panic and explosion safety for existing spaces, shall not be subject to the requirements for barrier-free facilities and accessibility features.
- iii.
1. Streets, highways, and transport-related structures to be constructed -Streets, highways, and transport-related structures shall be

- provided with the following barrier-free facilities and accessibility features at every pedestrian crossing: ramps and other accessible features in buildings of the sectoral offices and attached agencies of DOTr; transportation terminals and passenger waiting areas for the use of persons with disabilities;
- a. Cut-out curbs and accessible ramps at the sidewalks.
 - b. Audio-visual aids for crossing
2. Existing streets and highways to be repaired and renovated - The accessibility requirements shall be provided where the portion of existing streets and highways to be repaired or renovated includes part or the entire pedestrian crossing.
 3. Transport vehicles for public use
 - i. No license or franchise for the operation of public buses, passenger boats, ships and domestic airplanes shall be granted or issued unless the owner or operator thereof shall have provided and designated the number of seats and shall have placed audio-visual aids
 - ii. Government instrumentalities operating passenger trains, including the Light Rail Transit Authority, shall have provided the number of seats for persons with disabilities
 - iii. Government instrumentalities operating passenger
- airplanes shall provide and designate the number of seats for persons with disabilities and shall likewise place the audio-visual aids
- iv. Existing Public Transport Vehicles: The minimum accessibility requirements shall apply to all existing units of public transport vehicles, and including those units which are to be repaired and renovated .
 - v. Public Telephones: At least one unit of public telephones for every four (4) units shall be accessible to persons with disabilities and shall be provided with visual aids required, provided that if only one (1) public telephone is to be installed in a particular place the same shall be accessible to persons with disabilities.
 - vi. Public Transport Terminals
The criteria and accessibility requirements provided for public and private buildings and related structures for public use shall apply to public transport terminals.
 - a. **Rules for Interpretation** Alternative measures to accessibility shall be allowed if better facilities can be provided subject to the approval of the Building Official or authorities responsible for code enforcement.
 - b. Always refer to the most recent version of the Accessibility Code, as regulations may change over time.
 - c. Universal design principles shall be prioritized to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone, regardless of their abilities.
- In addition to the standards outlined below, compliance with applicable codes such as the Occupational Safety and Health Standards.

the National Building Code, and the Fire Code is mandatory. In cases of conflict, consult with Building Officials or authorities responsible for code enforcement for clarification.

RULE II - MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSIBILITY

1. Design Criteria:

- a. **CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.** The categories of disability dictate the varied measures to be adopted in order to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities under these Rules may be classified into those who have:

- i. Physical mobility disabilities requiring the use of wheelchairs or
- ii. Physical mobility disabilities causing difficulty in walking or climbing stairs or requiring the use of braces, crutches, or other artificial supports; or disabilities caused by amputation, arthritis, spastic conditions, or pulmonary, cardiac, or other ills rendering individuals semi-ambulatory; or
- iii. Sensory Disabilities such as individuals who are Deaf, have hard of hearing, individuals who are Blind or with low vision.
- iv. Disabilities due to conditions of aging and incoordination;
- v. Developmental, and Behavioral or Emotional Disabilities

- b. **ANTHROPOMETRICS AND DIMENSIONAL DATA AS GUIDES FOR DESIGN.** The minimum and maximum dimensions for spaces in the built environment shall consider the following criteria:

- i. The varying sizes and structures of persons of all sexes, their reaches, and their lines of sight at both the standing and sitting positions.
- ii. The dimensional data of the technical aids of persons with disabilities. Included in the second

consideration are the dimensions of wheelchairs, the minimum space needed for locking and unlocking leg braces, and the range of distance of crutches and other walking aids from persons using such devices. By applying at this very early stage dimensional criteria that take into account wheelchair usage, the physical environment will ultimately encourage and enable wheelchair users to make full use of their physical surroundings.

- iii. The provision of adequate space for wheelchair maneuvering generally ensures adequate space for persons with disabilities equipped with other technical aids or accompanied by assistants. In determining the minimum dimensions for furniture and fixtures accessible to persons with disabilities, the following anthropometric data shall serve as guides for design:

1. The length of wheelchairs is at least 1.10 m.
2. The width of wheelchairs is at least 0.80 m.
3. A circle of 1.80 m in diameter is a suitable guide in planning wheelchair-turning spaces.
4. The reach of wheelchair users is:
 - a. 0.7 m to 1.20 m above the finished floor and not less than 0.40 m from room corners for vertical forward reach .
 - b. For obstructions at least 500 mm in depth, the maximum forward reach is 1.10 m above the finished floor.
 - c. 0.5 m to 0.9 m for comfortable horizontal forward reach. The maximum horizontal forward reach are as follows:

- i. 1.10 m - 1.30 m, at eye level
- ii. 0.90 m - 1.10 m, at shoulder level
- d. Side reach, without obstruction, ranges from 0.20 m to 1.30 m above the floor
- e. Maximum side reach across an obstruction shall not exceed 1200 mm.
 - i. Obstructions shall not exceed a height of 900 mm and a depth of 500 mm.
- 5. The comfortable clearance for knee and leg space under tables for wheelchair users is 0.70 m.
- 6. The minimum clear space required to accommodate (1) wheelchair and (1) occupant is 900 mm in width.

Note: Wheelchairs, including motorized ones, can vary in terms of size, weight, and ease of maneuvering. When assessing the space needed for wheelchair users to move around, the specific dimensions of the wheelchair being used and the occupant's ability to navigate it shall be taken into consideration.

c. **BASIC PHYSICAL PLANNING REQUIREMENTS**

No group of people shall be deprived of full participation and enjoyment of the environment or be made unequal with the rest due to any disability. In order to achieve this goal adopted by the United Nations, certain basic principles shall be applied:

- i. **ACCESSIBILITY.** The built environment shall be designed so that it shall be accessible to

all people. This means that no criteria shall impede the use of facilities by either the persons with disabilities or persons without disabilities.

- ii. **REACHABILITY.** Provisions shall be adapted and introduced to the physical environment so that as many places or buildings as possible can be reached by all
- iii. **USABILITY.** The built environment shall be designed so that all persons, whether they are persons with disabilities or not, may use and enjoy it.
- iv. **ORIENTATION.** Finding a person's way inside and outside of a building or open space shall be made easy for everyone
- v. **SAFETY.** Designing for safety ensures that people shall be able to move about with fewer hazards to life and health.
- vi. **WORKABILITY AND EFFICIENCY.** The built environment shall be designed to allow the persons with disabilities to participate and contribute to developmental goals.

RULE III: SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS AND RELATED STRUCTURES FOR PUBLIC USE

1. CLASSIFICATION OF BUILDING BY USE OF OCCUPANCY:

- a. Occupancy classified by categories enumerated in Section 701 of the National Building Code (PD 1096) are hereby adapted
 - i. Category I - Residential - This shall comprise Group A and partly Group B Buildings
 - ii. Category II - Commercial and Industrial - This shall comprise partly Groups B, C, E, F, G, H, and I Buildings
 - iii. Category III - Educational and Industrial - This shall comprise partly Group C, D, E, and H Buildings

- iv. Category IV - Agricultural - This shall comprise partly Group J Buildings.
- v. Category V - Ancillary - This shall comprise partly Group J Buildings

2. ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES AND FACILITIES:

All architectural design requirements, including the corresponding appropriate visual, tactile, and audio graphic signage, shall comply with generally accepted architectural practice. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory for all relevant provisions, whether or not they are listed.

a. Architectural facilities and features:

- i. A - Stairs
- ii. B - Walkways
- iii. C - Corridors, and Pathways
- iv. D - Doors and Entrances.
- v. E - Washrooms and Toilets
- vi. F - Lifts/Elevators/Escalators
- vii. G - Ramps
- viii. H - Parking Areas
- ix. I - Switches, Controls, Buzzers
- x. J - Handrails and Grab Bars
- xi. K - Thresholds
- xii. L - Floor Finishes
- xiii. M - Drinking Fountains
- xiv. N - Counters/ATMs kiosks/ Workstations
- xv. O - Seating Accommodations

3. CATEGORY I

The following requirements shall only apply to government-owned buildings.

a. Group A

- i. Single detached. Ten percent (10%) of the total units to be constructed. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, and L.
- ii. Duplexes: Ten percent (10%) of the total units to be constructed. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, and L.
- iii. School or company staff housing units: One (1) unit for 26 to 50 units to be constructed and 1

additional unit for every 100 units thereafter. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, and L.

b. Group B

- i. Multiple dwelling units or high-rise residential condominiums or tenement houses.
- ii. One (1) unit from 26 up to 50 units to be constructed, and an additional unit for every 100 units thereafter, with all such units at ingress level in case no barrier-free elevator is provided.
- iii. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N.

4. CATEGORY II

The following requirements shall apply to both government and privately-owned buildings.

a. Group B

- i. Accessories, tenement houses and/or row houses, apartment houses and/or townhouses. One (1) unit for every 50 units up to 150 units and an additional unit for every 100 units thereafter. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, and L.
- ii. Hotels, motels, inns, pension houses, and/or apartels. One (1) unit per every 50 units up to 150 units and an additional unit for every 100 units at the ingress level. In case there are no barrier-free elevators, at least one (1) unit shall be provided at the ingress level. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N.
- iii. Private or "off campus" Dormitories: One (1) unit per every 50 units up to 150 units and an additional dwelling unit for every 100 units thereafter at ingress level. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N.

- b. Group C
- i. Amusement Halls and Parlors
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N and O.
 - ii. Massage and Sauna Parlors
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M and N.
- c. Group E-1
- i. Train Stations and Terminals
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N and O.
 - ii. Bus depots and terminals
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N and O.
 - iii. Transportation Office
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N and O.
 - iv. Airport terminal buildings, heliports
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N and O.
 - v. Ports and harbor facilities, landing piers, sheds, ferry landing stations
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N and O.
- d. Group E-2
- i. General wholesale and retail stores
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and N.
 - ii. Shopping centers, supermarkets, and public markets
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and N.
 - iii. Restaurants, dining, and drinking establishments
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and N.
 - iv. Office Buildings
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and N.
- v. Financial Institutions
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and N.
- vi. Funeral parlors, morgues, and crematories
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
- vii. Memorial and Mortuary Chapels
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
- e. Group H-1, Group H-4, and Group I
- i. Theaters, Auditoriums and Convention Halls
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
 - ii. Concert Halls and Opera Houses
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
 - iii. Colisea and Sports Complexes and Stadiums
 - iv. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
- f. Group F
- i. Dairies and Creameries
 - ii. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
 - iii. Factories and workshops using incombustible or non-explosive materials
 - iv. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
 - v. Breweries bottling plants, canneries and tanneries
 - vi. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
- g. Groups G-3
- i. Woodworking establishments, lumber and timber yards.
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
 - ii. Pulp, paper and paper board factories

- Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
- iii. Textile and fiber spinning mills
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
- iv. Garment and undergarment factories
- v. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.

5. CATEGORY III

- a. Group C
 - i. Educational institutions (schools, colleges, universities, vocational schools, seminaries and novitiates), including school auditoriums, gymnasia, reviewing stands, little theaters and concert halls.
 - ii. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
 - iii. Libraries, museums, exhibition halls, and art galleries\
 - iv. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
 - v. Civil Centers
 - vi. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
 - vii. Clubhouses lodges
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, and O.
- b. Group D-1
 - i. Mental hospitals, mental sanitarium, mental asylums
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
 - ii. Jails, prisons, reformatories, correctional institutions
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.

- iii. Rehabilitation Centers
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
- iv. Leprosaria
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
- c. Group D-2
 - i. Homes for the Aged
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N.
 - ii. Hospitals and Sanitaria
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N.
- d. Group D-3
 - i. Nursing Homes for ambulatory patients
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
 - ii. Orphanages
Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M.
- e. Group E-7
 - i. Police and fire stations
 - ii. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N.
- f. Group H
 - i. Churches, temples, chapels and similar places of worship
 - ii. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and O.

6. CATEGORY IV

- a. Agricultural buildings
- b. Barrier-free facilities and features are required in: A, B, C, D, G, H, I, J, K, and L.

7. STANDARD OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR SPECIAL TYPE OF FACILITIES

- a. The provision of this section shall apply to the specified type of facilities and identified specific requirements

for accessibility and usability, which shall be provided for each of the listed occupancy uses.

i. Auditoriums, assembly halls, theaters, and related facilities:

1. Seating for the persons with disabilities shall be accessible from the main lobby to primary entrances and related toilet facilities.

2. In all assembly places where seating accommodation is provided, there shall be spaces for persons with disabilities as provided.

Seating Capacity	Wheelchair Seating Space
4-50	2
51-300	4
301-500	6

3. When the seating capacity exceeds 500, an additional wheelchair seating space shall be provided for each total seating capacity increase of 100 seats

4. Readily removable seats may be installed in these spaces when such spaces are not required to accommodate wheelchair users.

8. COMPUTATION OF ACCESSIBLE UNITS

In the computation for the allocation of accessible units and seating capacity, any decimal greater than 0.5 shall be considered as one unit. In all cases, a minimum of one (1) accessible unit shall be provided.

9. APPLICATION OF BARRIER-FREE FACILITIES AND FEATURES

a. All buildings and facilities shall have accessible routes, ensuring safe and independent access for Persons with Disabilities. These accessible routes shall always remain unobstructed and shall connect to all accessible areas and features of a building or facility.

b. Accessible routes shall be established within the 500-meter radius of the facility.

c. Roads and streets shall give top priority to fully-compliant, accessible street-level sidewalks.

d. Thermal comfort shall be maintained along the accessible routes, considering temperature, humidity, air movement, and radiant heat. Adequate measures, including insulation and ventilation, shall be implemented to ensure a comfortable thermal environment that accommodates the specific needs and sensitivities of individuals with disabilities.

e. All accessible facilities must feature appropriate visual signage along with alternative signage to accommodate individuals with varying abilities. The signage shall prioritize high visibility in terms of design and location.

f. All finishes shall enhance the legibility, clarity, and visibility of the built environment, avoiding visually disruptive elements that may hinder individuals with low vision or cognitive disabilities. Finishes shall be designed to improve wayfinding, orientation, and the overall user experience for everyone, including those with disabilities.

g. Walkways, pathways, and corridors shall be provided with adequate passageways in accordance with the provision. These shall be unobstructed and navigable. Clearances shall ensure the comfortable gait and safety of an individual using mobility aids.

h. Width of corridors and circulation system integrating both and vertical access to ingress/egress level of the building shall be provided.

i. Doors and entrances provided herein used as entry points at entrance lobbies as local points of the congregation shall be designed to open easily and accessible from floor to floor or to any point of destination.

- j. Full weather protection shall be provided at entrances and exits, including approaching pathways, sidewalks, and walkways.
- k. Accessible toilet facilities shall be inclusive with well-designed, conveniently located spaces. They shall allow comfortable maneuvering and transfers to and from the water closet seat, accommodating various wheelchair transfer approaches. (i.e., adequate turning space).
- l. Whenever an elevator/s is required, it shall meet the requirements provided.
- m. Ramps shall be provided as means of access to the level of change going to entry points and entrances, and lobbies influenced by the condition of location or use unless such changes are adequately served by an escalator, an elevator, or other appropriate mechanical device.
- n. Parking areas shall be provided with sufficient space for persons with disabilities to allow easy transfer from the carpark to ingress/egress levels.
- o. Height above the floor of switches and controls shall be in accordance with the provisions.
- p. Handrails and grab bars shall offer secure support for all users on stairs, ramps, or elevated surfaces, capable of withstanding user force without loosening. These shall be positioned for comfortable grip by individuals of varying heights and abilities and be highly visible from their surroundings.
- q. Floors provided for every route of the wheelchair shall be slip-resistant during both wet and dry conditions and leveled throughout.
- r. Where drinking water facilities are provided, access shall be required for wheelchair users and for standing people. Dual access shall be provided in each secured area of a facility equipped with drinking water facilities. At least two units, one reachable for wheelchair users and one for standing people, or a combination of a high-low unit thereof shall be provided for dual access in each such location.
- s. An alternative accessible pedestrian pathway shall always be provided near escalators. There should be a sign at the escalator entrance clearly indicating this alternative route. This ensures that people have the option to use a different path instead of the escalator.
- t. Customer service, ticket counters, bank tellers, reception, concierge, and information desks are vital information and assistance points for all users. To promote inclusivity, these facilities shall adopt universal design principles rather than having separate counters for Persons with Disabilities.
- u. Appropriate quantity and quality of illumination shall be provided along the accessible routes to ensure clear visibility of contrasting elements.
- v. To accommodate extensive travel distances, appropriate resting equipment for Persons with Disabilities shall be provided along the accessible route.

RULE IV - REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

1. Classification of public conveyances by mode of transport shall be as follows:
 - a. Road Transportation - This shall refer to all road-based transportation such as buses and PUVs.
 - b. Rail Transportation - This shall refer to the railway systems in the country.
 - c. Water Transportation - This shall refer to domestic passenger ships, ferry boats and other water transportation vessels.
 - d. Air Transportation - This shall refer to domestic passenger airplanes.
2. No franchise or permit to operate public transportation units shall be granted, issued, or renewed unless such units are constructed or renovated in accordance with the requirements.
3. If feasible, all owners or operators of existing public transport utilities shall modify or renovate their units to accommodate persons with disabilities.

4. The construction or renovation of public transport utilities covered by these rules shall be subject to compliance with the body designs and specifications as provided under existing rules and regulations
5. Posters or stickers shall be conspicuously displayed inside the units.
6. Public transportation shall have designated seats for persons with disabilities
 - a. Regular buses shall have at least five (5) designated seats for persons with disabilities near exit/entrance doors
 - b. First class, premiere, and air-conditioned buses shall have at least four (4) designated seats for persons with disabilities near the door
 - c. Passenger trains shall have at least six (6) designated seats per car for persons with disabilities nearest to the door
 - d. Passenger airplanes shall have at least two (2) designated seats for persons with disabilities near the front exit/entrance door on a per aircraft type basis
 - e. For regular and air-conditioned city buses, other passengers may use these designated seats if not occupied and yield them to incoming persons with disabilities whenever the occasion arises
 - f. For provincial buses, regular and air-conditioned buses, passenger trains, and airplanes, the designated seats for persons with disabilities may be occupied by other passengers only if no persons with disabilities shall occupy these seats at the start of the trip
 - a. Jeepneys shall have at least two (2) seats, preferably the front seats as designated seats for persons with disabilities
 - b. For jeepneys, other passengers may use these designated seats if not occupied and yield them to incoming passengers with disabilities only if the yielding passenger can still be accommodated at the back
 - c. In domestic shipping, each vessel shall:
 - i. Allocate on a per-class basis, areas for disabled passengers. These areas shall be nearest to the entrance and/or exit doorways of the vessels.
 - ii. Give priority to passengers with disabilities' embarkation and disembarkation through the assignment of "time windows." Passengers with disabilities shall be given a twenty (20) minute period to embark ahead of the three (3) hour embarkation time prior to the ship's departure and shall be allocated a maximum of one (1) hour for disembarkation after the ship's arrival.
- d. The designated seats shall be identified by the International Symbol of Access.
- e. Owners or operators of city buses operating in highly urbanized cities shall install in their units audiovisual aids such as buzzer, bells, flashing lights to inform the driver of any alighting passengers.
- f. At least one deck in passenger ships shall be provided with accessible ramps, passageways, access to gangways, galleys, safety equipment and bunks/berths/cabins with dimensions conforming with the requirements.

RULE V - ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Responsibility for Administration and Enforcement

The administration and enforcement of the provision of these Rules and Regulations shall be vested in the Secretary of Public Works and Highways and the Secretary of Transportation, in accordance with the functions and jurisdiction of their respective Departments as provided for by laws as follows.

- a. The Secretary, through the Heads of attached agencies of the Department of Public Works and Highways, with the technical assistance of the National Building Code Development

Office, shall administer and enforce the provisions of these Rules and Regulations through the City/Municipal Engineer, who shall also act as Local Building Official pursuant to Section 477 of R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 and as applied to the following:

- i. Buildings and related structures, including public transport terminals
 - ii. Streets and Highways
- b. The Secretary of Transportation shall administer and enforce the provisions of these Rules and Regulations through the Heads of Line and Attached Agencies of the Department as follows:
- i. Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board - In respect to the issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) and Provisional Authority (PA) for the operation of public road transportation utilities or services.
 - ii. Land Transportation Office - With respect to the registration of buses and jeepneys and enforcement of regulations related to land transport
 - iii. Philippine National Railways and the Light Rail Transit Authority For the operation of passenger trains and including stations and terminals
 - iv. Maritime Industry Authority - With respect to the development, promotion, and regulation of all enterprises engaged in the business of designing, constructing, manufacturing, acquiring, operating, supplying, repairing, and/or maintaining vessels or components thereof; of managing and/or operating shipping lines, shipyards, dry docks, marine railway, marine repair shops, shipping and freight forwarding agencies and similar enterprises; issuance of license to all water transport vessels.

- v. Philippine Ports Authority - With respect to the planning, development, financing, construction, maintenance, and operation of ports, port facilities, port physical plants, and all equipment used in connection with the operation of a port.
- vi. Civil Aeronautics Board - With respect to the supervision and regulation of, the jurisdiction and control over air carriers, general sales agents, cargo sales agents, and air freight forwarders, and issuance of certificates/licenses to aircrafts.
- vii. Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines - With respect to the maintenance, operation, and development of all government airports (other than the NAIA, Mactan International Airport) as well as air navigation facilities (excluding meteorology).

2. Mechanism for Revisions and Amendments

- a. The IRR will undergo periodic review every two (2) years and may be updated in response to events or incidents directly impacting the welfare and interests of persons with disabilities and individuals with limited mobility. Proposed revisions to the BP 344 IRR shall aim to enhance mobility and accessibility for persons with disabilities in buildings, institutions, establishments, and public utilities.
- b. The review process shall involve relevant stakeholders, conducting research, consultation, and considering feedback from industry professionals, accessibility experts, and the public.

3. Enforcement and Critical Intervention Points

a. Permit Application Stage:

At this initial stage, the Office of the Building Official (O80) shall facilitate a compliance check during the

permit application process. A permit will be issued upon confirmation of complete adherence to the Accessibility Code. The building professional is responsible for plan preparation, along with the owners and/or applicants. The personnel from the Office of the Building Official conducting the application review shall meticulously examine plans or documents, ensuring strict adherence to the Accessibility Code.

b. During Inspection:

Buildings shall undergo various assessments, including but not limited to specialized audits, which may occur during routine inspections or through random audits as deemed necessary. Inspectors in charge of the assessments must possess the requisite knowledge and training to recognize relevant criteria during inspections.

c. Through Complaints or Motu Proprio Action:

Non-compliance concerns can be raised through third-party complaints or initiated by a Building Official. In such cases, the Building Official shall assess adherence or deviation from regulations. The evaluation process shall include, but is not limited to, a thorough review of as-built plans, inspections, and audits. Violations of accessibility standards shall lead to the imposition of appropriate sanctions under the Code.

4. Criminal Liability

As stipulated in Section 46 of R.A. 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities (a), any person who violates any provision of the rules and regulations of this Act shall suffer the following penalties:

- a. for the first violation, a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or imprisonment of

not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years, or both at the discretion of the court; and

- b. for any subsequent violation, a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not exceeding Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment for not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years, or both at the discretion of the court.
- c. Any person who abuses the privileges granted herein shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months or a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (5,000.00) but not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.
- d. If the violator is a corporation, organization or any similar entity, the officials thereof directly involved shall be liable therefore.
- e. If the violator is an alien or a foreigner, he shall be deported immediately after service of sentence without further deportation proceedings.

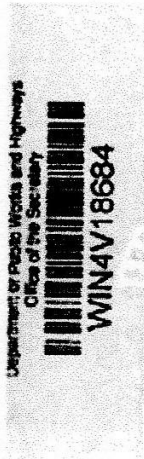
Persons/Individuals Liable for any Violation of the Act

For Buildings/Establishment/Structure

1. Owner or Operator of the Building Establishment or Structure
2. Contractor
3. Architect
4. Engineer
5. Building Official or Other Public Official in charge of the issuance of building permit, registration, certification and/or inspection of the building, establishment or structure

For Air, Land, and Sea Transportation

1. Owner/Operator of Public Transportation
2. Body Builders
3. Safety Officers/Engineers/Managers
4. Drivers/Conductors/Conductresses
5. Public Official in charge of the issuance of permits, registration, certification, and inspection of the public transportation





EFFECTIVITY

These Rules shall take effect thirty (30) days after the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

Promulgated by:

[Signature]
MANUEL M. BONOAN
 Secretary
 Department of Public Works and
 Highways

[Signature]
JAIME J. BAUTISTA
 Secretary
 Department of Transportation

In coordination with:

The NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

By:

[Signature]
REXLON T. GATCHALIAN
 Chairman/ Chairperson, NCDA
 Secretary
 Department of Social Welfare and Development