

## Unconventional Venue Category Accessibility Definitions and Standards

### **1:12**

This measurement refers to the degree of slope of a ramp. It means for every inch of height change there is at least 12 inches of ramp run (length). Exterior and interior ramps should be a maximum slope of 1:12 to ensure safe travel. A slope of 1:15 or less is preferable.

### **32 inches**

This measurement refers to the minimum clear width of doorways, entryways, or other passages that a patron must traverse at a given Fringe venue. While 32 inches is a standard minimum which allows access for many people including those using narrow to average sized wheelchairs, this clearance may still create a barrier for those using larger mobility devices.

### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)**

The AODA is an Ontario legislation that aims to achieve independence, dignity, integration, and equality of opportunity for people with disabilities by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers. Its purpose is to ensure that all Ontarians have fair and equitable access to programs and services and to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities. The AODA includes requirements with specific standards and dates for compliance that all organizations must meet. For more information go to <https://accessibilitycanada.ca/aoda/>.

### **Accessible Porta-Potty**

While accessible porta-potties do provide improved access for some users, the current design of most "accessible" porta-potties continues to create barriers for others due to lack of automatic doors and other features. They will not be accepted as an accessible option at a venue where indoor restrooms are available to able-bodied patrons. The Fringe encourages companies finding alternative accessible washrooms to first consider partnering with nearby establishments that offer universally accessible restrooms. Proximity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Visible signage with alternative accessible restroom details must be provided by a participating company during their Fringe run.

### **Accessible Restrooms**

An accessible restroom is an enclosed space with a barrier free toilet, sink and turning space so that a person using a wheeled mobility device may be accommodated. These washrooms aim to provide privacy and dignity for people with disabilities, including those who require an assistant. They are also useful for others such as those with infants or small children.

An accessible washroom must be provided by a participating company at site specific venues where washrooms will be expected to be available (i.e. any indoor spaces).

In acknowledgement of the current lack of available AODA-compliant infrastructure in the city of Toronto, the Fringe will consider site-specific applications that meet most but not all AODA requirements for an accessible restroom on a case-by-case basis with the independence, dignity, and safety of patrons as a priority.

AODA requirements for restrooms include the following:

- A barrier free path of travel to and from the restroom. This may mean the restroom is located on the ground floor or is easily accessed by elevator, lift, or ramp.
- Automatic/power door opener.
- Single occupancy or a wider stall within a multi-stall washroom.

- A clear floor area of a large enough size that people using wheeled mobility devices can turn around
- Grab bars securely fastened behind or beside the toilet.
- Clearly visible signage indicating accessibility.

Please note that the above is not an exhaustive list. For comprehensive and specific information please see Articles 3.8.3.8. through 3.8.3.13 of the Ontario Building Code which outline barrier-free restroom requirements at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r13368>.

#### **Accessible Seating Area**

Accessible seating area refers to the space specifically designated for those who use mobility devices or who have limited mobility. The accessible seating area must have no stairs or other barriers to access and must ensure a line of sight that is comparable to other seating.

#### **Alternative text description**

**Alternative text** or **alt text** is a written description of images and other visual content. Alternative text must convey the content and functionality of the image. Alt text helps screen-reading tools describe images and also appears in the place of an image on a webpage if the image fails to load on a user's screen.

#### **Automatic Door Opener**

Automatic door openers provide greater accessibility for a wide variety of people including people using mobility devices and those with strollers.

#### **Barrier**

A barrier is a circumstance or obstacle that keeps people apart. For people with disabilities, barriers can take many forms including physical, environmental, attitudinal, communication, and transportation.

#### **Captions**

Captions transcribe the dialogue and soundscapes of the performance into words for the audience to read. They are displayed within the media player and are synchronized with the audio. **Closed captions** can be hidden or shown by the viewer, and re-sized. Open captions are embedded and always displayed and cannot be turned off. CART is Communication Access Realtime Translation, where captions are transcribed live, in real-time.

#### **Clear Width**

A clear width is the unobstructed opening space that allows passage through doors, entryways, and other passageways. Clear width is measured between the face of the door and the stop on the strike jamb, with the door open 90 degrees.



#### **Cross Slope**

Cross slope means the slope of a surface that is perpendicular to the direction of travel.

### Disability

Disability covers a broad range and degree of conditions, some visible and some not visible. The broad range of disabilities includes physical disabilities, vision disabilities, deafness or being hard of hearing, intellectual or developmental, learning, and mental health disabilities. People with disabilities have the right to be free from discrimination when they receive goods or services or use facilities.

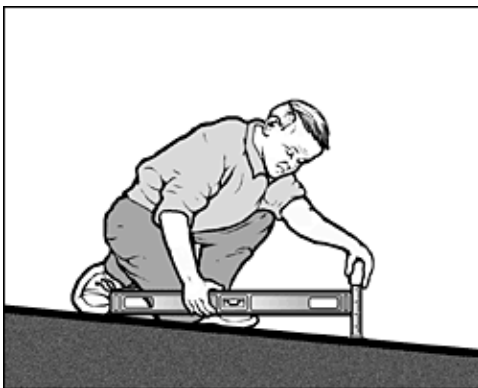
### Ground Surface

Ground surfaces can improve or impede mobility for many people. For example, gravel, uneven grassy surfaces, or thick carpets can pose a barrier for many people including manual wheelchair users, those with strollers, and those with limited mobility.

### Inclination or Slope

Inclination or slope refers to the degree of incline of a surface (such as a ramp). You can measure slope the following ways:

1. Use a 24 inch level and a tape measure. Put the level on the surface in the direction you are measuring. Put one end at the high point of the surface and raise the other end so that the bubble is in the middle of the level's gauge. The level is now level. Measure the distance between the end of the level at its bottom point and the surface.
2. Divide the length of the **ramp** by the height. This will be the second number in your ratio. The first number is always one. If the **ramp** measures 12 feet long and the rise is 2 feet, you would divide 12 by 2 to get 6, and your ratio would be 1:6.
3. Use a digital level and be sure to read the instructions.



### Level Access

Level access means that there is no step, gap, ramp, slope, rise or other potential ground level barrier to entry.

### Ramps

Ramps allow access for a wide variety of people including motorized and manual mobility device users and those with strollers. In acknowledgement of the current lack of available AODA-compliant infrastructure in the city of Toronto, the Fringe will consider site-specific applications that do not meet all ramp requirements on a case by case basis with safety as a priority.

AODA requirements for ramps include the following:

- Width is minimum clear width of 900 mm (35.4 in).

- Surface is firm, stable, slip resistant.
- Slope is no more than 1:12.
- Landings must meet the following requirements:
  - Landings must be located at the top and bottom of the ramp,
  - Where there is an abrupt change in direction of the ramp,
  - Landings must be located at horizontal intervals not greater than nine metres apart.
  - Landing sizes are min of 1,670 mm x 1,670 mm (65.7 in x 65.7 in).
  - Landings cross slope that is not steeper than 1:50.
- Ramp must be equipped with handrails on both sides of the ramp.

Full information on AODA requirements for external ramps can be found under article 80.24:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r12413>. Comprehensive information on interior ramps can be found in section 2.2.5 of the City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines: [https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8fcf-accessibility\\_design\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8fcf-accessibility_design_guidelines.pdf).

### **Running slope**

Running slope means the inclination of a surface that is parallel to the direction of travel.

### **Seating**

Firmly cushioned seating with armrests and a seat back is preferable for many patrons. Armrests aid in standing up and sitting down while seat backs offer back support and help prevent fatigue. For other patrons, this type seating may be prohibitive. For example, those requiring a wider seat. Where possible, having alternative seating options available for those that need is preferred.

All images courtesy of: <https://www.adachecklist.org/howto.html>

### **Screen-Reader compatible**

Screen reader technology may be used by a range of people including those who are blind or who have low vision. The techniques used to create screen reader compatible documents may also be useful for neuro-diverse folks and others. **Screen-reader compatible** means that a text document can be **read** and interpreted from text into synthesized speech by a screen reader software. Most screen readers work by generating a synthesized voice that reads text aloud, but some exist that communicate data through a refreshable braille display.