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# Dimensions to Consider When Installing an Accessible Communications Systems 

## Introduction

Requirements for accessible communications systems are referenced in various published documents, most notably ANSI/DASMA 303 which details a number of aspects of such systems. For an installer of such systems, dimensional considerations are important not only for compliance with accepted industry practice, but for compliance with ADA requirements. This technical data sheet will explain and illustrate various dimensional considerations.

## General

Provisions in ANSI/DASMA 303, and in other accessibility related publications, have been written to accommodate persons in wheelchairs and are in compliance with current ADA requirements. Mounting location is a primary factor associated with dimensioning, and shall take into consideration clear floor space or ground space to allow easy access by a person in a wheelchair. The mounting height of the communication system must take into consideration the accessibility of the system to persons who may have restricted movement because of a physical disability and to persons confined to a wheelchair. Persons in wheelchairs may have access to the system by approaching the unit only from the front, or they may be able to approach the unit from both a front and side reach point.

Two primary aspects of mounting location as relating to dimensions are approach and reach.

## Approach

A person shall be able to approach within 3-inches ( 76 mm ) of the accessible communication system without encountering protruding objects or standing within the swing of a door.

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## Reach

Reach shall be taken into consideration as follows:

- Unobstructed Forward Reach

Where a clear floor or ground space allows only a forward approach to an object and is unobstructed, mounting height shall be a minimum of 15 inches ( 381 mm ), and a maximum of 48 inches ( 1.22 m ), above the floor or ground to the operable controls. See Figure 1 for illustration.

- Obstructed High Forward Reach If the high forward reach is over an obstruction, reach and clearances shall be as shown in Figures 2 and 3. NOTE: If the height of a control is $\mathbf{4 8}$ inches ( $\mathbf{1 . 2 2} \mathbf{~ m}$ ) maximum, then the length of the obstruction must be 20 inches ( 508 mm ) or less. If the height of a control is 44 inches ( 1.12 m ) maximum, then the length of the obstruction may be increased to 25 inches ( 635 mm ) or less.
- Unobstructed Side Reach

Where a clear floor or ground space allows a parallel approach to an object and the side reach is unobstructed, and the edge of the clear floor space is 10 inches ( 255 mm ) maximum from the object, mounting height shall be a minimum of 15 inches ( 380 mm ), and a maximum of 48 inches ( 1.22 m ), above the floor or ground to the operable controls. See Figure 4 for illustration.

- Obstructed High Side Reach

If the side reach is over an obstruction, the reach and clearances shall be as shown in Figures 5 and 6.

Note: Figures taken from ICC/ANSI A117.1-2017


Figure 1


Figure 2


Figure 3

Figure 4


Figure 5


Figure 6

Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.

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