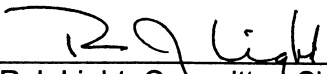


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

INTERPRETATION		
Interpretation Date:	March 27, 2002 (rev Jan 15/03)	File No.:
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	98-0047
Subject:	Grab Bars	
Keywords:	Grab bar, toilet compartment	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.7.4.8.(3)(a), 3.7.4.8.(4)(a)	Page 1 of 2
Question:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does a water closet within a patient bedroom in a hospital have to be designed to be accessible for persons with disabilities? When a toilet is located in the middle of a hospital patient washroom, what is the correct side clearance for the grab bar? 		
Interpretation:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. Clause 3.8.2.3.(2)(b) requires that all washrooms throughout a floor area must be accessible when the building occupant load exceeds 150 persons. This would include a washroom within a patient bedroom. Article 3.8.2.26. requires that hospitals be designed to Article 3.8.2.25. for <i>persons with disabilities</i>. Clause 3.8.2.25.(1)(d) requires that washrooms in areas in which <i>persons with disabilities</i> are provided access be designed to the requirements of Sentence 3.8.2.3.(2) <p>Sentence 3.8.2.3.(2) requires that all buildings be provided with at least one <i>accessible</i> toilet room per 3.7.4.8.(9). A washroom within a patient's bedroom is similar to an accessible toilet room.</p> <p>Sentence 3.7.4.8.(12) clarifies that the heights of grab bars in hospitals may vary to suit the needs of the patients. This variation applies to heights, but not to horizontal clearances.</p> <p>Clause 3.7.4.8.(9)(c) requires that water closets be installed in accordance with Clause 3.7.4.8.(3)(a) and that grab bars be installed in accordance with Clauses 3.7.4.8.(4)(a) & (b).</p> <p>Clause 3.7.4.8.(3)(a) requires that water closets be located between 420 mm to 480 mm from the sidewall carrying the grab bar, measured from the centre on the toilet to the inside face of the sidewall.</p> <p>Clause 3.7.4.8.(4)(a) requires that grab bars have a diameter ranging from 30 mm and 40 mm, and have a clearance to the wall ranging from 35 mm to 45 mm.</p> <p>In a hospital patient washroom where there is no sidewall, the side clearance to the grab bar should be similar to that of a toilet room. The grab bar could be mounted to the wall behind the toilet and could swing either horizontally or vertically.</p> <p>The dimension from the centreline of the toilet to the centreline of the grab bar should range between 355 mm to 430 mm, calculated as follows (refer to attached drawing on Page 2):</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Minimum side clearance to grab bar = $420 - 45 - 40/2 = 355$ mm Maximum side clearance to grab bar = $480 - 35 - 30/2 = 430$ mm</p>		
 <hr/> R.J. Light, Committee Chair		

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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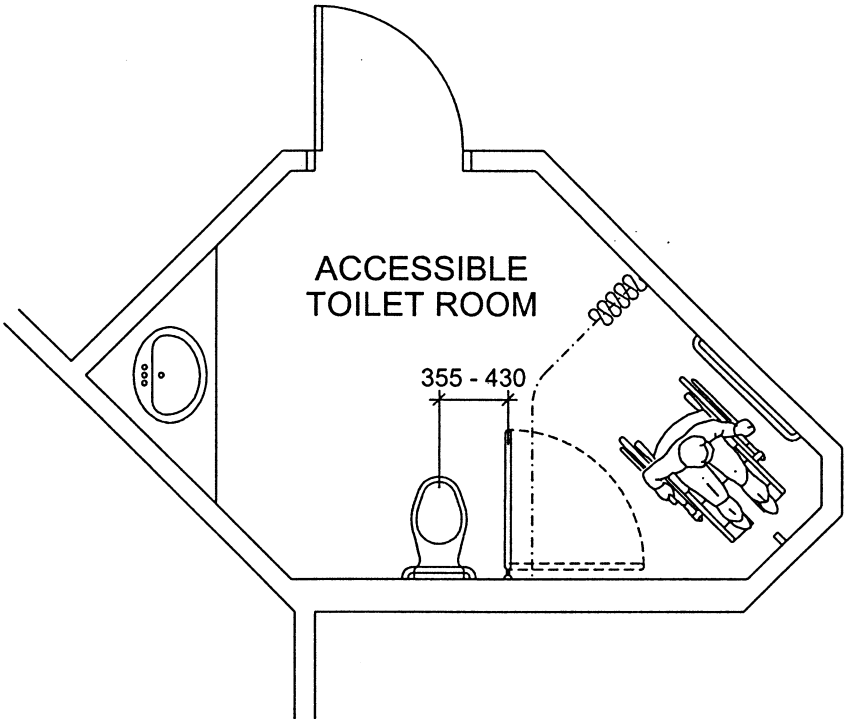


FIG. - 98-0047