

Accessibility PocketBook

2012 IBC® and
ICC A117.1-2009



Accessibility PocketBook 2012 IBC and ICC A117.1-2009

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ACCESSIBILITY POCKETBOOK

2012 *International Building Code* and ICC A117.1—09

This *Accessibility PocketBook* contains selected provisions from the 2012 *International Building Code*[®] (IBC[®]) and the entire text of *ICC A117.1—09: Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities*. It is intended to assist in the design, plan review, construction and inspection of accessible facilities and features by combining the accessibility scoping provisions of the IBC with the technical requirements of the ICC A117.1 standard into a single easy-to-reference resource. For clarity purposes, all figures and tables in the A117.1 section have been relocated from their original location to the end of the chapter in which they appear.

Scoping and Technical Requirements

Section 1101.1 of the IBC states that the provisions of Chapter 11 “control the design and construction of facilities for accessibility to physically disabled persons.” Additional requirements are established throughout other portions of the IBC, including Sections 202, 907.5.2, 1003.7, 1007, 1011.4 and 3411. Appendix E provides for supplementary accessibility requirements; however, the provisions contained in the appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance. The provisions found in the IBC are referred to as “scoping requirements,” which describe “what, where and how many.”

Section 1101.2 of the IBC indicates that buildings and facilities are also to be designed and constructed to be accessible in accordance with ICC A117.1. The criteria in this standard are referred to as “technical requirements,” which describe “how.” The IBC and ICC A117.1 must be used together in order to apply the intent of the code appropriately.

It is important to note that not all portions of the ICC A117.1 are referenced by the IBC. For example, the criteria set forth in Section 504 for stairways as well as the stair handrail provisions of Section 505 have no application since accessible stairways are not specifically scoped by IBC Chapter 11. As a result, the provisions of IBC Sections 1009 and 1012 solely regulate all stairways and associated handrails for accessibility purposes. As another example, accessible

telephones and automatic teller machines are addressed in ICC A117.1 Sections 704 and 707, respectively. However, these elements are only regulated in the IBC by Appendix E, which must be specifically adopted to be in effect.

Mainstreaming Accessibility into the Code

While the IBC provisions reprinted in this Pocket-Book are those that directly address accessibility for physically-disabled individuals, there are other accessibility requirements in the code that are applicable to the general population. Therefore, some requirements are set forth in the IBC as generally applicable and would be considered “mainstreamed.” Such provisions include those for protruding objects, stairways, handrails, guards, elevators, ramps and doors, and these elements are further regulated when part of the general means of egress.

The concept of mainstreaming is responsive to the desire of people with disabilities not to be singled out and categorized separately from other members of society. It is important to recognize that while the code provisions in this PocketBook are specifically grouped and identified as accessibility related, they do not necessarily represent all of the issues that must be taken into consideration when evaluating building access and usability.

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